



NOTICE OF OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD HOLDER RESEARCHER

Internal code: Researcher/EU_PREDILYNCH_2/i3S/2205/2026

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 PREDI-LYNCH “Validated non-invasive liquid biopsy tests for cancer PREDiction in LYNCH Syndrome”, Grant Agreement 101213916, funded by Horizon Europe (HORIZON) under topic HORIZON-MISS-2024-CANCER-01-03 - Accessible and affordable tests to advance early detection of heritable cancers in European regions.

Scientific Area: Health Sciences

1. Project summary and work plan

Lynch syndrome (LS) is the most common hereditary genetic condition that increases cancer risk. Historically underfunded, LS has led to inequalities in access to treatment, resulting in unnecessary cancers and deaths. The EU-funded PREDI-LYNCH project will evaluate non-invasive liquid biopsy technologies for early cancer detection in the three most common LS-associated cancers. Using artificial intelligence, the project will identify cancer traces, making the methods adaptable to various healthcare systems. Additionally, a comprehensive framework will assess the socio-economic and ethical impacts of these technologies, ensuring alignment with societal values and healthcare needs. This project is part of the Cancer Mission cluster on Prevention and Early Detection of hereditary cancers.

Through an ambitious yet well-conceived and deliverable pan-European, pan-cancer, pan-disciplinary, and multi-omic approach, PREDI-LYNCH addresses the pressing unmet need for an accurate, non-invasive, acceptable, and cost-effective method of detecting pre-cancerous and early-stage cancers in individuals with Lynch syndrome (LS), the most common monogenic hereditary condition associated with increased cancer risk. LS has historically been underfunded and underserved, generating significant inequalities in access and treatment. As a result, LS carriers have suffered needless cancers and deaths. Our consortium has brought together leading European experts, biotechnology companies, and patient advocates to ensure the delivery of practice-changing results that can be rapidly scaled up and adopted across the European Union and globally. Using an innovative clinical trial design, we will evaluate multiple promising non-invasive liquid biopsy-based technologies across the three most common LS-associated cancer types for early-stage cancer detection. By leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), we will identify cancer traces, ensuring applicability across diverse healthcare systems. A comprehensive framework will assess the broader socio-economic and ethical impacts, ensuring that solutions align with societal values and healthcare needs. In partnership with leading biomarker companies (GNT, MSInsight, MSICare, MSIPlus, and Elypta), we aim to deliver a multi-omic solution for an affordable, accessible, and effective test to advance the detection of hereditary cancers in LS. This action is part of the Cancer Mission cluster of projects on "Prevention and Early Detection (early detection of hereditary cancers)".



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i3S, the Institute for Research and Innovation in Health at the University of Porto, is Portugal's largest health and life sciences institute, recognised for its excellence in multidisciplinary research, particularly in oncology and bioinformatics. Within PREDI-LYNCH, i3S leads the analysis of current and prospective implementation pathways, including the assessment of barriers and sustainability requirements for the adoption of new screening technologies. To this end, it employs a mixed-methods approach, combining a systematic literature review, international surveys, and focus groups with LS patients and key stakeholders, to evaluate the effectiveness of non-invasive biopsy methods compared to traditional surveillance protocols. The findings will be synthesised into actionable recommendations and practical guidelines to support the integration of these tests into standard clinical surveillance for LS carriers. Additionally, i3S promotes the PREDI-Rounds, online debate sessions aimed at bridging science, patient advocacy, and policy-making, and organises events to advance the industrial scalability of the technologies developed within the project.

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

3. Jury

Chairman: Carla Oliveira; Other Members: Bárbara Peleteiro, Ricardo Amorim; Substitute: Daniel Ferreira; Silvana Lobo.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Expression Regulation in Cancer.

5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher Level 2

€ 2.679,17, corresponding to index 38 of the *Tabela Remuneratória Única*.

6. Requirements for admission

Mandatory:

- a) PhD in natural sciences or related fields. If the degree was conferred by a foreign higher education institution, the requirements set out in Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August must be met, and the formalities therein must be completed by the date of contract signature;
- b) Proven experience in the field of hereditary cancer syndromes, particularly Lynch syndrome;
- c) Evidence of professional or research activity in a clinical environment, with demonstrated interaction with clinical teams and patient associations;
- d) Proven experience in participating in European consortia, with involvement in at least three EU-funded projects;
- e) Proven experience in European project management activities;
- f) Prior participation in studies involving surveys and focus groups;
- g) Excellent communication skills in Portuguese and English, both oral and written;



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- h) Ability to describe the care pathway and comment on the expected clinical journey of a patient with a specific condition, to be demonstrated at interview;
- i) Two letters of recommendation;
- j) Immediate availability to start the contract on July 1st, 2026 – to be mentioned in the motivation letter.

Preferential:

- a) Ability to address complex challenges in health project management, optimise processes, and enhance the effectiveness of scientific endeavours;
- b) Ability to work independently;
- c) Experience in interdisciplinary approaches (combining different academic disciplines within a single activity);
- d) Strong interest in the project's subject matter;
- e) Good teamwork and interpersonal skills;
- f) Excellent organisational skills and ability to establish and maintain lasting and constructive formal relationships;
- g) Dynamism, responsiveness, and autonomy.

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 CV (60%):
 - a. Relevant experience in the application area, in accordance with the requirements defined above;
 - b. Management activities in national and international projects;
 - c. Participation in research projects involving clinical teams;
 - d. Two letters of recommendation.
- b) Motivation letter - indicating availability to start the contract on July 1st, 2026 (20%);
- c) Interview - *facultative* (20%).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the 2 (two) best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview. Candidates scoring below 50% in the CV and motivation letter will be excluded.

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.



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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 certificate or degree;
- b) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- c) Motivation letter - indicating availability to start the contract on July 1st, 2026;
- d) Two reference letters;
- e) Any other documentation relevant to the assessment.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, May-22 to June-05, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/fb84189cf41d72de9b5993976d548bf>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is July 1st, 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.



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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.



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