



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

Internal code: Researcher/La_Caixa/i3S/2310/2023

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 "Blocking bacterial glycosyltransferases to circumvent antibiotic resistance", with reference HR23-00682, funded by Fundación La Caixa.

Scientific Area: Molecular Microbiology

1. Project summary and work plan

The alarming rise of multidrug-resistant bacteria, coupled with stagnation of antibiotic development, imposes new therapeutic approaches to treat bacterial infections. Targeting pathogen virulence is an attractive alternative to disarm bacteria, without inducing selective pressure for resistance development or harming the microbiota. Another promising approach aims to sensitize or re-sensitize resistant bacteria to available antibiotics. Our previous and preliminary results demonstrate that very specific sugar decorations of Gram-positive bacteria cell wall constituents are crucial for bacterial pathogenicity and resistance to host defenses and antibiotics. This proposal seeks to decipher the fundamental mechanisms involved to develop an innovative approach based on drugs inhibiting specific sugar decorations, simultaneously diminishing bacterial virulence, increasing susceptibility to host innate defenses and potentiating the action of antibiotics.

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording

3. Jury

Chairman: Didier Cabanes; Other Members: Sandra Sousa, Rita Pombinho;
Substitutes Ana do Vale, Nuno Santos.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group of Molecular Microbiology.

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 or without a post-doctoral scientific curriculum.



6. Obligatory requirements for admission

- a. PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences and holders of a scientific and professional curriculum that reveals a profile appropriate to the activity to be developed.
- b. Author of at least 5 original articles published in the field of molecular study of pathogens responsible for infectious diseases.
- c. Expertise in the field of infectious pathogens and extensive experience in molecular biology techniques.
- d. Experience in research with human pathogens in a biosafety level 2 or 3 (P2/P3) environment.
- e. Experience in a business or/and industrial context.
- f. Experience in an international context.
- g. Oral and poster presentation of scientific results at international conferences.
- h. Demonstrable experience in mentoring students.
- i. Experience in writing scientific articles and writing/winning research projects.
- j. Fluent in written and spoken English.
- k. Immediate availability to start work on the project.

Competences must be clearly demonstrated in publications or indicated in the CV and motivation letter.

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) CV (80%)
 - Relevance of scientific experience to the project (25%)
 - Quality and relevance of scientific publications to the project (25%)
 - Experience in writing scientific articles and writing/winning research projects (15%)
 - Experience in a business or/and industrial context, and international and mentoring activities (15%).
- b) Motivation letter (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.

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 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;
- c) Motivation letter.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 23 October to 6 November 2023, in the following link:

https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/researcher/a_caixai3s23102023

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is 01/12/2023 and is subject to budget availability. The maximum 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,

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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.

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.