

# Net4Mobility<sup>+</sup>



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Network of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions National Contact Points for the mobile scientific and innovation community

### Success Stories from MSC Fellows Hosted in Widening Countries

Task 4.4      Effective MSCA promotion

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**Name of the MSC Fellow: Iwona Wójcik**

**Nationality: Polish**

**Host organization: Genos Ltd.**

**Country of the Host: Croatia**

**Project Acronym: GlySign**

**Project start and end date: 1.10.2016 – 30.09.2020**

**Type of MSC action, H2020: ITN**



**Your story:**

**Project objectives and research field:**

My GlySign PhD project aims to develop clinically validated glycomic marker for Precision Medicine. Particularly, the research focuses on the glycosylation analysis of total and antigen-specific serum IgG for disease monitoring in allo- and autoimmune disorders, affecting the blood and circulatory system, including fetal/neonatal thrombocytopenia and granulomatosis with polyangiitis. The project incorporates few scientific fields such as glycobiology, mass spectrometry-based proteomics, immunology, protein chemistry and method validation, thereby creating multidisciplinary environment.

**Tell us why your topic is important and/ or how it brings to advancement in your research field:**

The importance of glycomics to healthcare is summarized in a recent report endorsed by the USA Academies which stated that “glycans are directly involved in the pathophysiology of every major disease”. (PM) Since, the goal of the project is to characterize glycomic biomarker of disease progression, it will provide the substantial progress toward implementing the personalized medicine. It means that the project has the potential to tailor therapy to ensure better patient care, by enabling patient to receive earlier diagnosis, risk assessments and optimal treatment. Particularly, my

project focuses on the serum IgG biomarker analysis for disease monitoring in allo- and autoimmune disorders.

### **What are the benefits of participating in a MSC action?**

The one of the benefits of participating in a MSCA in the unique scientific experience, which I gained during my research project. Since, my project is an industrial doctorate, I had the unique opportunity to share my time between the excellent academic and industrial partners. Such mobility, promoted intersectoral collaboration and provided me with wide, theoretical knowledge and developed my soft skills as well. These include strong observational skills, curiosity, logic, creativity, skepticism, and objectivity. I improved my skills in glycoproteomics, mass spectrometry and data analysis. Traveling between many countries during my secondments and working in international environment with other PhD students from all over Europe gives the opportunity to meet interesting people. Working in different laboratories provided me with a great possibility to exchange knowledge, become motivated and learn more on my research topic. Nowadays, there is a need to discover the new biomarker in fundamental research and translate them into medical practice, thereby improving the quality of medical care in society. The project aims to bring clinically validated glycomics biomarker into the clinic. By means of this, the rising needs in the medical field may be fulfilled.

### **Why did you choose a widening country as a Host? What was the reason that convinced you? What is making you professionally happy here?**

There are few reasons why I chose Croatia as my host country. The leading position in the high-throughput glycomics research of my hosting company is one of the reasons. Working in such world-leading company is a great opportunity to perform high throughput studies, ranging from analytical chemistry to study design and data analysis. The second reason is the amazing culture and nature, that Croatia possess. Moreover, the working environment within a group of enthusiastic international students and experts in glycobiology field in such a beautiful place makes my professional life happy.

### **Would you recommend others to apply? What useful advice/ tips can you give them?**

I would highly recommend others to apply. In my opinion the good revision of our future goals and aims is very helpful in finding a good position and increasing the success in the application rate. Try to ask yourself where do you want to be and what

do you want do in five years. This kind of revision will make your application more consistent.