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PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP/ CONTRACT FPI

IQS School of Engineering, Ramon Llull University (Barcelona) offers a predoctoral fellowship as part of the State Plan for Scientific and Technological Research and Innovation of the Ministry for Science and Technology of the Spanish Government to undertake a PhD thesis in the framework of the funded project: Development of Smart Membrane and Extracellular protein Degraders (SMED)

Project summary:

Extracellular targeted protein degradation has emerged as a new therapeutic modality in the past few years. Several drugs exploiting this strategy are already in clinical trials and many exciting avenues remain to be explored in this new thriving field. In this project we aim to develop a new platform to generate smart protein degraders with superior selectivity and degradation efficiency. We will then aim to generate smart degraders for the treatment of brain tumors. This project is highly interdisciplinary, involving protein design, directed evolution, production, characterization, and bioconjugation, as well as cell-based assays and efficacy tests in mice. The candidate will be involved in all stages of the project, focusing on protein development and cellular experiments.

The candidate will be part of the Chemical & Synthetic Biology for Biotherapeutics (ChemSynBio) group, a young, dynamic, and international group at IQS Barcelona. We invite you to visit our website www.chemsynbio.iqs.edu. We aim to contribute to pushing the boundaries of knowledge, while enjoying science together!

Tasks:

- Contribution to research excellence at all research stages: literature review, experimental design, experimentation, data analysis, and proposal of new research directions.
- Collaboration with other researchers and contribution to an inspiring atmosphere.
- Presentation of results in meetings, seminars, and conferences.
- Contribution to preparing reports and scientific publications.
- Engagement in laboratory management and team activities.
- Student supervision and training.
- Enhancement of technical and horizontal skills.

Profile requirements:

Required background and skills:

- MSc degree or equivalent
- Background in chemistry, biotechnology, or related
- Strong motivation and resilience
- Proactivity and creativity
- Excellent communication skills and fluency in English
- Good social skills to work in a team



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Desirable experience:

- Expression, purification and characterization of proteins and peptides
- Protein bioconjugation
- Cell-based assays

Conditions:

Duration: 4 years

Salary (subject to changes):

Year 1: € 19,097.36

Year 2: € 23,871.70

Year 3: € 23,871.70

Year 4: € 23,871.70

Other conditions:

- Expenses derived from research stays and enrollment in doctoral studies.
- Training opportunities, close supervision, and space for creativity.

Selection process:

Please send the following documents as a single pdf with your name to benjami.oller@iqs.url.edu and cristina.diaz@iqs.url.edu :

- A motivation letter explaining your research experience, your main interests, and why you think you would be a good fit for this position.
- CV
- Academic record
- Contact details of two referees. Reference letters are welcome but not essential.

A board composed of the two principal researchers of the project, Dr. Benjamí Oller Salvia and Dr. Cristina Díaz Perlas, will review all applications and the three best ranked applicants will be selected for an interview.

The ranking of each applicant will follow the criteria showed below, as mandated by the fellowship rules stated by the Ministry for Science and Innovation:

Criterion 1

Research-based and scientific trajectory (up to 50 points)

1a. Scientific-technical contributions (up to 45 points)

1b. Mobility and internationalization (up to 5 points)

Criterion 2

Suitability of the candidate to the research activities to be developed (up to 50 points)

Application deadline: 15th September 2024, at 23h CEST