



ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Internal code: Technician/COMPETE2030_ATTACK/i3S/1507/2026

A call is opened for the position of a Research Technician, for an unfixed term work contract, to carry out technical duties within the project **“ATTACK – Activated Telomerase Targeted shutdown by Anti-gene oligonucleotide therapeutics as novel Cancer Killing approach”**, with the reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00683000, Operation No. 15725, funded by COMPETE2030 and national funds (FCT) under Call for Applications No. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Life and Health Sciences; Cell and Molecular Biology; Oncobiology; gene- and oligonucleotide-based therapies; biomedical cancer research.

1. Project summary and work plan

The ATTACK project aims to develop an innovative approach for the specific inactivation of telomerase in cancer, using oligonucleotide-based therapies directed at TERT transcriptional reactivation mediated by mutations in the TERT promoter. The strategy combines anti-gene oligonucleotides (agONs), designed to physically interfere with transcription factor binding sites created by TERTp mutations, and antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) targeting the GABP β 1L subunit, with the potential development of bispecific constructs functionalized for tumour-cell targeting.

The Research Technician will contribute to the experimental implementation of the project, supporting the design, in vitro and in cellula validation of oligonucleotides, as well as the functional assessment of their effects in cancer cell models with different TERT promoter genotypes. Duties will include, among others, cell culture, transfection and pharmacological assays, gene expression analysis by RT-qPCR, western blot, immunofluorescence/confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, viability/apoptosis assays, support to EMSA/PAGE assays, data analysis and preparation of technical reports.

The work plan is aligned with the project activities, namely: design and testing of agONs targeting TERTp mutations; in cellula evaluation of agONs and ASOs; support to the construction and characterization of bispecific oligonucleotides; functional validation of TERT/telomerase activity and effects on cell viability, apoptosis and cell behaviour; and support to the preparation of results for scientific dissemination.

2. Jury

Chairman: Paula Soares; Other Members: João Vinagre, Hugo Prazeres; Substitutes: Valdemar Máximo.

3. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Cancer Signalling and Metabolism.

4. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Research Technician, € 1.621,95, subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions.

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5. Requirements for admission

Mandatory:

- a) Master's degree in Oncology, Biology, Biomedicine, Cell and Molecular Biology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry or related fields;
- b) Proven experience in laboratory research in cell and/or molecular biology, preferably using cancer models;
- c) Practical experience in cell culture, cell transfection and/or functional/pharmacological assays in cells;
- d) Experience in cell and molecular biology techniques, such as nucleic acid extraction, RT-PCR/qPCR, western blot, immunofluorescence, immunohistochemistry and/or flow cytometry – candidates should describe their experience and outputs in the motivation letter;
- e) Ability to analyse, organize and interpret experimental results, including use of tools such as GraphPad Prism, SPSS, FlowJo, ImageJ/Image Lab or equivalent software;
- f) Ability to communicate proficiently in English, both written and spoken.

Preferential:

- a) Research experience in oncobiology, cancer pharmacology, DNA damage response, gene-/oligonucleotide-based therapies or related areas;
- b) Experience with cell line development/validation, cloning, CRISPR-Cas9 or gene silencing/expression assays;
- c) Experience in experimental data analysis and preparation of scientific figures;
- d) Publications in peer-reviewed international journals, communications in scientific meetings/conferences and/or participation in competitive research projects;
- e) Autonomy, technical rigour, ability to work in a multidisciplinary team and good interpersonal skills;
- f) Immediate availability to start the contract.

6. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria

- a) Detailed CV, including research experience relevant to the project, suitability of technical skills to the objectives of the ATTACK project, scientific output and participation in research projects/scientific communications (70%);
- b) Motivation letter in English, detailing the experience related to the requested requirements and the motivation to join the project (20%);
- c) Interview – *facultative* (10%).

In order to obtain clarifications and additional information on the curricular elements presented, the 2 (two) highest-ranked candidates may be invited for an interview. The final classification system for candidates 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 justified vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed, and draws up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ranked by the respective classification after the curricular evaluation. Candidates will be notified of the results by email.

After publication of the ranking list, if their wish to do so, the candidates have 10 working days to submit comments.

In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, 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.

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;
- d) Documents proving relevant professional/scientific experience, when applicable;
- e) Other documents considered relevant for the assessment of qualifications in a related scientific area.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from July 15th to July 28th, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/109b2cd346d9f9794daa29faec38719b>

8. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is September / October and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 12 months, eventually extendable.

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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.

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.