

APRIL 2025

AFRODITA NEWSLETTER

Dear readers,

We celebrated the **first anniversary of AFRODITA Project** (#101120126), a **European Doctoral Network** funded by the EU's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. AFRODITA is designed to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial, passionate and excellent researchers through a Joint Doctorate programme coordinated by the University of Murcia.

The **consortium** consists of nine beneficiary institutions and eight associated partners, bringing together leading scientific experts from academia (five European universities and three research centers), one hospital, and the corporate sector (eight enterprises). These 17 participating institutions are distributed across nine countries: Spain, France, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Italy, and the USA.

The AFRODITA consortium has selected **15 doctoral candidates** who are enrolled in **doctorate programs at two universities** that allow them to obtain their doctorate in both institutions. Additionally, these PhD candidates have the opportunity to undertake **secondments** at various participant institutions and companies worldwide.

UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA

GHENT UNIVERSITY, UCD, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TERAAMO, UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, CSIC, INIA, Herlev Hospital, IVI, CRV, LMPE, diarech, EmbryoCloud, STgenetics, ELIANCE, INRAE, CBM, CelloXess

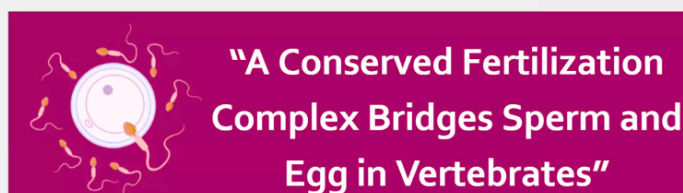
15 doctoral candidates

15 individual portraits of the doctoral candidates are displayed in two rows below the map.

Read More on our website: www.afrodita-dn.eu/web/afrodita/about

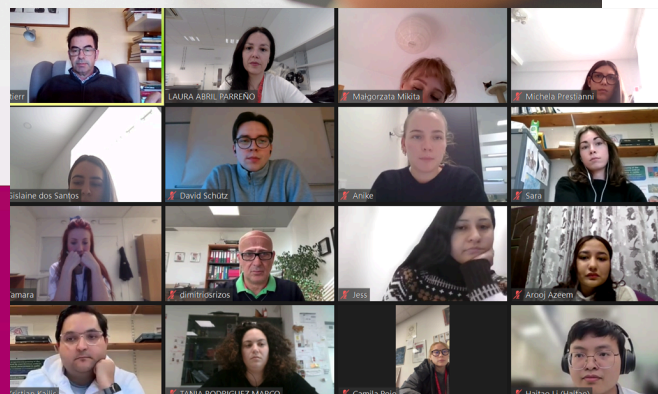
AFRODITA also offers a dedicated **training programme** for doctoral candidates, featuring, among other initiatives, the organization of four training schools held in different locations throughout the program's duration.

This unique program not only equips PhD candidates with essential technical and soft skills to successfully conduct their research projects but also plays a crucial role in expanding their professional networks and enhancing their future career prospects.



Deneke, Victoria E., et al. "A conserved fertilization complex bridges sperm and egg in vertebrates." *Cell* (2024).

"A Conserved Fertilization Complex Bridges Sperm and Egg in Vertebrates"



1st Afrodita Journal Club - 10/12/2024

Gislaine Dos Santos

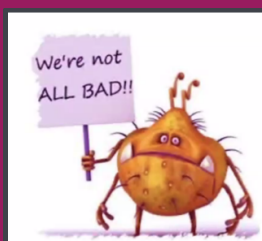
Michela Prestianni



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AFRODITA

Dr **Signe Altmäe** from the **University of Granada** (Spain) was the speaker of our first invited online lecture. She showed us that her research demonstrates that understanding what is "normal" in the **microbiome of the female reproductive tract** is key to avoiding inappropriate treatment.



Endometrial microbiome

Signe Altmäe, PhD

Dep. Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Granada, Spain
&
Div. Obstetrics and Gynaecology, CLINTEC, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden



Another key objective of AFRODITA is to actively **communicate and disseminate its advances in ARTs** not only to scientists and investors but also to the general public. This ensures that these developments are applied in the best possible way and effectively address society's current needs, challenges, and issues.



UPCOMING EVENTS

We are excited to announce that we will host our **next Training School** at the University of Copenhagen and University Hospital-Herlev from 18 to 20th June.

To learn more, visit our website at afrodita-dn.eu and follow us on social media



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