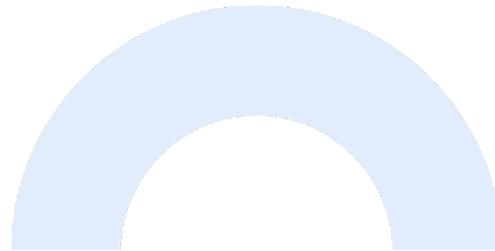


MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES: WHAT'S IN IT FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN ASEAN

**Prof. ChM. Dr Siong Fong Sim
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS)
Sarawak, Malaysia**





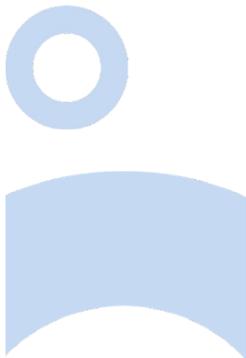
MSCA 2022

**Analysis of the volatile organic compounds emitted
by extracellular vesicles for disease diagnosis**

VOLATEVS

1 Nov 2022 – 31 Oct 2026

- **Eesti Maaulikool (EMU, ESTONIA)**
- **Universita Degli Studi Di Roma Tor Vergata (UNITOV, ITALY)**
- **Institut De Chimie Macromoleculara Petru Poni (ICMPP, ROMANIA)**
- **Lund University (LUND, SWEDEN)**
- **Instituto De Investigaciones Cientificas Y Servicios De Alta Tecnologia Asociacion De Interes Publico (INDICASAT, PANAMA)**
- **Monash University Malaysia Sdn Bhd (MONASH, MALAYSIA)**
- **Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS, MALAYSIA)**
- **Sc MGM Star Construct SRL (MGM, ROMANIA)**



**Volatologic Approaches for Improving Success Rates
in Assisted Reproductive Technology
ARTVOC**

31 Oct 2023 – 30 Sept 2027

- **Eesti Maaulikool (EMU, ESTONIA)**
- **Tervisetechnoloogiate Arenduskeskus As (CCHT, ESTONIA),**
- **Universitat Rovira I Virgili (URV, SPAIN),**
- **Sc MGM Star Construct SRL (MGM, ROMANIA)**
- **Universidad De Caldas (UDC, COLOMBIA),**
- **Universidad De Pamplona (UP, COLOMBIA),**
- **Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS, MALAYSIA)**
- **Universidad Cooperativa De Colombia (UCC, COLOMBIA)**

**Led by Dr Radu Ionescu
Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU),
Tartu, Estonia**

 **MSCA 2023** >>>>



How did you/your institution initially connect with European partners?

Invitation to join European research project

Septimiu Radu Ionescu <SeptimiuRadu.Ionescu@emu.ee>

Fri 17/12/2021 12:38 AM

To: Sim Siong Fong <sfsim@unimas.my>

1 attachments (717 KB)

MSCA SE 2021 - Guide for applicants.pdf;

Dear Siong Fong,

I am preparing a Project proposal for the MSCA SE program of the European Commission (see attached), which aims the analysis of the volatiles emitted by EVs for disease diagnosis employing different approaches.

I had recently the opportunity to read your paper "Synchronized Analysis of FTIR Spectra and GCMS Chromatograms for Evaluation of the Thermally Degraded Vegetable Oils", which is interesting for our project, as we will apply both GC-MS and FTIR to analyse the EVs.

Therefore, I consider that your contribution to our project could be very important, and for this reason I am sending you this invitation to join our project.

Regarding the MSCA-SE program, it mainly funds researchers exchange between the project partners, while the research funding is based on the number of person months secondments realized during these staff exchanges.

Best regards,

Dr. Radu Ionescu
Senior Researcher
Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Science
Estonian University of Life Sciences
Tartu, ESTONIA

