



UCD School of Medicine
Scoil an Leighis UCD

Systematic Understanding on Extracellular Matrix biology in Skin Fibrosis

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a 4-year, full-time PhD position (full funding with fees and stipend is pending) at the UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland.

This project seeks to deepen mechanistic insights on extracellular matrix and integrins across different temporal, molecular, and structural scales in human skin fibrosis. Multiparametric approaches will be employed to thoroughly profile fibrotic human skin tissues and to understand how different skin cells use different integrins to respond to fibrotic skin extracellular matrices across various time points. The results from this project will greatly contribute to expand biological insights in skin fibrosis and potentially unravel novel therapeutic targets for different stages of skin fibrosis.

The PhD candidate will use combined *in vitro* and *ex vivo* experiments to characterize skin cells and tissues. The candidate will work with various techniques/tools including proteomics, qPCR, electron microscopy, confocal microscopy, and atomic force microscopy to study spatiotemporal matrix biology in skin fibrosis. The candidate will join a group under the supervision of Dr Seungkuk Ahn (Associate Professor of Cutaneous Biology at UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology).

Qualifications / Expertise

Only EU applicants are eligible due to the funding regulation. Applicants should have a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences or Cell Biology or a related discipline. The ideal candidate should have experience in as many of the following techniques as possible: mammalian cell culture; molecular biology; extracellular matrix; protein and gene analysis; immunohistochemistry. The candidate should have excellent communication and organisational skills; be highly motivated and have strong written, oral and interpersonal skills. The candidate should be able to work independently and as a part of team.

Funding (pending)

The PhD studentship covers EU tuition fees and a tax-free stipend of €22,000 per year.

Starting date

The candidate must start in January 2025 or latest by 1 May 2025.

How to apply

Please send a cover letter (1 page max), CV, academic transcript, and referee's contact details (2 referees min.) to Dr Seungkuk Ahn (seungkuk.ahn@ucd.ie) **no later than 17 December 2024**.