



**NOTICE OF OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD  
HOLDER RESEARCHER UNDER DECREE-LAW NO. 57/2016**

**Internal code: Researcher/FCT/i3S/2601/2026**

A call is opened for the position of a PhD holder, for an unfixed term work contract to carry out research duties within the project “**Unlocking T cell potential in cancer immunotherapy: reprogramming T cell glycosylation to enhance effectiveness and cytotoxicity**”, with reference 2023.16654.ICDT, funded by FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.

**Scientific Area:** Oncobiology, Tumor Immunology, Cancer Glycobiology

**1. Project summary and work plan**

Within the scope of the Glyco-T project, alterations in the T cell glycome will be investigated throughout the development of colorectal cancer (CRC), from pre-malignant conditions to the tumor stage, analyzing how these changes induce a suppressive behavior of T cells within the tumor microenvironment. We will assess how this glycosylation pattern contributes to T cell dysfunction and to their lack of response to immunotherapy.

The long-term objective of the project is to comprehensively explore the innovative hypothesis that the T cell glycome constitutes a new regulatory checkpoint of their activity in cancer, proposing glycoengineering of the T cell glycocalyx as an unprecedented opportunity to enhance the cytotoxicity of these cells and increase the efficacy of immunotherapy, both *in vitro*, in adoptive cell therapy approaches such as CAR-T cells, and *in vivo*, through the revitalization of the existing immune response.

More information about the position, the project, and its main objectives and tasks can be found on the Pinho’s Lab website (<https://pinholab.i3s.up.pt/>). For further clarification, you may contact Prof. Salomé Pinho ([salomep@i3s.up.pt](mailto:salomep@i3s.up.pt)).

**2. Applicable Portuguese legislation**

Decree No. 57/2016, of August 29 – Legal Framework for Scientific Employment (RJEC) – in its current version.

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording

**3. Jury**

Chairman: Salomé Pinho; Other Members: Ângela Fernandes, Vanda Pinto; Substitute: João Pereira, Leticia Gomes.

**4. Workplace**

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group *Immunology, Cancer & GlycoMedicine*



## 5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher

€ 2.351,53, corresponding to index 33 of the Tabela Remuneratória Única, whose application is intended for PhD holders with reduced post-doctoral experience or without a post-doctoral scientific curriculum.

## 6. Obligatory requirements for admission

### **Mandatory:**

- a) PhD in Life and Health Sciences, Biomedicine, Immunology, Biology, Biochemistry, or related fields;
- b) Motivation Letter in English;
- c) Minimum of one recommendation letter.

### **Preferential:**

- a) Proven research experience in the scientific area of the project, preferably in tumor immunology, protein biochemistry, glycosylation/glycobiology, and glycoimmunology;
- b) Experience in in vitro studies and in performing molecular biology assays, namely cell culture, Western blot, immunohistochemistry/immunofluorescence, PCR, flow cytometry, and immunological assays using co-culture systems;
- c) Completed course in Laboratory Animal Sciences, holder or in conditions to apply for the respective License issued by the DGAV for the functions A+B+D, in accordance with Decree Law 113/2013;
- d) Relevant scientific publications in the scientific area of the project;
- e) Participation in scientific conferences and workshops, preferably with oral presentations or poster communications in the project's field;
- f) Proficiency in English (spoken and written);
- g) Ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- h) Strong sense of responsibility, proactivity, and organization, with attention to detail and strong problem-solving skills;
- i) Immediate availability to start duties, to be stated in the motivation letter.

## 7. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

The evaluation of the scientific and curricular background of the candidates should focus on the activity of the last five years that the candidate considers most relevant. The five-year period may be extended by the jury, at the candidate's request, when justified by suspension of scientific activity for socially protected reasons, namely for reasons of parental leave, prolonged serious illness, and other situations of unavailability for work that are legally protected.

### **Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria:**

- a) Detailed Curricula (70%);
- b) Motivation Letter in English (30 %).

Candidates who submit their application incorrectly or fail to meet the required qualifications for this competition will be excluded from admission.



The jury reserves the right to request any candidate, in case of doubt, to provide supporting documents for their statements.

False statements made by candidates will be sanctioned in accordance with the law.

The jury will draw up minutes of its meetings, which can be consulted at the candidate's request within 10 working days after the selection results are released.

The jury deliberates by means of a reasoned vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed, and draws up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ordered by respective classification.

All candidates are notified of the selection results by email. After notification, candidates have 10 working days to comment.

In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, the jury's final decision is communicated to the candidates. Subsequently the institute Director, who is also responsible for the final decision of hiring, will ratify the decision of the jury.

This call is intended exclusively to fill the indicated position on offer and may be canceled before the final ranking list of candidates is ratified by the Director. Accordingly, the position will no longer be available.

#### **8. Submission of applications**

Applications must include all the documents proving that they fulfill the admission requirements, namely:

- a) Copy of PhD degree certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- c) Motivation letter in English;
- d) Recommendation letter (one mandatory).

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from January 26<sup>th</sup> to February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/ea3d3375fa2cd7b01f349f2887912ac2>

#### **9. Start and duration of the contract**

The anticipated start date of the contract is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 12 months, eventually extendable.

#### **10. Non-discrimination and equal access policy**

i3S actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. No applicant shall be privileged, benefited, prejudiced, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the basis of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage,



reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

Within the framework of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, i3S adopts the Open, Transparent and Merit-based (OTM-R) principles for the recruitment of researchers, with the aim of conducting fair and transparent recruitment processes, bringing equal opportunities to all candidates.

### **11. Applicants with disabilities**

Under the terms of Decree-Law 29/2001, of February 3, the candidate with a disability is given preference in equal ranking, which takes precedence over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare under oath their degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication/expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned decree.