

## **‘Life Sciences with Industry’ Workshop 2021**

8-12 NOVEMBER 2021, LEIDEN

*Innovative solutions to your R&D problem within a week*

We are looking for challenging industrially relevant case studies on life sciences topics for the Life Sciences with Industry workshop 2021. You are invited to submit a proposal with your R&D challenge.

### **Why should you apply?**

The workshop offers your company one week to collaborate with a team of dedicated researchers from different sectors of the life sciences on the problems in your proposed case. These teams integrate academic knowledge from different branches of the life sciences, including molecular and cellular biology, biophysics, genomics, bioinformatics, statistics, systems biology, biochemistry and bioengineering, thus ensuring that problems will be approached from different angles. The goal is to come to a concrete practical solution or new horizons with new insights. In addition, participation will strengthen your company's academic network, leading to possible new collaborative projects and partners, while having the chance to meet highly qualified potential employees.

### **The aim of the workshop**

To encourage cooperation and exchange of knowledge between academia and industry, the Dutch Research Council ([NWO](#)) and the Lorentz Center ([LC](#)) jointly organise the ‘Life Sciences with Industry’ Workshop 2021. In a stimulating setting at the Lorentz Center in Leiden, scientists and researchers from both academia and industry work closely together to find innovative solutions to scientifically challenging and commercially important R&D problems within a week. Participants are young and talented scientists (PhDs, postdocs and more experienced researchers) from different sectors of the life sciences, guided by senior researchers from industry and academia.

### **Application procedure**

You can submit your proposal by filling in the application sheet (page 4). A maximum of four cases will be selected. The organisers strive to include R&D problems from both large industry and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The four cases will be selected according to the following selection criteria:

- Is the proposal scientifically challenging and does it pose concrete questions in the (broad) field of the life sciences?
- Does the problem address any relevant (societal) issues?
- Can, in principle, a (partial) solution be generated in one week of hard work?
- Is there active participation from the company during the workshop?

### **Preparation before the workshop week**

Four problem proposals will be selected for the workshop. If your challenge is selected then the organisers will contact your company in order to optimise the R&D problem as stated in the proposal and tune it to the format of the workshop. Prior to the workshop, the organisation assigns each participant to a specific problem, thus forming four teams of five-six people thereby taking into account a diversity in background, gender and geographical spread (regarding the host institution). In the application form you are requested to provide relevant literature and documentation, so that the teams can prepare and start the workshop with a reasonable degree of background knowledge.

### **Overall workshop programme**

The programme starts on Monday morning with a plenary introduction of the four R&D problems by representatives of the companies. During the workshop week, small teams of scientists work on the problems, supported by the company representatives. Each team will concentrate on the case assigned to them although input from other teams is stimulated amongst others via the plenary mid-term presentations. Scientists from industry and academia actively participate during the week, providing the team with relevant input, and ensuring that proposed solutions remain realistic and feasible. In this way significant progress towards a practical solution or solutions for each R&D problem is ensured. On the last day of the workshop (Friday), the teams will present and discuss their solutions in a plenary session.

### **Important dates**

30 April	Deadline submission R&D problems
14 May	Selection of four R&D problems
24 May	Publication of cases and call for participation
10 September	Registration application closed
29 September	Selection of ~20-24 participants completed
8-12 November	Life Sciences with Industry 2021 workshop

### **Costs and presence**

The workshop is funded by NWO Science and NWO Applied and Engineering Sciences, and Lorentz Center. However, to cover all expenses of the workshop a nominal contribution is requested from the participating companies.

- Companies with more than 50 employees: € 2,750 (excl. VAT)
- Companies with less than 50 employees and non-profit organisations: € 1,000 (excl. VAT)

Please note, that if your case is selected and you have confirmed your participation to the workshop by email, you can no longer withdraw and will have to be present during the workshop to guide the young investigators. In addition, with the confirmation you will also have committed to fulfill the financial obligations.

Hotel costs of representatives from industry and possible other in-kind contributions are not included in this financial contribution. Participating companies are expected that at least one of their employees is available at least 3 days during the workshop week (preferably Monday, Wednesday and Friday) and can be contacted by the participants during the whole week (e.g. phone or Skype).

### **Confidentiality and Intellectual property**

The main purpose of the workshop is the exchange of knowledge between industry and academia and generated results are intended to be public. To ensure a free flow of information, all participants must sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to enable information protection. Therefore you will have to ensure that your company agrees with the NDA (page 5 and 6). Please do contact the organisers if you have any questions or remarks regarding the NDA.

### **Previous editions**

Both large industry and SMEs have benefited from these workshops. Previous editions of the Life Sciences with Industry workshop have resulted in creative and innovative solutions for challenging R&D problems. Companies that joined us were Philips, DSM, Keygene, Bejo Zaden, Heineken, Nutricia Research, Danone, Unilever, Syngenta, Pam Gene International, Amsterdam Scientific Instruments, Corbion, FEI Electron Optics, NXP Semiconductors, Bioceros, Solynta, VITO, Shell, Ausnutria and BaseClear.

