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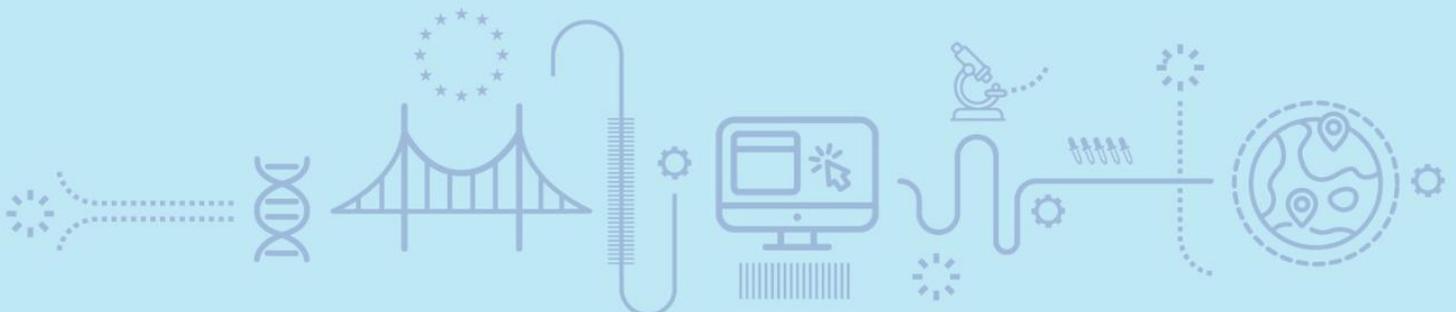
Postdoctoral talent opportunities in biomedicine for MSCA Fellowships

IDIBAPS
Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer
(Barcelona, Spain)

IDIBAPS (FUNDACIÓ DE RECERCA CLÍNIC BARCELONA – INSTITUT D'INVESTIGACIONS BIOMÈDIQUES AUGUST PI I SUNYER) is launching a proactive initiative entitled **Building Bridges,** aimed at connecting outstanding postdoctoral researchers worldwide with its Principal Investigators (PIs).

These excellent PIs are eager to showcase their specific fields of research along with the scientific and career opportunities available in their labs. The main objective is to match talented applicants for the next MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships Call 2026 from the European Commission with IDIBAPS PIs.

About IDIBAPS:

It is a biomedical research center of excellence located at the Clínic Campus in Barcelona, with a clear international focus. Its research community comprises more than 2,000 professionals and over 100 multidisciplinary groups conducting high-impact translational research aimed at addressing key biological and clinical challenges in human health. This is evidenced by the over 1,500 original articles published annually, making the institution one of the leading biomedical research centers in Spain. IDIBAPS has an extensive track record of success in European competitive funding programmes, including numerous MSCA projects across different framework programmes.

The Clínic Campus provides a high-level research and innovation environment, including the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, a reference hospital committed to healthcare, research, and teaching, covering virtually all medical and surgical specialties, and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Barcelona, established in 1843 and today one of the most prestigious health faculties in Spain and the world.

Since 2015, IDIBAPS holds the HR Excellence in Research accreditation from the European Commission. It is a CERCA center and is accredited as a Health Research Institute by the Spanish Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII). It also holds also the recognition as Excellent Centre by the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC).

About Building Bridges initiative:

We are seeking motivated postdoctoral researchers interested in applying to the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship 2026. If granted, those researchers will be able to receive multidisciplinary training in an environment of scientific excellence. Additionally, this will be a unique opportunity to develop their project in a vibrant research environment with attractive working conditions including:

- A 2-year employment contract
- Competitive salary
- Additional allowances for research, training and networking activities

Before starting your application process, please double-check the following eligibility criteria:

i) **Have a PhD awarded before the call deadline (9th September 2026)**
ii) **Have less than 8 years of research experience after your PhD**
iii) **Comply with the mobility rule: you must not have resided or carried out your main activity in Spain for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline (9th September 2026)**

The application process for interested applicants consists of the following stages:

