

PhD Joint Call 2026: 5 positions

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Why choose IDIBAPS?

Located in the heart of Barcelona Campus Clínic, IDIBAPS is leading biomedical research centre with strong reputation for excellence, innovation and impact. You will be immersed in a dynamic ecosystem that includes: Clinic Barcelona Hospital – a century-old reference hospital committed to healthcare, research and teaching, covering virtually all medical and surgical specialities – and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Barcelona, dating back to 1843 and today one of the most highly regarded health faculties in Spain and worldwide. You can find more information about how to enrol to our doctoral school [here](#).

With over 100 clinical and laboratory research groups, we tackle real-world biomedical challenges and promote the unique profile of clinician-scientists. Find more information about our research areas and programmes [here](#).

What we offer?

IDIBAPS has a large community of junior researchers, offering excellent research, training and career development opportunities, and access to the state-of-the-art facilities in the institute and on Campus. You will have access to modern wet and dry laboratories, common equipment and other research facilities, and receive comprehensive lab management support. Excellent mentoring and supervision are offered in the framework of the host research groups; moreover, IDIBAPS organizes in-house training activities, seminars, courses and workshops, promoting professional and growth and social interaction.

You will join the vibrant and active IDIBAPS PhD Community, organizing multiple scientific and social activities, such as the [PhD Welcome Days](#) and the [yearly PhD Day](#).

The institute offers excellent working conditions and creative environment as ensured by the [HR Excellence in Research award](#) (European Commission).

Candidates with an excellent academic record and a strong motivation are invited to apply. The call is open to applicants of any nationality, gender, culture, religion, sexual orientation or age.

To learn more about the institution and the conditions of the position, access the offer at the following [link](#).

Requirements for all the positions

- Academic requirements:
 - European Higher Education System: university degree and Master (at least 300 ECTS) or equivalent education to access to a PhD programme in Spain or;
 - Non-European Higher Education System: university degree that give access to doctoral studies in the country of issue (certified by the competent body). All the documentation must be delivered both legalised and officially translated in Catalan, Spanish or English (if applies).
- Excellent academic record
- Scientific/technological curricular merits to properly match the selected research project, including previous research experience
- Mobility and/or internationalisation experience recommended but not mandatory
- Strong motivation for research
- Good command of English

Candidates can select up **two potential host research groups** (see section: *Research Lines*, p. 7).

Check each research line for the specific desirable criteria (see subsection: what we are looking for).

How to apply

Send the following documents to FCBRRHH@recerca.clinic.cat indicating the call reference **FU-303/2026** in the subject.

Use the document name specified below and PDF format.

Please do not attach any other documents, as they will not be taken into consideration.

- Curriculum Vitae. Please fill this [template](#) (mandatory) > *CV_IDnumber*¹
 - Motivation letter/s. It is possible to present one or two motivation letters, depending on if you would like to select one or two options. In each of the letters it is important to indicate the chosen laboratory and the motivation to join the selected research project. > *motivationletter1_IDnumber* (mandatory); *motivationletter2_IDnumber* (optional)
 - Two reference letters. Each reference letter must be prepared by the referee and follow an official format. It must be signed and include the referee's letterhead and/or institutional affiliation details > *referenceletter1_IDnumber*; *referenceletter2_IDnumber*
 - Accrediting documentation of the academic grades and the merits presented in the CV > *docs_IDnumber*
 - For **studies completed within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**: candidates must provide proof of having completed at least 300 ECTS credits. Completed studies are required (i.e., the Master's thesis — or equivalent — must have been defended by the call deadline). All academic transcripts and relevant degree certificates must be uploaded. This includes transcripts and certificates for all previous university degrees (e.g., Bachelor's and Master's).
 - For **studies completed outside the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)**: in addition to academic transcripts and degree certificates for all previous degrees (e.g., Bachelor's and Master's), candidates must provide evidence that their qualifications grant access to doctoral studies in the country where they were obtained.
- To this end, **they must upload a Certificate of Eligibility signed by a competent authority** (a template is available at the [following link](#), if required). In all cases, submitted documents must be duly legalized and officially translated into English (if applies).
- Data protection authorization (find it at p. 8)

¹ ID number: your passport number or national identification document.

Selection process

The selection of the fellows will be carried out by the research group offering the position and will follow the principles of [open, transparent and merit-based recruitment](#).

This call positions are linked to the funding of the Spanish call *Proyectos de Generación de Conocimiento 2025* supported by the *Agencia Estatal de Investigación*. You can find [more information here](#).

