



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

Internal code: Researcher/EU/i3S/1910/2026

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 “Glycans as master triggers of health to intestinal inflammation transition”, with reference GA 101093997, funded by Horizon Europe.

Scientific Area: Immunology, Glycobiology, Inflammation; Gastroenterology

1. Project summary and work plan

Chronic inflammation underlies several diseases. In Crohn’s disease (CD), there is mounting evidence of a preclinical phase characterized by immunological changes that precede symptoms. Here, we propose a thorough and innovative approach to better understand the health-to-chronic inflammation transition occurring in patients with CD that will be translated in improved disease prediction and prevention. We will address how changes in glycosylation of the gut mucosa act as a primary event that dysregulates not only local mechanisms (imposing maladapted host-microbiome interactions) but also systemic mechanisms (promoting antimicrobial antibodies production), as an early trigger of the health to inflammation transition – GLYCANTRIGGER.

The long-term goal of this proposal is to unlock, through an integrative approach, a new checkpoint that regulates the transition to chronic inflammation. Our proposal will lead to breakthrough concepts in the health to chronic inflammation transition and to novel predictive tools translated in novel glyco-intervention strategies for disease prevention.

More information about the position, the project, and its main objectives and tasks can be found at Pinho’s lab website (<https://pinholab.i3s.up.pt/>) and at the project website (<https://glycantrigger.eu/>). For further information, please contact Prof. Salomé Pinho (salomep@i3s.up.pt).

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

3. Jury

Chairman: Salomé Pinho; Other Members: Inês Alves, Vanda Pinto; Substitute: Leticia Gomes.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Immunology, Cancer & GlycoMedicine (<https://www.i3s.up.pt/research-group.php?groupid=122>).



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5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher

€2.408,11, 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. Requirements for admission

Mandatory:

- a) PhD degree in Life and Health Sciences, Biomedicine, Immunology, Biology, Glycobiology, Biochemistry or a related field;
- b) Experience in the Glycobiology and Glyco-immunology fields;
- c) Proficiency in written and spoken English;
- d) At least one letter of recommendation;
- e) Immediate availability to start the contract.

Preferential:

- a) Proven experience in *in vitro* studies and molecular biology techniques, namely cell culture, western blotting, immunohistochemistry/immunofluorescence, PCR, flow cytometry and immunological assays involving co-culture systems;
- b) Completion of a Laboratory Animal Science course and possession of, or eligibility to apply for, license issued by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary Affairs (DGAV) for Functions A and D, in accordance with Decree-Law No. 113/2013;
- c) Relevant scientific publications in the project's research area.

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 (70%), including information relevant to the eligibility requirements listed above;
- b) Motivation Letter in English (30%), assessed according to the following criteria:
 - a. Interest in and motivation for the research field (15%);
 - b. Proficiency in English (15%).

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 the PhD certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- c) Motivation letter in English;
- d) Letter of recommendation (one mandatory).

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from October 19th to October 30th, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/cc93f280a6f556d9f1cf24b21d36d5>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is December 1st, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 12 months.

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

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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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