- **Step 1.** Establish a match with a PI from IDIBAPS by jointly agreeing on a specific project. Each PI above will select a maximum of 1 candidate. You can choose one or two priorities in the following application form **before April 8th.**
- **Step 2.** Possibility of attending to the "Building Bridges online event" that will take place on **March 26th from 13.00 to 14:30h** (Spanish time). In this informative and showcase session, you will learn about IDIBAPS and the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships while having more information about the research lines and their PIs. Register at this link to attend.
- **Step 3.** Engage with the European Projects office in the proposal development process.
- **Step 4.** Submit not later than August 25th a competitive proposal to the European Commission proposing an original research project together with a PI from IDIBAPS.

If you and a Principal Investigator form a perfect match before May 6th, 2026, you will receive specific support from IDIBAPS:

- **For proposal preparation:** Offering you advice and support from the European Project Office. The goal is to prepare a proposal with a high chance of success.
- **Before and during your IDIBAPS stay, if your MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal 2026 is successful:** Assisting you with mobility issues, especially if you come from outside Europe, and supporting you during the onboarding process and throughout your stay for training and career development purposes. You will be invited to join the Postdoctoral community as well as other initiatives beneficial for your personal development. Moreover, the Academic Coordination team will be continuously at your disposal as your key contact point. Secondments to other institutions or private companies can also be included.

Do not hesitate to contact us for any further questions at academic@recerca.clinic.cat.

List of research lines

RL1. Translational control in liver disease and cancer

Mercedes Fernández

mlobato@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: We study how metabolic stress remodels RNA-binding proteins and translational control to drive MASLD progression and liver cancer.

Translational control; Liver cancer; MASLD/MASH; Metabolic stress; RNA-binding proteins

Research group: Translation control in lives disease and cancer

Group leader: Mercedes Fernández

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *RNA biology; cancer biology, immunology; liver disease models*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Internationally recognized lab integrating RNA biology, liver physiology and cancer. Strong mentoring, interdisciplinary collaborations, access to clinical samples and multi-omics platforms, and an excellent environment for career development.

We particularly welcome candidates interested in interdisciplinary projects bridging RNA regulation, metabolism and cancer, with opportunities for translational research and international networking.

RL2. C-reactive Protein-Complement Factor H axis in AMD

Blanca Molins

bmolins@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: To study role of the axis integrated by complement Factor H (FH) Factor H related proteins (FHRs) and C-Reactive Protein conformations in the transition from healthy aging to age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness worldwide.

Age-related macular degeneration, Complement Factor H, Inflammation, C-reactive protein

Research group: Ocular inflammation: clinical and experimental studies

Group Leader: Alfredo Adán

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Immunology or retinal/vascular biology. Advanced immunofluorescence and imaging analysis. Mitochondrial function/autophagy. Cell culture*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: The Group of Ocular Immunology has a multidisciplinary profile that tackles ocular inflammation from a translational perspective, with strong interaction between basic and clinical research, and clinical practice.

RL3. Regenerative strategies for Diabetes: restoring functional beta cells

Rosa Gasa

rgasa@recerca.clinic.cat

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: We generate insulin-producing cells by directly reprogramming human fibroblasts and dissect the pathways that regulate beta-cell growth and survival, advancing regenerative strategies to restore beta-cell function in diabetes.

Reprogramming, beta cell, differentiation, diabetes, cell therapy

Research group: Translational research in diabetes, lipids and obesity

Group Leader: Josep Vidal

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *differentiation, single cell RNA sequencing, chromatin, cell reprogramming*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: We offer an innovative environment at the forefront of a fast moving field, applying novel and ambitious strategies to regenerate pancreatic beta cells and drive forward transformative advances in diabetes therapy

RL4. Artificial intelligence to predict immunotherapy outcomes in breast cancer

Thomas Walle

walle@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: This project builds AI models integrating gene expression, mammography radiomics, and blood data to predict immune checkpoint therapy outcomes in early triple-negative breast cancer. This multimodal approach aims to improve personalized treatment.