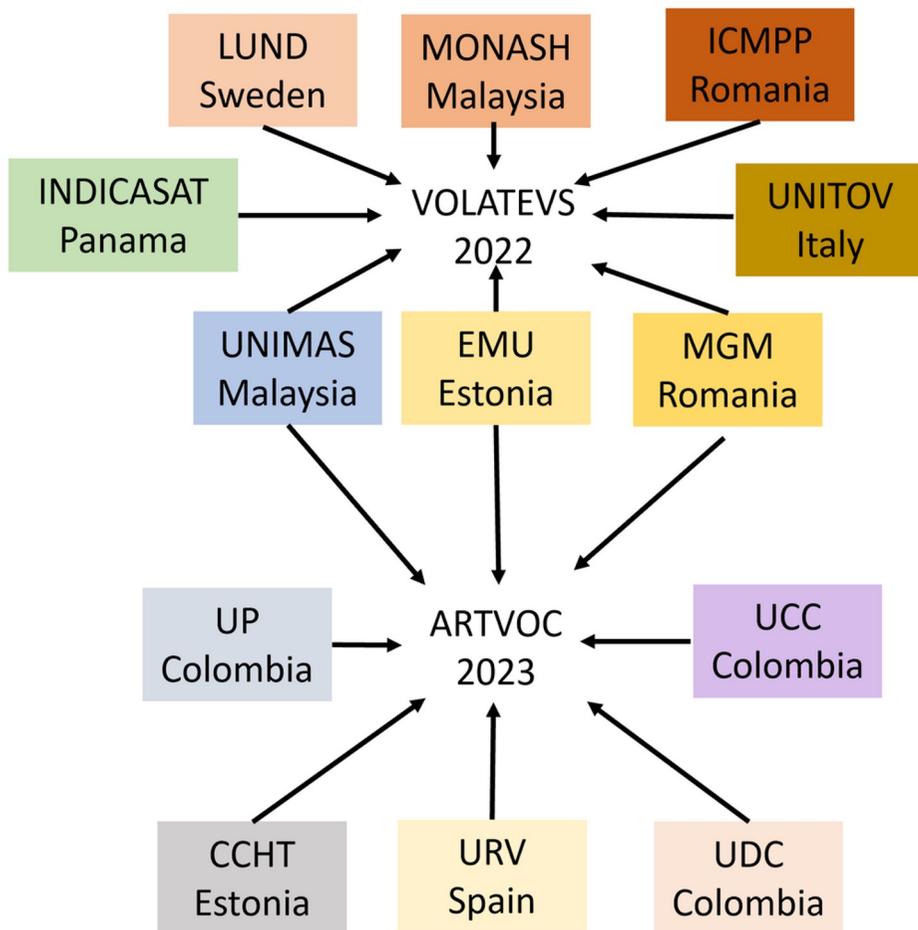
Research Article | Open Access

Volume 2014 | Article ID 271970 | <https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/271970>

[Show citation](#)

Synchronized Analysis of FTIR Spectra and GCMS Chromatograms for Evaluation of the Thermally Degraded Vegetable Oils

Siong Fong Sim ¹, Terri Zhuan Ean Lee,¹ Nurul Aida Lu Mohd Irwan Lu,¹ and Benedict Samling¹



Role and Contributions

- Chromatograms and Spectra Processing and Analysis
- Software Development for GCMS

Secondees

- Laboratory Science Officers
- Researchers (Early/Mid/Senior)
- PhD student



Eligibility and Application Challenges for non-EU Partners?



Lack of partner insights

- **Unclear roles and expertise** - Limited understanding of each partner institution's specific capabilities & expertise.



Secondment

- **Allocation and Distribution** -
- **Assignment difficulties** - which institutions are most appropriate, What secondees will do, How secondment months should be allocated.



