ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER FOR THE i3S ASSOCIATED LABORATORY

Internal Code: Principal_Researcher_Pathogen/FCT_Tenure/i3S/3007/2025

A call for applications is open for a principal investigator at i3S, to perform functions in line with the strategic objectives of the Institute for Health Research and Innovation - i3S-LA Associated Laboratory, namely in the Infection, Immunity and Regeneration Program and specifically in **Host-Pathogen-Cancer Interactions**.

The contract will be permanent and with exclusive dedication, following the approval of the i3S application to the FCT-Tenure measure, position **2023.14140.TENURE.010**, financed by funds of the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia IP or by PRR – Plano de Recuperação e de Resiliência.

Scientific Area: Medical and Health Sciences / Health Sciences / Immunology

1. Summary and work plan
This Principal Researcher position will be attributed to a candidate with an outstanding track record and innovative vision in the areas of Host-Pathogen-Cancer interaction to lead a Research Group and enhance our understanding of disease mechanisms and therapeutic interventions. Specifically, this position aims to strengthen a research line that investigates key sensors of environmental signals, including those from pathogens, microbiota and cancer, capable of fine-tuning different cellular responses in a timely and controlled manner to shape complex cellular and immune responses in disease. By studying these mechanisms, the Principal Researcher will not only provide insight into fundamental aspects of the immune response to infections, cancer and drugs, but also novel therapeutic targets for diagnostics and drug development.

2. Applicable legislation
Labour Code, in its current wording

3. Jury
President: Didier Cabanes. Other members: Meriem Lamghari, Nuno Alves, Luísa Pereira, Teresa Summavielle. Substitutes: José Bessa, João Cabral.

4. Workplace
i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208, Porto.

5. Monthly salary and category
Principal Researcher, €3.950,17, with equalization to index 220 of the Scientific Research Career, in accordance with the Statute of the Scientific Research Career, provided for in Law no. 55/2025 of April 28.

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6. Requirements for admission

a. The selected candidate must hold a PhD in Health/Life Sciences, or related areas for 12 or more years, an excellent scientific track record, and is expected to pursue highly innovative research projects in frame of the Infection, Immunity and Regeneration Integrative Program.

b. He/she is expected to demonstrate strong leadership skills, and that has been able to establish and direct for more than 5 years his/her own research group and secure extramural funding for his/her research.

c. The selected candidate must prove experience in the supervision of PhD and Master students, and be willing to contribute to the i3S training mission, by supporting advanced training and participating in graduate and PhD programs.

d. Competence in administrative/coordinating tasks is appreciated, as the selected candidate is also expected to carry out duties to which he/she will be elected or appointed in i3S collegiate bodies.

e. Past involvement on outreach activities will be valued, as the candidate is expected to engage with the i3S educational program.

f. The candidate can carry out a maximum of 4 hours per week of teaching activities (average value per three-year period), during the FCT-Tenure employment contract.

7. Evaluation

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.

As part of the i3S commitment to The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, as outlined by the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), evaluation panels are advised to follow CoARA principles and not to utilize quantitative metrics as a substitute for assessing the quality of individual outputs and applicants' contributions.

The evaluation focuses mainly on items i), ii) and iii):

i) Detailed curriculum vitae (maximum 10 pages, excluding list of publications), in which emphasis should be placed on peer-reviewed publications, lectures and oral presentations by invitation, by national and foreign institutions or at national and international meetings, ability to raise competitive funding and leadership of research projects as Principal Investigator, experience in supervising doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers. Activities associated with technology transfer (if applicable) and scientific dissemination, as well as institutional activities.

ii) Description of past scientific activities leading a research group (maximum 3 pages).

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iii) Research plan for the next 6 years (maximum 3 pages), within the scope of the i3S Infection, Immunity and Regeneration Program in which the research group will be integrated.

Weight of the valuation criteria:
i) Candidate's curriculum vitae (30%)
ii) Report on past scientific activities leading a research group (30%)
iii) Research plan for the next 6 years (30%)
iv) Interview (10%)

Up to three of the highest-ranked candidates in the first three evaluation items may be called for an interview, with the aim of clarifying any aspect related to the application.

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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 ten 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 ten 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 be accompanied by documents proving the conditions for admission, namely:

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a) Copy of PhD certificate;
b) Curriculum vitae, according to evaluation criterion (i); (10 pages A4 max, excluding list of publications)
c) Report on past scientific activities leading a research group, according to criterion (ii); (3 pages A4 max)
d) Research plan for the next 6 years, according to criterion (iii); (3 pages A4max)

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from the 30th July to the 10th September 2025, at the following link:

https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/a32a9b5f2121973e4932ccbfeb8cc1d0

9. Start and duration of the contract
The anticipated start date for the contract is the 31st October 2025 and is subject to budget availability. It is a permanent contract.

10. Non-discrimination and equal access policy
i3S actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no candidate may be privileged, benefited, disadvantaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the grounds of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and 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) researcher recruitment principles, with the aim of conducting fair and transparent recruitment processes, bringing equal opportunities to all candidates.

11. Candidates with disabilities
Under the terms of Decree-Law no. 29/2001, of February 3, candidates with disabilities have preference in equal ranking, which takes precedence over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare, on their honour, 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 law.

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