Immunotherapy, radiology, AI, genomics, computer vision, bioinformatics

Research group: Computational cancer biomedicine

Group Leader: Thomas Walle

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *artificial intelligence, computer science, bioinformatics, machine learning, computer vision*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: The project unites Dr. Walle's artificial intelligence and genomics expertise and Barcelona supercomputing access with Dr. Prat's clinical oncology leadership at Hospital Clinic in developing proven genomic diagnostics to guide breast cancer therapy.

RL5. Brain mechanisms for a dual learning system

Hernando Martinez Vergara

hmartinez@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Animals display two behavioral modes: one more reflexive and influenced by consequences, and one more automatic, habitual, and solidified by action repetition. This project aims to unravel the brain mechanisms by which these systems mediate learning.

Learning, mice, basal ganglia, behavior, olfaction

Research group: Cortical circuit dynamics

Group Leader: Jaime de la Rocha

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *mouse behavior, surgery, programming, neuronal recording, systems neuroscience*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: We are part of a multi-PI group with expertise in systems and computational neuroscience, and with plenty of opportunity for collaboration in interdisciplinary projects. We will foster technical and intellectual growth, and support independence.

RL6. Surface proteomics to expand immunotherapeutic options for R/R MCL

Virginia Amador

vamador@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: We integrate surfaceome profiling with functional CRISPR loss-of-function screens to uncover drivers of tumorigenesis, drug resistance, and immune evasion, enabling the translation of validated targets into next-generation immunotherapies

MCL, SOX11, BTK inhibitors-resistance, nodal tumor microenvironment, Cell Surface Proteomics, resistance-associated cell surface proteins (CSPs), CRISPR-CAS9 screen libraries

Research group: Functional characterization of oncogenic mechanisms in lymphomagenesis

Group Leader: Virginia Amador

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Bioinformatics analysis, CRISPR loss-of-function screening, In vitro cell culture (2D/3D immunotherapy models), In vivo preclinical modelling, Immuno-oncology functional assays*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Internationally recognized group leading research in aggressive mature B-cell lymphomas, offering strong scientific training and career growth through robust collaborations within LRF and EU MCL-network leaders worldwide

RL7. Mechanisms of immune dysregulation in chronic liver disease

Joan Clària Enrich

jclaria@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Our group investigates the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying the inadequate immune response in patients with chronic liver disease, who exhibit a disproportionate systemic hyperinflammatory response accompanied by immunosuppression.

Immunity, host defense against pathogens, immune cells, resolution of inflammation

Research group: Inflammation and liver disease

Group Leader: Joan Clària Enrich

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Cell biology, immune function, liver disease, disease modelling*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Our group is multidisciplinary and comprises junior researchers and pre- and post-doctoral students and has strong expertise at the in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo models of liver disease and in performing mechanistic studies in patients' samples.

RL8. Exercise-derived extracellular vesicles in diabetes management

Joan-Marc Servitja

servitja@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: This study combines human exercise studies and multi-organ-on-a-chip models to explore exercise-derived extracellular vesicles and their RNA and protein cargo as interorgan crosstalk mediators and therapeutic targets for type 2 and type 1 diabetes.

Diabetes, exercise, extracellular vesicles, organ-on-a-chip, microRNAs

Research group: Pathogenesis and prevention of diabetes

Group Leader: Anna Novials

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Metabolism, transcriptomics, omics, extracellular vesicles, exosomes*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: This interdisciplinary team of biochemists and endocrinologists offers exceptional scientific and career development through cutting-edge research combining clinical studies with state-of-the-art biotechnology to advance diabetes research.

RL9. Addictions in high-complexity patients: medical cannabis, pain and trauma

Laia Miquel de Montagut

miquel@clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: High-complexity patients face pain, trauma and addiction risks. Exploring cannabis use and trauma-focused care (CBT, EMDR, NIBS) may clarify how to reduce harm and support safer, holistic treatment for vulnerable patients in care systems.

trauma, addictions, cannabis use disorder, pain, medical cannabis

Research group: Clinical addictions

Group Leader: Hugo López Pelayo

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *psychology, neuropsychology, addictions, medical cannabis, EMDR*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Our group provides interdisciplinary research, dedicated mentorship, and exposure to innovative methods, supporting scientific growth, international collaboration, and broad opportunities for long-term career development.