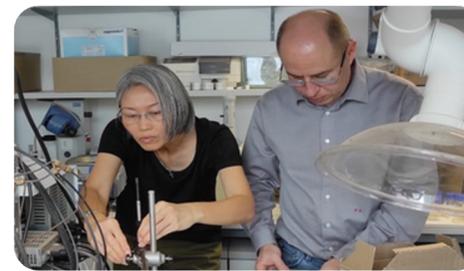
Research

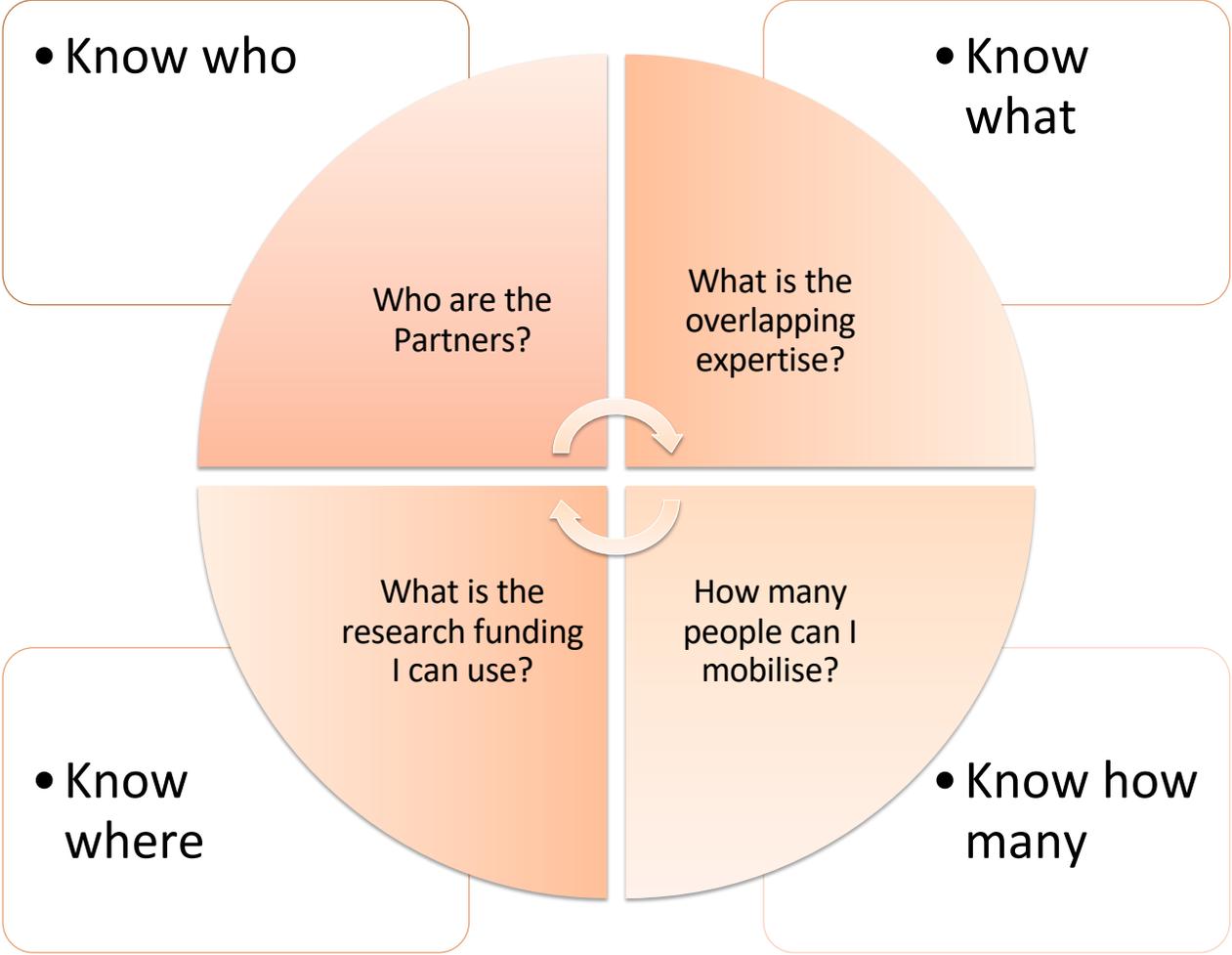
- **Resources Availability** - Limited access to funding, equipment, or essential materials.
- **Exploration of new research area**



Deliverables

- **Uncertainties about deliverables** - whether secondment planned is achievable, whether the budget assigned will be manageable.





Challenges in Consortium Setup and Implementation

Funding Constraints

- **Resources Availability** - Limited access to funding, equipment, or essential materials.
- The disbursement of funding can be time-consuming, as it typically occurs six months after the project report has been approved.
- Some secondment countries are expensive, with higher living costs.
- Travel expenses for project meetings are not covered by the secondment allowance.

Secondment

- **Feasibility** of the secondment plans - Identifying eligible and willing staff members, optimal secondment schedule with minimal disruptions.
- **New learning** - Acquiring new skills & techniques
- **Planning uncertainties** - Determining which host institutions, Deciding the appropriate length of each secondment.

Logistics & Planning

- **Sample transportation, scheduling**
- **Secondment and meetings scheduling, travel restrictions**

Institutional Support

- **Bureaucratic procurement procedures.**
- **Complicated ethics approvals processes**
- **Planning & coordination, Administrative hurdles**

Successes in Consortium Setup and Implementation

Talent Retention & Capacity Building

Secondees attended the program were later recruited as PhD student or postdoc.



Publications

Joint publications from works completed during secondments.



