



Armoring multifunctional T cells for cancer therapy (ARMOR-T)

ARMOR-T tests new therapeutic cells against different forms of solid cancer.



ARMOR-T

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ARMOR-T project coordinator



1. Describe your project through three key words / key phrases that identify it.

Cellular therapies, genetic engineering, cancer, cancer immunotherapy

2. In terms of impact, what are the most concrete results your project has or will achieve?

ARMOR-T is testing novel concepts to ameliorate the efficacy of cellular therapies against cancer. The tangible outcome of the project is and will be in addition to scientific publications and presentation, novel therapeutic products that are IP protected and can be exploited in clinical trials to the benefit of those suffering from cancer. In collaboration with other organisations two clinical trials have been initiated.

3. Please describe your project overall impact at the European level

ARMOR-T addresses the burden of cancer to the European citizen. Cancer remains the second cause of death in Europe and incidence continues to rise globally. ARMOR-T tests new therapeutic cells against different forms of solid cancer. When successful, these can be transitioned to innovative clinical trials, which may contribute to offer new and better treatments in Europe.

4. As an applicant, what advice would you have wanted in the Horizon project design process? What support did you receive from National Contact point (NCP) and your organisation, and what improvement of support would you benefit from?

The Horizon National Contact Point (NCP) offered vital support through a full-day workshop and feedback from my institution, significantly improving my presentation for the interview. This support was crucial for my success in the ERC application process. However, similar guidance earlier could have clarified key aspects of elevating a research idea. Face-to-face training, especially for presentation skills, proved more effective than online training. A major insight was the importance of simplicity over complexity in the ERC application, focusing on one excellent concept rather than multiple complex ideas. This approach, emphasizing clarity and excellence, was key to my success across three ERC funding lines (Starting, Proof-of-Concept, and Consolidator). More consistent understanding of the process among all reviewers could further enhance applicant support.