RL10. Immunothrombosis Mechanisms and 3D Bioengineering in Portal Vein Thrombosis

Virginia Hernández Gea

vihernandez@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: This dynamic research line expands our published findings on human portal vein thrombosis, integrating disease profiling, mechanistic studies and preclinical models to define immune endothelial drivers and accelerate targeted therapy development.

Portal Vein Thrombosis; Immunothrombosis; Liver disease; Portal Hypertension; Microfluidic devices

Research group: Liver disease and the vascular system (LiVas)

Group Leader: Virginia Hernández Gea

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Hepatology; Endothelial biology; Bioinformatics; Vessel immunology*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: LiVas (IDIBAPS-Hospital Clínic) provides an advanced translational framework integrating clinical cohorts, molecular profiling, preclinical models, and strong international network offering rigorous training and mentoring for scientific growth.

RL11. Neural correlates of aversive and appetitive learning

Miquel A. Fullana

mafullana@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: We study how aversive and reward learning are represented in the human brain using fMRI, integrating human and animal research to reveal neural mechanisms of mental disorders and leveraging large datasets, advancing translational research worldwide

fMRI; learning; threat; reward; mental disorders

Research group: Imaging of mood-and anxiety-related disorders (IMARD)

Group Leader: Joaquim Raduà

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *fMRI analysis; Learning; Translational neuroscience; Large-scale data*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: The group studies the neurobiology of anxiety and mood disorders in healthy and clinical samples, leads large-scale data analyses, provides access to clinical and treatment datasets, and offers training in advanced neuroimaging.

RL12. Translational Oncology in Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers

Tian Tian

ttian@recerca.clinic.cat

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Upper GI cancers (gastric, pancreatic, and biliary), are aggressive and often diagnosed late, limiting curative options. Our research integrates molecular profiling, patient-derived models to identify biomarkers and resistance mechanisms.

Translational Oncology, Gastric Cancer, Pancreatic Cancer, Biliary Tract Cancer, Patient-derived models

Research group: Translational oncology in upper gastrointestinal cancers

Group Leader: Teresa Macarulla

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Oncology, animal models, molecular and cellular biology, translational research, cancer research, bioinformatics.*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Our group focused on precision oncology in upper GI cancers. We integrate clinical data, patient-derived models, and molecular analyses, offering strong mentoring, collaborative research, and opportunities for scientific and career development.

RL13. Brain functional and neurochemical correlates of risk for psychosis during youth

Gisela Sugranyes

gernest@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Resting state functional MRI and non-invasive molecular imaging techniques acquired in youth at high risk or with first episode psychosis longitudinally during youth. Integration of brain metrics will help develop biologically-informed interventions.

Psychosis, schizophrenia, functional connectivity, glutamate, neuromelanin

Research group: Multimodal neuroimaging in high risk and early psychosis

Group Leader: Gisela Sugranyes

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *resting state fMRI, MR spectroscopy, psychiatric disorders, neurodevelopment, multimodal imaging*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Multidisciplinary research team composed of child and adult psychiatrists and psychologists and biomedical scientists. Neurodevelopmental approach to severe mental health disorders. Diverse in-house and international collaborations.

RL14. Interplay between adaptive and innate immune cells in transplantation

Fritz Diekmann

fdiekman@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Investigate the interplay between innate and adaptive immune system in kidney and pancreas transplantation, focusing on modulating innate immune response both in vitro and in vivo animal models, while corroborating in human samples.

Transplantation, macrophages, regulatory dendritic cells, autorreactive T cells, molecular microscope.

Research group: Nephrology and transplantation (LENIT)

Group Leader: Fritz Diekmann

About the candidate

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Flow cytometry, mixed lymphocyte reactions, molecular studies, single-cell RNA sequencing, R studio*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Dynamic research group focused on cutting-edge science in transplantation, offering opportunities for international collaborations, career growth through interdisciplinary projects, and access to advanced technologies and models of transplantion.

