



Dynamic Interactive Nanosystems

Marie Curie Initial Training Network

Interview with Lars Jorgensen, ER – Attana AB- Stockholm, Sweden

I'm originally from Denmark. I hold a Master degree from the University of Copenhagen, then I obtained a PhD in health science in 2011 followed by a postdoc experience in 2012. Since 2013, I'm working as ER in the DYNANO project at Attana AB, in Stockholm, Sweden. My scientific training has mainly been about understanding cellular and molecular behavior in fluidics, but the greatest eye-opener for me has been seeing how a small company operates which is quite different from my previous experiences working at a university.



Lars Jorgensen

What is your Experience Researcher's project about? What objectives do you have to reach?

My project is about assay development for kinetic analysis of molecular interactions with suspension cells using a biosensor. It's not something there is a lot of knowledge about, so it really has this ground breaking feel to it. The primary objectives are stably capturing the cells on the surface, finding solutions that can disrupt this interaction again and then of course carrying out the actual kinetics experiment. The work is performed with primary cells, so material consumption concerns can often require making some hard choices.

What is the best thing about taking a ER position in the framework of an ITN European Project? What is challenging?

Networking! Without a doubt, networking is the best thing about this. It's a great combination of many new scientists and some very experienced ones and all of them seem passionate and curious. I think that the main challenge is actually keeping up with all the good options and suggestions in the network.



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Could you tell us something about your secondments and what you learnt there?

During my research, Attana made contact with a company that wanted to analyze suspension cells. They were interested in a cell that I've never worked with before, so it was a great opportunity to both see how another company operates and learn something about a rather pesky little cell that is easily activated, a situation I frequently wanted to avoid. ***I actually ended up spending 3 months at their site working on this project. That certainly didn't hurt my network either.***

What did you learn from your participation to national/international events during your PhD?

Scientifically speaking I've learnt a fair bit about organic chemistry, but more importantly ***I've learnt a lot about the hurdles that are present in areas close to my own.*** Like sometimes it's easy to take for granted what other people do and not really knowing what is easy and what is difficult for them. Sometimes I'd see something that I thought would be easy took a lot of time, and sometimes something I would have imagine would require a lot of work got done in no time at all.



Do you have some advice to master/engineer students considering taking a PhD?

I guess **my first advice** would be stop considering and **just do it!** It opens up a **whole new world of career opportunities.** I'd also advice to always remember to work on your network. It is probably the single-most vital thing you've got. But **most of all just dig in and enjoy.**

"Without a doubt, networking is the best thing about ITN Project"

Do you have any plans after completing the PhD?

I have been hired by Attana, so my work with them continues.

Thank you Lars and all the best for DYNANO and other projects you are involved in.

Interviewed by Laurence Bosch

DYNANO in brief

Starting date: 1st November 2011

Project duration: 48 months

Number of partners: 15

Project Coordinator: Dr. Mihai BARBOIU,

European Membrane Institute -IEM, Montpellier, France.

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www.dynano.eu



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