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The European Training Network ETUDE (Encompassing Training in Functional Disorders across Europe) Is Recruiting 15 Early-Stage Researchers



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Functional disorders are traditionally understood as clusters of persistent somatic symptoms that have typical clinical characteristics but currently cannot be associated to reproducibly observable pathophysiological mechanisms. Knowledge on functional disorders is limited and fragmented, leading to insufficient health care for patients with functional disorders, and a society in which patients with functional disorders experience stigma from both the society as well as from health care professionals.

In response to these challenges, the EURONET-SOMA network developed a sustainable and structured training programme aimed at educating a new generation of interdisciplinary creative early stage researchers (ESR) that are able to cross disciplines and to translate theory and experimental models to products and services that improve care for patients. This will be done in the form

of the European Training Network “Encompassing Training in fUNCTIONAL Disorders across Europe (ETUDE)” which has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 956673.

Research within ETUDE is organized into four research work packages. In the first, four PhD students will work on transdiagnostic mechanisms underlying the development of functional disorders. The second research work package is focused on diagnosis of functional disorders, and will involve three PhD students who will study predictive validity of diagnostic criteria. The third research work package involves five PhD students focusing on treatment of functional disorders. In the fourth research work package, three PhD students will study stigma, and develop and evaluate methods and products to reduce it.

Central training within ETUDE is organized into network-wide training schools, each involving an advanced scientific course on a specific topic related to functional disorders, a transferable skill course focusing on general academic skills, and an outreach activity. The topics of the training schools follow the work package structure. The training schools will also be open to PhD students that perform their research outside the ETUDE programme.

ETUDE is currently recruiting 15 PhD students for this European research programme and training network. For a more extensive description of ETUDE we refer to a recent publication (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022399920309077>). Details on the specific projects, recruitment procedures, eligibility criteria and on how to apply can be found at <https://www.euronet-soma.eu/itn/>. For further information on the research or training programme you can contact etude@umcg.nl.