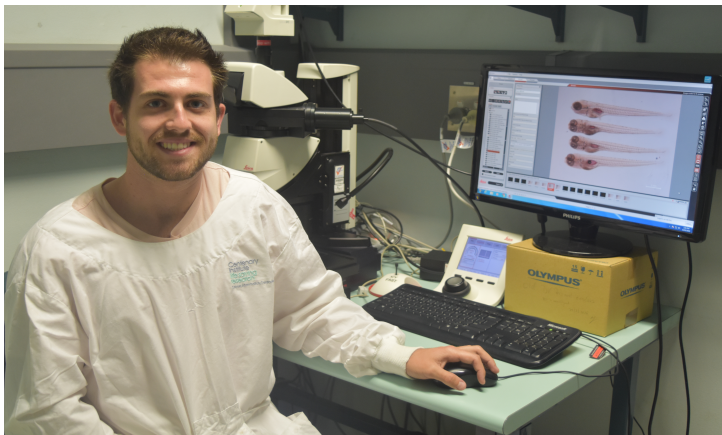


MEDIA RELEASE

14th February, 2018

25-year-old researcher wins Postdoc Fellowship to University of Montpellier in the South of France, to take on one of the world's most deadly diseases, Tuberculosis



Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the world's most deadly diseases, and is responsible for the deaths of as many as 1.7 million people each year. Scientists at the Centenary Institute are using a novel approach to investigate more effective treatments to fight this disease, which continues to spread, out of control globally.

Scientists at Centenary's Tuberculosis Research Program have been using zebrafish to study TB, research which has caught the attention of the highly regarded Montpellier University in France. They have selected one of our most promising young scientists, Dr Matt Johansen as the winner of a competitive two-year postdoctoral fellowship to work with zebrafish models in the fight against TB.

The 25-year-old scientist is thrilled to be given this opportunity; "I'm looking forward to expanding my knowledge with international experts in the field." The French University was seeking a candidate with unique experience gained at Centenary. "Working with zebrafish, guided by Professor Warwick Britton and Dr Stefan Oehlers, has set me up with the skills to be able to take on this position," says Matt. He doesn't speak French yet, but Matt plans to learn over the next two years. Lucky for Matt, English is the language spoken in the labs at this internationally recognised University.

Matt and scientists around the globe are working towards the World Health Organisation's goal of eradicating TB by 2030 and Matt plans to dedicate his promising future career to this cause, "My ultimate aim is to keep working in the fight to eradicate TB which is certainly possible in my lifetime."

The fellowship opportunity begins on the 1st March 2018. We congratulate Matt and we look forward to welcoming him back to Centenary at the end of his placement, with further knowledge, experiences and a mastery of the French language!

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