ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD HOLDER RESEARCHER

Internal code: Researcher/COMPETE2030/i3S/1611/2026

A call is opened for the position of a PhD holder, for an uncertain term work contract to carry out research duties within the project "***LOCALISE - Loco-radiolysed multi-modal treatment for glioblastoma self-enhanced chemotherapy and targeted RNA delivery***", with the reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00683900, Operation No. 15733, funded by COMPETE2030 and national funds (FCT) under Call for Applications no. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Neuroscience and Neuroengineering

1. Project summary and work plan
The work plan associated with this position is focused on: i) performing advanced microscopy to investigate therapeutic effects in cell cultures using quantitative viability assays and longitudinal live-cell fluorescence imaging, and ii) evaluating functional biocompatibility through calcium imaging in neural cultures exposed to selected hydrogel formulations.

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation
Decree no. 57/2016, of August 29 - Legal Regime of Scientific Employment RJEC - in its current wording.
Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

3. Jury
Chairman: Paulo Aguiar; Other Members: Marina Silva, José Mateus; Substitute: Rita Ribeiro.

4. Workplace
i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group *Neuroengineering and Computational Neuroscience.*

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. Obligatory requirements for admission
a) PhD degree in Neuroscience/Neurobiology, Neuroengineering or related areas;
b) Expertise in advanced fluorescence/confocal microscopy and quantitative image analysis, ideally for the characterization of inflammatory responses and cell death;
c) Proven experience in the development of bioimage analysis pipelines (including development of scripts and macros in imageJ), and previous work with morphometric analysis;

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d) Proficiency with micro-manager (including ability to create novel configurations);
e) Experience with automated image acquisition, cameras APIs and control of acquisition protocols;
f) Previous work with neuronal cultures and assessment of neuronal activity and viability;
g) Experience with Python, MATLAB and development of graphical user interfaces;
h) Good analytical skills, critical thinking, and problem-solver mindset;
i) Excellent oral and written skills in English.

7. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

Under the terms of article 5 of RJEC, 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, including publications in the relevant research field (40%);
b) Research experience with relevance to the subject of the project, and according to points outlined in Admission Requirements (40%);
c) Motivation letter (10%);
d) Interview – *facultative* (10%).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the 3 (three) best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview. The candidate's final classification is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will have their maximum score limited to 90% of the evaluation.

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.

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

The jury deliberates by means of a reasoned roll-call 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.

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In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, the jury's final decision is communicated to the candidates and made public. 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 certificate or diploma;
b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
c) Motivation Letter.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from November-16 to November-29, 2026, in the following link:

https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/daeeed23e6c661b325fb4738556a4e4a

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is January 1st, 2027, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 8 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 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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