



### Topic

Health-2007-2.4.1-8: Developing high-throughput bioassays and models for human cancers in lower species

### Funding Scheme

Collaborative Project (Small or medium-scale focused research project)

### Project coordinator

Leiden University: Institute of Biology

### Project Duration

April 2008 – March 2011



The ZF-Cancer project aims to develop clinically relevant high-throughput bioassays for cancer progression in zebrafish that will be applicable in preclinical validation pipelines, and to use these bioassays to screen for novel chemical and genetic cancer targets

<b>Leiden University: Institute of Biology Leiden (IBL)</b>	NL	UNI
<b>ZF-screens B.V.</b>	NL	SME
Center for Drug Research Leiden/Amsterdam	NL	UNI
Galapagos N.V.: Biofocus DPI	BE	OTH
University of Edinburgh: Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine	UK	UNI
Center of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona	ES	SME
Hubrecht Institute: Developmental Biology and Stem Cell Research	NL	RC
Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics	DE	RC
Biobibe S.L.	ES	SME

ZF-screens is a young spin-out company based on several patents generated by its founders Dr. Guido van den Thillart and Prof. Dr. Herman Spink with two main applications: pharmaceutical applications and aquaculture applications

## INTERVIEW

### What were the first steps in the preparation of this proposal?

**Ewa Snaar** (project coordinator, IBL): "We started off by transforming our project idea into a project scheme with the steps to be taken. This allowed us to define which partners to involve in each step. The most important criterion for assembling a consortium is scientific excellence. But also the origin and type of organisation have to be well-balanced. Discussing our project scheme with the scientific officer confirmed we were on the right track and helped us to focus our ideas".

**Herman Spink** (ZF-Screens): "This call topic perfectly fits our and also Biobibe's expertise in the zebrafish model, making us obvious partners. The other partners were selected based on our network and during a workshop on the topic."

### What elements made your project outstanding?

**Ewa Snaar**: "Of course the project has to fit the topic text perfectly, be innovative and of high quality but a very strong point of our project is the true interaction and synergy between all partners. The added value of the collaboration between academia, research organisations, SME's, and also a larger company was made clear."

**Herman Spink**: "Involvement of companies was no formal requirement but including these partners will, besides their essential contributions during the project, ensure optimal use of the project results during and after the project. Moreover, the commitment made by the SME's and the larger company in particular stresses the potential of this research. Together with appropriate contingency plans this helped to convince the evaluators that this project will definitely work out."

### What are your expectations, what will this project bring you?

**Herman Spink**: "For a starting SME like ZF-screens it is important to join a project that is in line with existing plans. The ZF-CANCER project provides continuation and is an impuls for further developments: it enables us to obtain patents which are crucial for the competitive phase to come after the project ending. The project also facilitates business collaborations within and outside the consortium."

**Ewa Snaar**: "This project enables us to start a whole new line of research. It will also help to acquire additional funding for related work, giving this new research area high potential."



The team