

Partner search – MERLN, Maastricht University (August 2026)

Topic: Looking for a partner with expertise in aged animal models for the 2026 EIC Pathfinder Challenge on "Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing", NAM track.

Dear reader,

On behalf of **MERLN Institute** at **Maastricht University**, we are looking for a partner to join our consortium for the EIC Pathfinder Challenge: **Biotechnology for Healthy Aging** call.

For this call, we aim to develop **a NAM model of brain ageing**. We will use iPSC-derived models, in particular of the brain and gut, aged, leveraging replicative exhaustion to optimise a human-specific screening platform.

Expertise sought

We are looking for a partner:

- **With documented track record of *in vivo* models of natural ageing (e.g. aged rats)** to benchmark our *in vitro* model with. The partner should also have the animal model available in the lab for the project.
- Able to participate in the project as **a consortium member**, not just a service provider.
- Able to analyse senescence-associated markers in the brain and gut of the *in vivo* model.

Contact

We would be pleased to discuss how your expertise could complement our consortium for this Pathfinder Challenge call.

Please reach out by email to silvia.bolognin@maastrichtuniversity.nl, and include the contact of the local Grants Office in CC (i.beeren@maastrichtuniversity.nl).

Best regards,

Dr. Silvia Bolognin

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