



ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A LAB ASSISTANT

Internal code: Lab_Assistant/FCT/i3S/1309/2023

A call is opened for the position of a laboratory technician with a BSc, for an unfixed term work contract to carry out technical duties within the project “Keep fertility at advanced maternal age: on the track of uterine senescent cells”, with reference 2022.04368.PTDC, funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia IP.

Scientific Area: Biological Sciences

1. Project summary and work plan

Women are increasingly delaying pregnancy until around the age of 40, an age typically associated with reduced fertility, a greater reliance on assisted reproductive techniques (ART), and a higher incidence of pregnancy complications. It is believed that, along with ovarian aging, the occurrence of uterine senescence will be one of the primary contributors to the low reproductive success observed at an advanced maternal age. In fact, it is within the uterus that early embryonic development, implantation, placental formation, and fetal development take place. Preliminary results indicate the emergence of structural and molecular changes in the uterus with increasing age in women. These age-related uterine modifications can be explained by the presence of a pro-oxidative and pro-inflammatory environment caused by the local accumulation of senescent cells. This project aims to characterize age-associated uterine changes to develop a senotherapeutic approach capable of improving uterine function and delaying reproductive aging in women. The selected candidate will receive and process human uterine biopsies for both histological and molecular analysis and be responsible for tissue processing and paraffin embedding, histological sectioning, general and specific staining, and immunohistochemical reactions. Additionally, the selected candidate will homogenize uterine tissue fragments for gene and protein expression assessment. The hired technician may also be involved in the proteomic analysis of samples using mass spectrometry and participate in *in vitro* studies to develop a senotherapeutic approach aimed at reversing endometrial dysfunction associated with senescence.

2. Jury

Chairman: Liliana Matos; Other Members: Henrique Almeida, Elisabete Silva;
Substitutes: André Silva, Alexandra Gouveia.

3. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto and FMUP-Centro de Investigação Médica, Departamento de Biomedicina, Unidade de Biologia Experimental, Rua Doutor Plácido Costa 4200-450 Porto, research group Ageing and Stress

4. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Lab Assistant, €1.215,56, subject to taxes and other compulsory legal discounts

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5. Obligatory requirements for admission

1. BSc degree in Biochemistry, or similar. If a foreign higher education institution has conferred the degree, it must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law 66/2018, of 16th August, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the date of signing the contract.
2. Proven expertise in the scientific areas of the project, particularly in the field of women's reproductive aging and cellular senescence
3. Practical experience in:
 - processing human samples for Light Microscopy;
 - microtomy;
 - histological staining techniques;
 - immunohistochemistry;
 - Western Blot.
4. Proficiency in both written and spoken Portuguese and English languages

6. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

Weight of the different curricular evaluation criteria

- a) Detailed CV (50%)
 - Previous work in the field of women's reproductive aging and cellular senescence (20%)
 - Practical experience in processing human samples for paraffin embedding (5%)
 - Practical experience with microtomy and histological staining and immunohistochemistry techniques (10%)
 - Experience in processing human biopsies for analysis using Western blotting, qPCR, and mass spectrometry (10%)
 - Experience in using Image-Pro Plus, Image Lab, and GraphPad Prism software, or similars (5%)
- b) Motivation letter (20%)
- c) Interview (30%)

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview. For all candidates, the curricular evaluation will weight 70% and the interview will weight 30%.

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 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 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.

In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, the jury's final decision is made. 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 results are 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;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation letter, in English (maximum one A4 page).

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 13 to 26 September 2023, in the following link:

https://DOZER.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/Lab_AssistantFCTi3S13092023

8. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is 01/11/2023 and is subject to budget availability. The maximum duration of the contract will be 12 months, however, it cannot overlap with the end date of the project, currently contracted with FCT for 31/08/2023.

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, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

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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.