

ANNOUNCEMENT REF.: Neuropsychology Candidate search for PFIS predoctoral PhD fellowship call to perform the PhD in The Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation research group

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Biomedical Research Institute in Girona (IDIBGI) is looking for a potential PhD candidate to apply for the 4-year Predoctoral research training fellowship (PFIS) from Instituto Carlos III available at the Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation group research group at Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Girona Dr. Josep Trueta (IDIBGI).

PFIS fellowship seeks to finance contracts at the initial training of researchers in health sciences through the completion of a doctoral thesis in the context of Spanish national system of health.

Brief description of the Research Group (including URL if applicable)

The Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation group (website) under the leadership of Dr. Ramió-Torrentà at the Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Girona Dr. Josep Trueta (IDIBGI) in Girona is actively engaged in advancing multiple sclerosis research and care within the Girona healthcare region. Our interdisciplinary approach spans clinical, imaging, cognitive and molecular domains, with the primary objective of generating scientific evidence through the development and validation of MS biomarkers. Specifically, our focus lies on cognitive impairment in MS, addressing its progression to enhance both the quality of care and preventive strategies.

As a part of our recent awarded 2023 project "**PROCOGBIO: Prediction of cognitive decline progression in multiple sclerosis using circulating blood biomarkers**", we are seeking a candidate to join our dynamic team for a PhD position in Neuropsychology interested in applying for the PFIS 2024 call to perform a doctoral thesis on cognitive impairment in Multiple Sclerosis. The project aims to identify blood biomarkers associated with long-term cognitive progression in Multiple Sclerosis patients, contributing to foster therapeutic interventions to reverse cognitive decline.

If you have a keen interest in cognition and Multiple Sclerosis and aspire to make a PhD with meaningful contributions to MS cognitive research, we invite you to join our team and be at the forefront of advancements in the field.

Brief description of the Host Institution

The [Girona Biomedical Research Institute Dr Josep Trueta \(IDIBGI\)](#) is a public research center devoted to translational biomedical research, in the Girona area. IDIBGI is growing fast and is achieving high quality research standards and needs to recruit young talent who will be offered good position and a nice research and living environments.

The IDIBGI facilities at the Parc Hospitalari Martí i Julià in Girona host the research laboratories and personnel who, along with the rest of the researchers from the associated institutions (mostly public hospitals and the University of Girona), constitute multidisciplinary teams with different expertise, focused on finding synergies and solutions to the societal health challenges through translational research.

The IDIBGI gathers more than 400 researchers, support staff and associate medical doctors from hospitals Doctor Josep Trueta University Hospital, Institute for Health Care-Santa Caterina Hospital, the University of Girona, the Institute for Diagnostic Imaging and the Catalan Institute of Oncology. The research staff are distributed into 22 groups framed into 5 different research areas.

On 2015 IDIBGI received the "HR Excellence in Research" award and is continuously improving their HR policies according to the principles of the European Charter & Code for Researchers.

Tasks to develop

- Conducting Neuropsychological assessments in patients with Multiple Sclerosis
- Creating and managing study databases, integrating key variables for comprehensive analysis.
- To analyse neuropsychological, biomarkers and clinical data to derive meaningful insights.
- Statistical analysis to test the research hypotheses.
- Drafting and submitting high-quality scientific papers based on research findings.
- Collaborating effectively with team members and external specialists on various research projects.
- Attendance to scientific meetings to stay abreast of the latest developments in the field.
- Providing support for diverse research duties (research calls, ethical protocols....)

Requirements of the candidates:

- Candidates with a Bachelor in the fields of Psychology (Grade marks average ≥ 7.5).
- Candidates must have a Master's degree in Neuropsychology, preferably, but candidates with backgrounds in neuroscience, clinical linguistics, psychology, or cognitive sciences will be considered.
- The candidates must be eligible for admission to an officially accredited doctoral program (300 ECTS completed at least 60 ECTS in a Master degree) for the academic year 2024-2025 **at a Spanish university**, which can be subsequently confirmed after the application and until the end of the period for submitting allegations.
- The successful candidate should demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively within a team while also displaying some level of independence.

- High level of proactivity, enthusiasm and motivation for research is essential for this role.

Desired skills of the candidates:

- Previous experience in neuropsychological assessments or in research topics related to the project (multiple sclerosis, cognitive biomarkers...)
- Communications to conferences, publications and participation in R+D projects will be highly valued, as they will be assessed as part of the candidate's CV for the grant.
- Flexibility to work within a multidisciplinary team
- Creative person with organizational and planning skills.
- Good language skills in English will be considered.
- Ability to analyse, interpret and organize - of data sets will be considered.

Incompatibilities:

- Have started a PhD program with funding from other predoctoral fellowship.
- Be in possession of PhD title.
- Have previously enjoyed a predoctoral fellowship/contract exceeding 12 months.
- Fellowship will be incompatible with any other employment contract.

Contact Person/Scientist in charge/Supervisor

- Name and Surname: **Ana Quiroga / Clàudia Coll**
- Email: **aquiroga@idibgi.org / ccoll@idibgi.org**

Applications: documents to be submitted and deadlines

- CV of the applicant (including the publications and academic grades)
- Cover letter addressed describing research interests and relevant background.

Deadline: 11/02/2024

Interested candidates are invited to contact us by email. *Applications can be sent by e-mail to borsadetreball@idibgi.org (indicate the announcement reference on the subject).

Candidates will receive the support of the supervisors, as well as the project management department, to prepare and submit their application with the IDIBGI as a host institution.

Note: Call is subject to the award and conditions of the grant