

Press Release

Can epigenetics prime evolution? – Postdoc researcher of University of Cambridge receives prestigious fellowship

Dr. Sito Torres-Garcia of the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, has been selected for The Branco Weiss Fellowship, a program for outstanding postdoctoral researchers hosted by ETH Zurich. Dr. Torres-Garcia now enjoys up to five years of academic freedom to perform his interdisciplinary research at any institution in the world.

Zurich/Switzerland, September 12, 2022. – *The Branco Weiss Fellowship – Society in Science* has selected Dr. Sito Torres-Garcia of the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, as one of nine new fellows after an extended global recruitment campaign.

In his research, Dr. Torres-Garcia will develop, deploy, and integrate novel experimental and computational approaches to investigate the role of epigenetic mechanisms in the emergence and evolution of therapy resistance in metastatic cancer – a major biomedical challenge wherein tumor cells from a primary site gradually colonize distant organs. The cross-disciplinary project will blend novel laboratory models with innovative experimental and computational methodologies to study cancer progression under standard-of-care therapy at unprecedented detail. By bridging the fields of Epigenetics, Evolution and Cancer Biology this study aims to shed light on broad principles of eukaryotic adaptation and reveal potential therapeutic opportunities to improve patient outcome.

More information about Dr. Sito Torres-Garcia: <https://www.brancoweissfellowship.org/fellow/torres-garcia.html>

The Branco Weiss Fellowship offers an opportunity for postdocs in all areas of the natural and social sciences as well as engineering who have conceived an original and independent research idea that falls outside the scope of large-scale research projects. This year's new fellows come from a wide range of research fields including astronomy, biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, computer science, epigenetics, geophysics, medicine, neuroscience, physics, sciences of religions, and virology. They originate from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom and are currently working at institutions and universities in the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

“The quality of applications for the Branco Weiss Fellowships is always impressively high. After rigorous rounds of evaluation by experts and the final interviews nine new fellows were selected. We are looking forward to the exciting new projects which complement and expand the research topics of the Fellowship community”, says the fellowship's member of the directorate Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach.

About us

The Branco Weiss Fellowship – Society in Science was founded in 2002 to provide a platform for researchers in the natural sciences and engineering who are aiming to extend their scientific work to cover specific social and cultural questions and perspectives. The fellowship was initiated and financed by the Swiss entrepreneur Dr. Branco Weiss, who died in 2010. It is hosted by ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich). Professors Angelika Steger, Heidi Wunderli-Allenspach and Josef Zeyer direct the fellowship program and are supported by prominent international scholars from a wide array of disciplines. To qualify for the prestigious grant, candidates must hold a PhD and provide evidence of outstanding scientific achievement.

For more information on the fellowship, please visit www.brancoweissfellowship.org

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