RL15. Sperm molecular biology and contribution to reproduction and embryo development

Judit Castillo Corullón

juditcastillo@ub.edu

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Using advanced proteomic, transcriptomic, genetic and epigenetic approaches integrated with detailed clinical data, the group investigates how sperm molecular features influence fertilization, embryo development, and offspring health.

Sperm biology, male infertility, embryo development, epigenetics, chromatin

Research group: Molecular biology of reproduction and development

Group Leader: Rafael Oliva Virgili

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *molecular biology, omics, data analysis, publications, reproductive biology*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Internationally recognized multidisciplinary group integrating basic, clinical and translational reproductive research. We provide access to advanced equipment, strong collaborations, grant application support and leadership opportunities.

RL16. Gastrointestinal and pancreatic oncology

Antoni Castells

castells@clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: We are dedicated to the prevention and early detection of gastrointestinal neoplasms, mainly colorectal cancer (CRC) and pancreatic cancer, as well as to the development and evaluation of new endoscopic diagnostic and therapeutic approaches.

Colorectal cancer; screening; genetics; prevention; endoscopy

Research group: Gastrointestinal and pancreatic oncology

Group Leader: Antoni Castells

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Bioinformatics; genetics; biomarkers; translational research; data science*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Multidisciplinary and comprehensive clinical and translational research group devoted to CRC prevention of both sporadic and inherited forms looking for young talent to guarantee a successful generational turnover.

RL17. Understanding inflammatory bowel disease at single-cell and spatial resolution

Azucena Salas

asalas1@recerca.clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: The research line focuses on understanding the complex biology, cell-to-cell interactions, and architectural features that mediate the different manifestations and complications associated to inflammatory bowel disease.

Inflammatory bowel disease, single-cell RNA sequencing, spatial transcriptomics

Research group: Inflammatory bowel disease

Group Leader: Azucena Salas

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Computational biology, scRNA-seq and Spatial transcriptomics data analysis*.

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: We are a multidisciplinary translational group that combines computational, biological and clinical expertise. We provide an exceptional environment for young researchers to grow their expertise and interactions with the global scientific community.

RL18. Breaking Immune Evasion in Liver Cancer: Biomarkers and Sex-Specific Therapies

Montserrat Marí

amorales@clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: Immune and mitochondrial pathways promoting tumor immune evasion in liver cancer, aiming to develop therapies targeting the tumor microenvironment and identify serum biomarkers, integrating sex-specific differences in disease and treatment response

Tumor immune evasion, Liver cancer, Mitochondria-immunity axis, Serum biomarkers, Sex differences in cancer

Research group: Hepatocellular signalling and cancer

Group Leader: Albert Morales

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Tumor microenvironment, Biomarker discovery, Preclinical cancer models, Mitochondrial signaling, Bioinformatics/omics analysis.*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Multidisciplinary team studying immune evasion in liver cancer. Fellows receive training in translational oncology, biomarker discovery and advanced cancer models, with strong mentoring, international collaborations and support for career development.

RL19. Cardiac Arrhythmias and Vascular Disease in Highly Trained Athletes

Eduard Guasch

eguasch@clinic.cat

ORCID

About the research group:

Description and keywords of the research line/topic: We investigate mechanisms, biomarkers and therapeutic targets of harmful cardiovascular effects (arrhythmias, vascular stiffening) from strenuous exercise, using a multidisciplinary approach with animal and ex vivo models, as well as human samples.

Atrial fibrillation; vascular stiffening; strenuous exercise; arrhythmias; animal models.

Research group: Arrhythmias and physical activity

Group Leader: Eduard Guasch

About the candidate:

Keywords of desired experiences of the postdoctoral candidates: *Translational research; omics; genetic manipulation; cell culture; cardiovascular disease.*

Opportunities for scientific and career development for the postdoctoral candidates: Our translational group has proven a causal link between exercise and cardiovascular harm. Proposals may leverage established animal models, exvivo tools (living myocardial slices, organ bath) and human samples for mechanistic & translational studies