In 2019, the multidisciplinary teams have worked on the following challenging problems:

- The search for new enzymes for sustainable use of industrial waste streams – DSM
- Improving biodegradation assessment of chemicals for a greener future– Shell
- Interactive app for maternal and offspring health – Ausnutria BV
- Potato CRISP(R)s– Solynta

The above mentioned information and an impression of the Life Sciences with Industry Workshop 2019 can be found at:

[Life Sciences with Industry workshop experiences | NWO](#)

[Life Sciences with Industry workshop | NWO](#)

### **Organisation committee**

The workshop is organised by the following persons and institutions. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

- MSc Darya Hadavi (Maastricht University) ([d.hadavi@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:d.hadavi@maastrichtuniversity.nl))
- Dr. Joyce Burger (NWO) ([lifewithindustry@nwo.nl/j.burger@nwo.nl](mailto:lifewithindustry@nwo.nl/j.burger@nwo.nl))
- Dr. Simone Ordelman (NWO) ([lifewithindustry@nwo.nl/s.ordelman@nwo.nl](mailto:lifewithindustry@nwo.nl/s.ordelman@nwo.nl))
- Dr. Aljosha Wahl ([S.A.Wahl@tudelft.nl](mailto:S.A.Wahl@tudelft.nl))
- Prof. dr. Maarten Honing ([m.honing@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:m.honing@maastrichtuniversity.nl))

## Format proposals workshop 'Life sciences and Industry'

The deadline for submitting proposals is **April 30, 2021**.

The proposal should be written in English and structured as indicated below. The proposal should have a maximum length of two pages A4 and send via email to Life Sciences with Industry ([lifewithindustry@nwo.nl](mailto:lifewithindustry@nwo.nl)).

### 1. Title

The title should be concise and, appealing.

### 2. Applicant(s)

Name(s) of the applicant(s) and company, postal address, email , phone number.

### 3. Academic partner (if applicable)

Name(s) of academic partner(s) and affiliation, as well as address, email and phone number.

### 4. Company information

Brief introduction (max. 100 words) of the company. Please add a company logo (as separate jpg or eps file).

### 5. Problem

Description of the life sciences-related problem (max. 500 words) that can realistically be tackled during the workshop in clear and appealing wording. Note that the participants of the workshop have different backgrounds (molecular and cellular life sciences, biophysics, informatics, systems biology, etc.) and experience (PhD students, postdocs). Please address the following issues:

- what is the specific R&D problem that the company would like to be solved?
- what is the urgency of this problem for the company?
- what can be realistically achieved during this workshop?
- which life sciences disciplines do you expect to be relevant to this problem?
- who will represent the company during the workshop?
- list of preferably five key references on background literature

### 6. Confidentiality

Please indicate if you agree with the NDA and fill in the form on the following pages.

*Please note*



The information in your proposal will be used in the selection process before and, if selected, in discussions during the workshop. If all parties agree, then it may also be used for outreach and promotion activities in relation to the workshop.

## NDA Life Sciences with Industry workshop 2021

The annual workshop 'Life Sciences with Industry' (hereafter: the Workshop) is jointly organized by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO and the Lorentz Center (LC). It is intended to encourage cooperation and exchange of knowledge between academia and industry. In the stimulating setting of the Lorentz Center, scientists and researchers from universities and companies work closely together during one week to find original solutions to the challenging R&D problem of each company (hereafter: "a Case"). For each of the four Cases, the organizers will appoint a team consisting of a company representative, (academic) supervisor and scientific researchers (hereafter each: a Participant). To stimulate a free flow of information between these Participants and to enable (patent) protection, it is important that the Participants are bound to rules with regard to secrecy and ownership.

Therefore the undersigned .....  
employee of .....  
Participant to Life Sciences with Industry in the period from 8 to 12 November 2021 **declares as follows:**

- (1) The Participant of the company will present its problem to the other Participants. In case the company Participant presents any information that it wishes to keep confidential, it shall clearly indicate such confidentiality on (the handouts of) the presentation by an appropriate mark (hereafter: Company Confidential Information). The Participants shall keep the Company Confidential Information confidential until 5 years after the workshop.
- (2) The company representative(s) and Participants of the workshop shall keep all results of the workshop confidential until the workshop organisation publishes the workshop proceedings or until 3 months after the workshop, whichever is earlier.
- (3) The Participants shall present their solutions in a final presentation at the end of the workshop. The organisers may invite the press to such final presentation.

In the event the company representative(s) wish that certain information is not presented because it is Company Confidential Information, the Participants shall remove such information from the presentation.

In the event the company representative(s) wish that certain information is not presented because the company is interested in patenting the information, publication of such information shall be postponed with a maximum of 3 months.

The company Participant of a Case shall timely (i.e. before the final presentation) inform the other Participants in that case of any of the above objections.

- (4) In accordance with Dutch law, the intellectual property rights to results of a Case rest with the employers of the Participants that contributed to these results jointly. In the event the

company participating in a Case wishes to obtain (exclusive) rights to use the intellectual property rights to the results of such Case, the company and the employers of the

Participants involved shall within two months after the workshop- in mutual consultation agree on:

- The protection measures (patent, copyright) and, cost thereof and the actions to be taken;
- The ownership and the inventors to be registered on a possible patent application;
- The market price to be paid by the company to the employers of the Participants involved.

- (5) The employers whose employees have contributed to a patented solution have a royalty-free right at all times to use the results for the purpose of their own research and teaching, including the right to publication.
- (6) The Participants and their employers shall not hold the organisers of the workshop liable for any damage that may occur and indemnify the organisers in case of any action, complaint or proceeding brought by a third party against them as a result of damage caused, either by any of their acts or omissions in relation to the workshop or by any products, processes or services created on the basis of results resulting from the workshop.

<p>The Participant Signature:</p>   <p>Date: Place:</p>	<p>On behalf of the employer of the Participant, agreed: Signature:</p>   <p>Date: Place:</p>
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