IP

IP registration from works completed during secondments

Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry (2025) 417:771–783
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-024-05691-1>

RESEARCH PAPER

Identification of putative volatile biomarkers of canine leishmaniasis in dog's breath and hair employing a novel algorithm for automated chromatographic peak detection and matching

Raluca Suschinel^{1,2} · Aylene Lisette Jaimes-Mogollón^{1,3} · Siong Fong Sim⁴ · Woei Ting⁴ · Juan Martín Cáceres-Tarazona⁵ · Eliana Alvarez-Valdez² · Milton Rosero-Moreano² · Mohamed Fethi Diouani⁶ · Emira Chouh⁶ · Mihai Brebu⁷ · Violeta Simion⁸ · Jose Angel Barasona² · Radu Ionescu¹

Received: 30 July 2024 / Revised: 25 November 2024 / Accepted: 2 December 2024 / Published online: 26 December 2024
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A Robust Algorithm for Detection of Overlapping Signals of FTIR

Copyright
 LY2024Q02924
 Faculty of Resource Science and Technology
 Related Research : INT/F07/REA/85647/2022

Successful Kick-Off Meeting

The kick-off meeting effectively aligned all partners on objectives, deliverables, timelines, and compliance requirements. Work packages were initiated on schedule.

Initiatives to establish a strong partnership with the potential consortium members?

> Memorandum of Understanding

UNIMAS - ICMPP

> New Collaborative Opportunities

New Proposal submission

> Postgraduate Co-supervision

A PhD and a MSc student

> Group research support

Providing support for the research activities of the group beyond the current project.

> Organising a Conference

To allow expansion of network and collaborative opportunities

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK
AND
"PETRU PONI" INSTITUTE OF MACROMOLECULAR CHEMISTRY

Phytochemical Profiling, Biological Evaluation and Encapsulation of Essential Oils from *Baccaurea* species for Pharmaceutical and Food Packaging Applications.

- ✓ Published
- 🔍 Public
- 🏢 Faculty of Resource Science and Technology
- 📄 Fundamental

Project ID	Finance ID
UNI/F07/TZC/86363/2024	05-FA070900-0102-0022, Fund: 05, Cost Centre: FA070900
Funder Project ID	Fund/Grant Type
UNI/F07/TZC/86363/2024	Tun Zaidi Chair

Researchers

- Professor Dr. Sim Siong Fong**
Head / Project Leader
from UNIMAS
- Dr Tan Wen Nee**
Co-Researcher
from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
- Encik Benedict Anak Samling**
Co-Researcher
from UNIMAS
- Dr Mihai Brebu**
Co-Researcher
from Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry "Petru Poni"



Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry (2025) 417:771–783
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00216-024-05691-1>

RESEARCH PAPER

Check for updates

Identification of putative volatile biomarkers of canine leishmaniasis in dog's breath and hair employing a novel algorithm for automated chromatographic peak detection and matching

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ARTEV 2025
International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology & Extracellular Vesicle Science
"Innovation and Insights to IVF & EV"
23–25 OCTOBER 2025
Waterfront Hotel, Kuching

Our Partners

UNIMAS, CELVIA, EMU, LUNDS UNIVERSITY, UG, MONASH University, MGT, TOR VERGATA

Supported by Official Hotel Professional Congress Organiser

SARAWAK, WATERFRONT HOTEL, NEUMENXION

Advice for ASEAN Researchers Joining an MSCA SE Consortium

Stage of Applications:

- Fully understand the research objectives, partner contributions, and your own roles and responsibilities.
- Aim to optimize secondment allocations to align with the scope of research for maximum impact.

Once Approved:

- Attend the kick-off meeting.
- Establish initial connections with project partners.
- Don't hesitate to ask questions if anything is unclear.

Implementation:

- Plan ahead: determine duration, personnel involved, and achievable goals.
- Consider aligning secondments with project meetings for efficiency.
- Coordinate secondments with partners to enhance collaborative outcomes.
- Focus on being outcome-oriented during secondments.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- Continuously monitor the progress of secondments.
- Ensure timely planning and execution of project deliverables.

»»»» Thank You

My journey with the MSCA Staff Exchange Program has been incredibly exciting. I've met new collaborators who have, in many ways, become like an extended family across the world.

We do science together and support each other in understanding it. For me, it's far more than just a staff exchange program and career development—it's about sharing passion and

