



Master project

Start date: September 1st, 2026

Project duration: 9 months

Supervisor: Moises Mallo

GIMM Lab: Moises Mallo Lab

GIMM site: Oeiras

Project title: A gut feeling for the development of the legs and external genitalia

Project synopsis:

From a phylogenetic perspective, the formation of mammalian hindlimbs and external genitalia must be tightly coordinated while retaining sufficient developmental plasticity to enable adaptive optimization of locomotion and reproduction across diverse ecosystems. This coordination appears to rely on the development of both structures from a common progenitor population, which subsequently differentiates to generate the primordia of the hindlimbs and external genitalia.

Recent findings from our laboratory suggest that signals from the embryonic endoderm are key players in this process. This project aims to test this hypothesis from a functional perspective, using a combination of molecular, imaging, and genetic approaches in mouse embryos.

Application: Applications should include a current CV and a letter of motivation, and must be submitted by email directly to the Supervisor: moises.mallo@gimm.pt