

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

Internal code: Technician/FCT_MINNESOTA/i3S/3006/2025

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 **MINNESOTA “Matrix stiffness as a master regulator of protein recycling, invasion and clinical response in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer”**, with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00667100, Operation No. 15602, funded by COMPETE2030 and national funds (FCT) under Call No. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Cancer Biology

1. Project summary and work plan

In clinical practice, it is well established that high mammographic density is one of the main risk factors for the progression of breast cancer. Triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC) has an unfavorable prognosis due to its metastatic tendency, resistance to chemotherapy, and lack of effective targeted therapies. Therefore, it is urgent to identify the mechanisms that regulate TNBC progression.

The main objective of the MINNESOTA project is to identify molecular mechanisms associated with the mechanical properties of the extracellular matrix (ECM) that promote TNBC invasion and therapeutic response. To this end, four objectives have been defined:

1. Develop genetic tools to monitor endosomal recycling dynamics in invasive TNBC cells;
2. Study the influence of ECM stiffness on endosomal recycling regulation and cell invasion, using biomimetic hydrogels based on decellularized ECM and alginate;
3. Demonstrate that ECM stiffness regulates cell invasion via endosomal recycling, revealing the molecular mechanism of ECM mechanical control over endosomal recycling;
4. Assess the clinical relevance of the ECM-dependent endosomal recycling pathway by linking it to the response to taxanes and endosomal recycling inhibitors, with the aim of predicting chemotherapy efficacy and identifying new therapeutic targets.

These activities will enable the development of effective clinical interventions in the early stages of TNBC and will contribute to halting its progression.

2. Jury

Chairman: Sandra Tavares; Other Members: Florence Janody, Sofia Moreira; Substitutes: Elsa Logarinho, Eurico Morais-de-Sá.



3. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Cytoskeletal regulation and Cancer

4. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Research Technician, € 1.565,37, subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions.

5. Requirements for admission

Mandatory Requirements:

- a) Master's degree in Biological Sciences, Bioengineering, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, or related fields;
- b) Two Recommendation Letters;
- c) Motivation Letter in English;
- d) Ability to communicate proficiently in English (written and spoken);
- e) Availability to start duties at 01/09/2025 – to be mentioned in the motivation letter.

Preferential:

- a) Proven experience in organoid culture;
- b) Demonstrated laboratory and research experience in cell biology and extracellular matrices;
- c) Motivation to work with patient-derived biological samples;
- d) Good teamwork skills and interpersonal abilities.

6. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria

- a) Research experience relevant to the project (50%);
- b) Motivation letter in English – stating availability to start duties at 01/09/2025 (30%);
- c) Two Recommendation Letters (10%);
- d) Interview - *facultative* (10%).

In order to obtain clarification and additional information about the elements presented, up to 3 (three) of the best-ranked candidates may be interviewed. The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100.

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,

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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 - stating availability to start duties at 01/09/2025;
- d) Two Recommendation Letters;
- e) Other relevant documents for the evaluation of the qualification in the scientific area of the project.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 30/06/2025 to 18/07/2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/c1925ee2d58e2bbfdf07c1293948c>

8. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is 01/09/2025 and is subject to budget availability. The contract will have an estimated duration of 12 months, and may be extended up to a maximum of 36 months, depending on the preliminary results achieved.

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

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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.