



Press Release CiMaas BV

## **CiMaas and the INSTRuCT Consortium receive Innovative Training Network subsidy from the European Union Horizon2020 Program to train young scientists in developing novel cell therapies**

CiMaas focuses on the development of cellular immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer. CiMaas is a spin-off of Maastricht University/Maastricht University Medical Centre+ since 2015. Cell therapy is an active area of immunological research and represents a highly innovative and rapidly expanding sector of the pharmaceutical industry. CiMaas is part of the the INSTRuCT Consortium ([www.instruct-h2020.eu](http://www.instruct-h2020.eu)) which comprises 15 different European companies or universities from 8 Member States, that answers an unmet need for postdoctoral researchers trained in scientifically excellent research and cell therapy development. INSTRuCT is structured to promote interdisciplinary and intersectoral cooperation between partners, thereby accelerating pharmaceutical development and clinical application of novel cell-based therapies. INSTRuCT is a training programme, which will be complemented by theoretical and practical training opportunities, secondments at partner institutes and biannual meetings for Early Stage Researchers and their supervisors.

INSTRuCT received the maximum possible funding volume of € 4.2 million. The project started on January 1, 2020 and CiMaas is currently recruiting a candidate to fill one of the 15 PhD positions. The candidate will work at CiMaas laboratory/GMP facility at the Brighlands Chemelot Campus.

**Wilfred Germeraad, CSO of CiMaas:** "This EU Horizon2020 subsidy and being part of such a highly esteemed consortium is an honor and privilege bestowed on us. It will allow us to educate young people to become leaders in the cell therapy field. As the field of cell therapy is exploding, an urgent need for well-trained personnel at all levels is required. INSTRuCT foresees this need and we expect that our selected candidate will not only become a leader in the future, but also will contribute to the growth and development of CiMaas as an established cell therapy company in the heart of Europe".

**James Hutchinson, INSTRuCT Coordinator:** CiMaas stands at the cutting-edge of cell-based immunotherapy and exemplifies how innovative basic research can be translated into commercial success with enormous potential impact for patient care.

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### *About CiMaas*

*CiMaas BV aims to develop cellular immunotherapy for specific groups of cancer patients. The company will focus on the development of two unique products: a cancer vaccine using the patient's own immune (dendritic) cells and the production of donor natural killer cells. These methods can help to treat many oncological diseases. CiMaas will initially focus on lung cancer and multiple myeloma (MM, a type of bone marrow cancer also known as Kahler's disease). Both will be clinically tested in patients with DCs starting after regulatory approval has been obtained in 2020. CiMaas (Cellular Immunotherapy Maastricht) is a spin-off of Maastricht University/Maastricht University Medical Centre+ (UM/Maastricht UMC+) and has a GMP production facility on the Brightlands Chemelot Campus in Geleen. Please visit [www.cimaas.com](http://www.cimaas.com).*



The INsTRuCT Consortium has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 860003