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ERA Long-Term Research Fellowship Project

IWG

Project's key info

Title of the project	Long-term avacopan-based treatment strategies in patients with ANCA-associated vasculitis – the AVAC-EUR study
Working Group involved in the project	IWG
Principal Investigator(s) of the project	Y.K.O. Teng S. Moran
Duration	12 months
Fellowship Grant	34.495,00 €
Start of the fellowship	Within 6 months after notification of the grant award to the fellow.

Receiving Institute

Name of receiving institute	Leiden University Medical Center
Supervisor's name	Y.K.O. Teng
Supervisor's e-mail address	y.k.o.teng@lumc.nl

Project's detailed description

Project description
Anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)–associated vasculitis (AAV) is a rare, complex autoimmune disease with significant variability in clinical presentation and management across Europe. Although recent advances have improved remission induction, long-term disease control and prevention of organ damage remain challenging. Avacopan, a complement C5a-receptor antagonist, has demonstrated efficacy in severe, active AAV and has received regulatory approval in both Europe and the United States. Its introduction through early-access programmes across multiple European countries has resulted in the treatment of more than 300 patients, offering a unique opportunity to assess real-world use. To systematically capture these data, the AVAC-EUR study was launched in 2025 as a multicenter European cohort study endorsed by ERA-IWG and ERN-RITA. The study currently includes patients from more than eight countries, with ongoing data collection encompassing detailed clinical, therapeutic, and histopathological information. Despite growing experience with avacopan, important knowledge gaps persist, particularly regarding its effectiveness in specific patient subgroups, its role in treatment-refractory disease, optimal combination strategies with immunosuppressive therapies, and the potential predictive value of histopathological findings. This fellowship project builds on the existing AVAC-EUR infrastructure to address these gaps through comprehensive analyses of clinical outcomes, treatment strategies, and biopsy data. Conducted under supervision at the Leiden University Medical Center, the project will contribute to improving individualized treatment approaches in AAV while providing advanced training in rare-disease registry research and European collaborative studies.

Goals of the project
1. The project aims at: 2. Defining long-term avacopan-based treatment strategies in ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) and identifying patient- and disease-related characteristics associated with favourable outcomes. 3. Characterising variation in clinical practice regarding avacopan use across European centres participating in the AVAC-EUR study. 4. Assessing the clinical effectiveness and safety of avacopan-based regimens in predefined patient subgroups, including those with advanced renal impairment, different ANCA serotypes (MPO/MPA vs PR3/GPA), and specific organ involvement. 5. Investigating histopathological predictors of treatment response to support more individualized therapeutic decision-making. 6. Integrating clinical and pathological findings into a harmonised European dataset to inform future ERA-IWG recommendations and promote equitable access to avacopan across Europe. 7. Generating robust real-world evidence on complement inhibition in AAV while strengthening European collaboration and advancing personalised treatment approaches.

Qualifications and/or expertise required to the fellow

Nephrology background, experience with statistical analysis and R is a plus but not mandatory.