



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

Internal code: Researcher/COMPETE2030_UnFOXingAGE/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 “**UnFOXingAGE - Unveil FOXM1 as rejuvenation factor with therapeutic efficacy against age-related immune dysfunction and tissue pathologies**”, with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00704600, Operation No. 15923 funded by COMPETE2030 under Call no. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Biomedicine / Health Sciences

Host Institution: i3S - Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Porto, Portugal

1. Project summary and work plan

The UnFOXingAGE project aims to bring mechanistic insight into the geroprotective role of FOXM1 transcription factor through its disclosure as a master regulator of DNA repair in immune cells capable of decelerating immunosenescence, a predominant problem within the current ageing population, associated with poor response to vaccinations, susceptibility to infection, and incidence of chronic diseases. By taking a thorough and multidisciplinary approach, the project aspires to advance the understanding of immune function decline with increasing age and to develop an innovative immunotherapy based on T cell reprogramming through FOXM1 genetic induction.

In specific, the objectives of this project are:

1. Validate FOXM1 as a rejuvenation factor in immune cells. The immune system will ensue as the focal point since compelling evidence points to DNA damage induced by defective DNA repair in immune cells as a driver of organismal ageing. Thus, FOXM1 induction positions as potentially capable of rejuvenating the immune system by targeting DNA damage.
2. Validate the rejuvenating impact of an adoptive FOXM1 T cell therapy in organismal ageing. Infusion of T cells expressing a FOXM1 transgene will be tested as a novel immunotherapy to improve immune function, as well as to increase the efficacy of immunotherapies in the elderly.

Through these objectives, UnFOXingAge aims to advance scientific knowledge on the mechanisms behind immunosenescence and chronic diseases, and to disclose the thus far missing genoprotective therapeutic strategy to improve immunity in older people.

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: Elsa Logarinho; Other Members: Joana Catarina Macedo, Joana Miguel Magalhães; Substitutes: Diogo Sampaio e Castro, José Carlos Bessa.

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Co-funded by
the European Union

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4. Workplace

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

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 degree in Molecular and Cellular Biotechnology Applied to Health Sciences or a related area;
- b) Motivation letter in English;
- c) Professional experience abroad;
- d) Relevant publication record in Cell Biology journals ($n \geq 3$ articles as 1st author);
- e) Contacts of two references - to only be contacted if an interview is necessary;
- f) Fluency in written and spoken English;
- g) Immediate availability to start the contract.

Preferential:

- a) Extensive hands-on expertise in molecular and cell biology, advanced imaging, computational tools and immune cell culturing;
- b) Awards;
- c) Experience in clinical practice, teaching, students' supervision, and science outreach;
- d) Good teamwork and interpersonal skills.

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, including publications and other outputs relevant within the research field (40%);
- b) Research experience with relevance to the subject of the project, according to the Admission Requirements (40%);
- c) Motivation letter in English (10%);
- d) Interview – facultative (10 %)

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An assessment will be made (on a scale of 1 to 100), followed by a ranking of the candidates based on the score obtained in the criteria defined above. Only in the event of a tie between the two best candidates will an interview be requested (10%).

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) Contacts of two references - these will only be contacted during the interview stage.

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

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/fe4efaa564f67d84eccc5a10d95e8e>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is March 16th, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 12 months, eventually extendable.

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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.