



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Internal code: **Technician/ERC\_CenAGE/i3S/3003/2026**

A call is opened for the position of a Research Technician, for an unfixed term work contract, to carry out technical duties within the project CenAGE “A *centromeric* view on *AGEing*: unveiling centrome instability in ageing” GA 101224668, funded by the European Research Council under the topic ERC-2025-SyG - ERC SYNERGY GRANTS.

**Scientific Area:** Health Sciences

### 1. Project summary and work plan

Amongst the ageing hallmarks, genomic instability has emerged as a unifying cause of ageing, since it drives most of the other hallmarks, namely senescence and chronic inflammation. These hallmarks are all typically portrayed by the aged immune system, with compelling evidence pointing to genomic instability in immune cells as a driver of organismal ageing. Intriguingly, while the role of telomeres, mutations, transposons, etc, in age-related genomic instability has been widely investigated, the centromeres have remained largely overlooked. Emergent evidence show that centromeres are inherently unstable, and recent findings from our labs indicate that centromere instability can lead to genome instability, inflammation, and senescence, including in non-cycling immune cells. In CenAGE, we propose a multi-layer synergistic approach to deliver a ‘centromeric’ view on ageing by: i) characterizing age-associated changes in centromere features in cellular models; ii) identifying the intrinsic (genetic and epigenetic) and extrinsic (viral infection) mechanisms behind centromere-driven senescence hallmarks; iii) establishing the role of centromere dysfunction in physiological decline, focusing on the immune system; and iv) testing how geroprotective interventions that implicate centromeres impact immunosenescence and systemic ageing.

The tasks to be executed by the research technician are as follows:

#### a) Laboratory Operations and Maintenance

- Ensure the smooth day-to-day operation of the laboratory;
- Maintain laboratory infrastructure, equipment, and common areas in compliance with safety and operational standards;
- Oversee and perform routine maintenance, calibration, and servicing of laboratory instruments;
- Responsible for managing and maintaining mouse colonies (genotyping; diet; weighting);
- Responsible for managing and maintaining stocks of reagents, consumables, and supplies, ensuring adequate inventory levels;
- Develop, update, and enforce Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and safety protocols;



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- Ensure proper waste disposal and adherence to all relevant environmental, health, and safety regulations.
- b) Procurement and Budget Management**
  - Responsible for ordering reagents, consumables, and laboratory equipment in coordination with institutional procurement systems;
  - Be the first in line to negotiate with suppliers and maintain relationships with vendors and service providers.
- c) Training, Supervision, and Support**
  - Train and supervise new personnel, including students, technicians, and visiting researchers, in laboratory techniques and safety procedures;
  - Provide ongoing technical support and mentorship to lab members;
  - Coordinate access to shared equipment and resources among research groups;
  - Maintain an up-to-date record of training, certifications, and access permissions for lab users.
- d) Research and Technical Support**
  - Assist with experimental design, troubleshooting, and optimization of protocols;
  - Manage and organize sample collections (plasmids, RNA, DNA, cell lines, mouse tissues), or other shared research materials;
  - Maintain accurate and organized records of lab data, inventories, and protocols;
  - Support the implementation of new methodologies or technologies within the lab.
- e) Compliance and Documentation**
  - Ensure compliance with institutional, national, and international research regulations (e.g., biosafety, ethics, data protection);
  - Coordinate equipment safety checks and certification schedules;
- f) Communication and coordination**
  - Act as a liaison between the lab and institutional administrative offices and units (procurement, safety, scientific platforms).

## 2. Jury

Chairman: Elsa Logarinho; Other Members: Tânia Lima, Joana Catarina Macedo.  
Substitutes: Joana Magalhães, José Pedro Castro.

## 3. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Aging and Aneuploidy.

## 4. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Research Technician, €1621,95, subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions.



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## 5. Obligatory requirements for admission

- a) Master degree in Biology, Bioengineering or related areas, and a scientific and professional curriculum whose profile is suited for the activity to be performed;
- b) Solid experience (more than 2 years) as a research Technician or Laboratory Manager;
- c) Proven experience in developing and maintaining laboratory Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) and stocks, ordering reagents and equipment, performing routine maintenance of laboratory equipment, and liaising with providers and collaborators;
- d) Proven hands-on experience in mammalian cell culture, including routine maintenance, aseptic technique, and standard laboratory procedures such as passaging, cryopreservation, and viability assessment.
- e) Proven hands-on experience with mouse models, including routine animal husbandry procedures such as health monitoring, body weight assessment, and general support of daily operations in animal facility;
- f) Course completed in Laboratory Animal Sciences, possessor OR in conditions to apply for the respective License issued by the DGAV for functions A + D, in accordance with Decree Law 113/2013;
- g) Ability to communicate proficiently in English (written and spoken);
- h) Good teamwork and interpersonal skills.

### Preferential:

- a) Demonstrated laboratory and research experience in relevant techniques for the laboratory, including but not restricted to lentiviral production, genome editing (e.g., CRISPR-Cas), Western Blot, Quantitative Real-time PCR, microscopy, cytometry, histology;
- b) Immediate availability to start the contract.

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

Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria

- a) Research experience, being valorized its relevance for this project work plan (60%);
- b) Participation in research projects and publication track record (10%);
- c) Motivation letter in English (20%);
- d) Interview – *facultative* (10%).

If needed, the evaluation panel may invite the most highly ranked candidates (up to 3) for an interview. The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will be able to obtain a rating of up to 90%.

Candidates are excluded from admission to this call if they do not fill out their application correctly or do not meet the obligatory admission requirements. If in doubt, the jury may ask any candidate additional documents in support of their statements.

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



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The jury will take minutes of their meetings, which may be consulted by candidates upon request.

The jury deliberates by means of a justified vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed, and draws up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ranked by the respective classification after the curricular evaluation. Candidates will be notified of the results by email.

After publication of the ranking list, if their wish to do so, the candidates have 10 working days to submit comments.

In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, 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.

## **7. Submission of applications**

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

- a) Copy of certificate or diploma (Master Degree);
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation letter in English;
- d) Certificate of Course completed in Laboratory Animal Sciences, and/or respective License issued by DGAV for functions A + D, in accordance with Decree Law 113/2013;
- e) Other documents, considered as relevant to the application.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from March-30 to April-13, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/a6a75077ca7ee734dd8c27d133bee8bc>

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

The anticipated start date of the contract is May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The maximum duration of the contract will be 12 months, eventually extendable.

## **9. 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,



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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.

#### **10. 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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