



## 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\_Leuko44a1/i3S/1107/2025

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 “**Deciphering the Neuropathology and Disease Mechanisms on a Novel Leukodystrophy Caused by Slc44a1 Deficiency – Leuko44a1**”, with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00882300, operation No. 15160, funded by COMPETE2030 under Notice No. MPr-2023-12.

**Scientific Area:** Biomedical Sciences

### 1. Project summary and work plan:

In this project, Leuko44a1, we will use novel mouse models that mimic key features of a rare neurodegenerative disease caused by mutations in SLC44A1. Our research will focus on characterizing the neuropathological changes, identifying dysregulated pathways, and conducting preliminary evaluations of gene therapy potential.

### 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: Pedro Brites; Other Members: Mónica Sousa, Ana Rita Costa; Substitute: Sandra Braz.

### 4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Neurolipid Biology.

### 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

- PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences or related areas;
- License for working with laboratory rodents certified by Portuguese DGAV or equivalent entities;
- Experience in working with laboratory mice, and in the characterization of mouse models for rare human diseases;
- Experience in isolation and culture of primary cells (neurons, Schwann cells, fibroblasts) from genetically modified mice;



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- e) Solid expertise and experience in the independent usage of transmitted-light, epifluorescence and confocal microscopes;
- f) Publications in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals in areas relevant to the project;
- g) Motivation letter in English indicating availability to start the position on 01/09/2025.

**Other requirements (not mandatory but valued):**

- i) Experience in raising competitive research funding;
- ii) Experience in processing samples for ultramicrotomy, and experience in analyzing electron microscopy images of nervous tissues (e.g., optic nerve, brain, etc.).

**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 seven years that the candidate considers most relevant. The seven-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 Curriculum (80%):
  - a. Experience in working with laboratory mice, and in the characterization of mouse models for rare human diseases (15%);
  - b. Experience in isolation and culture of primary cells (neurons, Schwann cells, fibroblasts) from genetically modified mice (15%);
  - c. Solid expertise and experience in the independent usage of transmitted-light, epifluorescence and confocal microscopes (15%);
  - d. Publications in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals in areas relevant to the project (15%);
  - e. Experience in raising competitive research funding (10%);
  - f. Experience in processing samples for ultramicrotomy, and experience in analyzing electron microscopy images of nervous tissues (e.g., optic nerve, brain, etc.) (10%);
- b) Motivation Letter in English (10%);
  - a. indicating availability to start duties on 01/09/2025;
- c) Interview – *facultative* (10%).

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 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) PhD degree in / Copy of certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter in English indicating availability to start duties on 01/09/2025;
- d) License for working with laboratory rodents certified by Portuguese DGAV or equivalent entities;
- e) Other documentation relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area;
- f) Contacts of two references. These will only be contacted during the interview stage.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 11/07/2025 a 24/07/2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/a11d495ea4867e98bf59d487fff3ffb>

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

The anticipated start date of the contract is 01/09/2025 and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract is 12 months, eventually extendable, and may not in any case exceed the end date of the project, currently scheduled for June 29<sup>th</sup> 2028.



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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.