



Ksilink Early Career Program – Decode the impact of environmental challenges on mental disorders using stem-cell derived model systems (EU Horizon – 2 years)

About Ksilink

Ksilink (www.ksilink.com) is a French-German association of 12 renowned industrial and academic players with the aim to provide innovative patient-based, translational tools for phenotypic drug discovery and the development of next generation medicine in the fields of muscular, cardiac and neurologic disorders.

The association provides a network of excellence with unique capacities for disease modelling, phenotypic screening and preclinical drug development. Its affiliated platform, Ksilink Services SAS, combines outstanding expertise in high-throughput, high-content screening (HTS/HCS) with AI-driven image analysis and data mining in an industrialized surrounding.

Job Description

The Ksilink Early Career Program (ECP) program aims to support excellent early-stage post-doc scientists focusing on collaborating R&D projects between Ksilink, industry and academic institutions.

As a Postdoctoral fellow, you will contribute mainly to the EU Horizon environmentAL project Reducing the impact of major environmental challenges (environmental-project.org).

This position is based at Ksilink, Strasbourg, France and you will benefit from cooperation with multidisciplinary collaborators within Ksilink and within the environmentAL consortium.

Within this consortium, you will be a key player in (i) the characterization of molecular mechanisms underlying the brain and behavioral changes related to environmental adversity and (ii) the development of pharmacological interventions targeting molecular and neurobiological mechanisms of environmentally-sensitive symptoms of mental illness.

You will report directly to the project team leader in charge of the project at Ksilink.

This position is for 2 years and opens from September 2023 on. Further opportunities within Ksilink could then be explored but cannot be guaranteed at that stage. A new position and a new contract would then be required.

Key responsibilities

- Collaborate with partners involved in the environMENTAL consortium in alignment with the project team leader;
- Design, perform and monitor the experimental plan in alignment with the project team leader;
- Develop and apply stem-cell technologies within the scope of the consortium;
- Generate high-quality results, prepare reports and present the project's advancements at scientific conference;
- Coordinate and supervise personnel or students when required.

Key qualifications, experience and competencies

You have a PhD in the field of neurosciences, cell biology, biotechnology or another related scientific area with a focus on stem cell technology.

You have recently completed your PhD studies or will do by the end of year 2023.

The position requires advanced expertise in:

- Developing relevant neuronal stem-cell derived cellular model system (2D culture & organoids) to decode neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric disorders;
- Setting up and analysis of high-throughput / high content cellular assays (including MEA and/ or calcium imaging) and image- based assays.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills, including the ability to proactively interact with the multidisciplinary teams (from biology team, screening team to data mining team) and to present scientific results to project partners;
- Fluency in written and spoken English which is the central language at Ksilink. Other major languages are French and German.

The following experiences would be considered as an asset:

- Processing and interpretation of Omics data (RNA sequencing);
- Interest in developing cutting-edge cellular models using microfluidic devices/ organ-on-chips for advancing disease modelling and drug discovery;
- Experience in computationally-driven data mining and analysis is a plus (e.g. Python, R, Matlab).

What to expect from Ksilink?

- Opportunities to develop your career in a scientifically vigorous and exciting professional environment promoted by an open culture and a spirit of community;
- Outstanding and motivated team of international scientists with expertise in cellular disease modeling, assay miniaturization and automation, phenotypic HCS/HTS and cutting-edge image and data analysis approaches including computer vision and machine learning technologies;
- Established European network of renowned academic and industrial partners in our fields of activity;
- Competitive salary, individual performance-based bonus, and company performance-based bonus. Our remuneration package includes additional financial benefits such as health insurance, lunch allowance, mobility allowance, sport & culture allowance...
- Located in Strasbourg in France, at the border to Germany, next to city center. Strasbourg has been voted most attractive French city in 2019.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae with bibliography, and the contact information of at least three references to contact@ksilink.com. In order for the application to be read and considered, please indicate "ECP: PDF Neuro" in the e-mail's subject.