



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

**Internal code: Researcher/New\_Frontiers/i3S/2106/2023**

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 "A pipeline approach for the rational design of neuronal lineage conversion approaches to treat neurological disorders" with reference NFRFT-2022-00327 funded by the Canadian Tri-agencies: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

**Scientific Area:** Developmental Neurobiology

### 1. Project Summary

The direct neuronal conversion of astrocytes into induced-neurons, driven by sequence-specific transcription factors, has recently emerged as a promising avenue to tackle pathologies associated with neuronal loss. The use of this approach will require an improved understanding of the molecular mechanisms involved, and how barriers to this process can be overcome. Previous work from our lab has provided important insights into how reprogramming factors (in particular *Ascl1*) can activate a full program of neuronal differentiation (e.g. Raposo *et al*, 2015, *Cell Reports*; Vasconcelos *et al*, 2016, *Cell Reports*; Soares *et al*, 2021, *Genes and Development*; Soares *et al*, 2022, *Open Biology*).

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to study mechanisms of direct neuronal reprogramming of astrocytes, with a special focus on addressing how interactions between reprogramming factors and the genome are governed. This will involve the use of various cutting-edge techniques, ranging from genomics, to live-cell imaging analysis. Work will be conducted at i3S, one of Portugal's top science institutions, at the Stem Cells & Neurogenesis laboratory led by Diogo S. Castro, and in the context of an international interdisciplinary consortium ([https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2022/award\\_recipients-titulaires\\_subvention-eng.aspx](https://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/funding-financement/nfrf-fnfr/transformation/2022/award_recipients-titulaires_subvention-eng.aspx))

### 2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording

### 3. Jury

Chairman: Diogo S. Castro; Other Members: Eurico Morais de Sá, Elsa Logarinho; Substitutes: João Morais Cabral, Margarida Saraiva.

### 4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Stem Cells & Neurogenesis.

### 5. Professional category and monthly remuneration



Junior Researcher

€2.228,11, corresponding to index 33 of the Tabela Remuneratória Única, whose application is intended for PhD holders with reduced post-doctoral experience.

#### **6. Obligatory requirements for admission**

1. Highly motivated, with a PhD degree in Life and Health Sciences or related fields, and a solid track record of achievements (first author publications, conference talks, posters, etc);
2. With a solid background in at least one of the following scientific subjects: cellular or developmental neurobiology, cellular reprogramming, gene regulation/transcription;
3. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in several of the following methodologies: molecular biology, genome editing, gene-expression analysis, genomics (preparation and analysis of ChIP-seq/CUT&Tag, RNA-seq), tissue culture techniques (cell lines, preparation of primary neural cultures from mice), microscopy (including live-cell imaging);
4. Ability to work independently, but also capable of collaborative work, namely within the context of the international consortium;
5. Have a good command of English language (written and spoken);

#### **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 candidates 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 research fields relevant to the project (40%)
- b) Research experience (technical and conceptual) with relevance to the subject of the project, and according to points outlined in Admission Requirements (30%)
- c) Motivation letter (10%)

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 and/or seminar. In this case, the curricular evaluation will weight 80% for all candidates (a:40 - b:30% - c:10%) and the interview/seminar will weight 20%.

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 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 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 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 certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (including names and contact details for two scientific referees);
- c) Motivation letter

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 21 June to 31 July 2023, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/positions/472>

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

The anticipated start date of the contract is 16/09/2023 (with some degree of flexibility) and is subject to budget availability. The maximum expected duration of the contract will be 36 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

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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.