



## EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



### **Sarah-Maria Fendt**

Principal investigator

VIB-KU Leuven (Vlaams instituut voor Biotechnologie)

Leuven, Belgium

I am a Principal Investigator at the VIB Center for Cancer Biology and Professor of Oncology at KU Leuven, Belgium. I hold a Master degree of Science in Biochemistry from TU Munich and a PhD in Molecular Systems Biology from the ETH Zurich. I worked as postdoctoral fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), before starting my independent research program in 2013. My lab is specifically interested in understanding the role of metabolism in driving metastasis formation and in defining the principles of metabolic regulation that enable cancer cells to communicate with and respond to their environment. We apply the powerful technologies of single cell and spatial multi-omics analysis in pre-clinical mouse models and patient samples to study this interplay between cancer cells and their metabolic environment during metastasis formation. My scientific expertise ranges from biochemistry, systems biology to tumor and metastasis metabolism. I am experienced in career guidance as a mentor at the LIBRA Career Development Compass for female junior scientists and I have given multiple talks as well as round table discussions on career development. Moreover, I have been in multiple faculty search committee and I am a member of the KU Leuven research council which evaluates faculty and grant applications.