- Pre-selection: the pre-selection will be based on the candidate's CV, motivation letter, reference letter and the research interests (total points: 0-100).
 - Criteria 1. Scientific and/or academic record (0-50 points):
 - Subcriteria 1. Academic and/or scientific-technical career of the candidate (0-45 points)
 - Subcriteria 2. Mobility and internationalization (0-5 points)
 - Criteria 2. Adequacy of the candidate to the research activity (0-50 points)
 - Desirable criteria/What we are looking for (add value for the research group)
- Interviews: the pre-selected candidates will be invited to an oral interview to further assess their qualification and research motivation.
- Notification to the candidates: the successful candidates will receive a notification after the oral interview with the expected start date.

Deadline: until October 23rd, 2026

The starting date for the selected researchers will be agreed in each case between the candidate and the Principal Investigator (expected between January 2027 and April 2027).

For any doubts, please contact academic@recerca.clinic.cat

Research lines

Glycogen-dependent regulation of hypothalamic tanycytes in systemic metabolic homeostasis (GLYCOTAN)

Principal Investigator

Marc Claret

Keywords

Tanycytes, hypothalamus, glycogen, metabolism, obesity, diabetes.

Our research

The “Neuronal Control of Metabolism” laboratory investigates how the brain senses interoceptive and exteroceptive signals to coordinate energy balance, glucose homeostasis and whole-body metabolism. We combine mouse genetics, virogenetic approaches, fibre photometry, chemo/optogenetics, advanced imaging, metabolic/behavioral phenotyping and single-cell omics to uncover the roles of hypothalamic neurons and glial cells in obesity and diabetes. The GLYCOTAN project will determine how glycogen shapes tanycyte function and brain–body communication. Our research has been published in leading journals, including Cell, Cell Metabolism, Nature Metabolism, etc. providing a stimulating and international training environment.

What we are looking for

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with an excellent academic record, a good command of English, strong organisational and adaptability skills, and the ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team. Previous experience in neuroscience, metabolism, molecular biology or experimental animal models will be positively valued, although it is not essential. Familiarity with stereotaxic procedures, imaging, metabolic phenotyping or transcriptomic approaches would be an asset. An animal experimentation accreditation and enthusiasm for international mobility and research stays abroad are also desirable.



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Characterization and impact of intratumoral and gut microbiome on immunotherapy response in hepatocellular carcinoma

Principal Investigator

Josep M. Llovet Bayer

Keywords

Hepatocellular carcinoma, translational research, biomarkers, immunotherapy.

Our research

We are seeking a motivated Predoctoral Researcher to undertake a PhD in translational liver cancer research. This research group is led by Prof. Josep M. Llovet, a world-renowned expert in the field. Operating across IDIBAPS-Hospital Clínic in Barcelona and Mount Sinai in New York, the position offers an international training environment focused on precision medicine, immunotherapies, and molecular classifications. Candidates will use advanced single-cell technologies to study tumour development and biomarkers, receiving excellent academic training and strong partnerships with other leading European institutions.

What we are looking for

Holding a degree in Biomedicine and a Master Degree in Translational Medicine, with full eligibility for official PhD admission at the university. A strong academic background and a true, demonstrated passion for translational cancer research, precision medicine, and molecular oncology. Previous practical wet-lab experience and/or strong bioinformatics skills, which will be highly valued for success in this role. Good proficiency in both spoken and written English to effectively communicate within our international team and collaborative research networks.



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Network-based integration of lipidomics and transcriptomics data to tackle immune dysfunction in advanced chronic liver disease (INSPIRE)

Principal Investigator
Joan Clària

Keywords

Lipids, immune cells, mitochondria, liver disease, omics.

Our research

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. These alterations have detrimental effects on these patients, rendering them, for example, more susceptible to recurrent infections. Our group has a strong record of scientific publications in leading journals, including Nature Communications, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Science Translational Medicine, Cell Metabolism, Gastroenterology, Journal of Hepatology, and Hepatology.

What we are looking for

We are looking for a highly motivated PhD student with a strong background or interest in immunology, cell biology or biomedicine, biotechnology, and a particular interest in the functional characterization of immune cells in a biomedical translational context. The candidate should have, or be willing to develop, practical expertise in flow cytometry and immune cell functional assays, including multicolor flow cytometry, immune cell phenotyping, sample preparation, data acquisition and analysis, and the design and interpretation of functional experiments. Experience with assays assessing immune cell activation, proliferation, cytokine production, cytotoxicity, or other cellular functions will be considered an advantage.



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miRNA-regulated logic-gated multispecific CAR-T cells to overcome tumor heterogeneity and stromal barriers in solid tumors

Principal Investigator

Alba Rodríguez-García

Keywords

CAR-T cell therapy, tumor microenvironment, immunosuppression, antigen heterogeneity, solid tumors.

Our research

Our research aims to develop next-generation CAR-T cell therapies that overcome the major barriers limiting their efficacy in solid tumors. By combining immunology, genetic engineering, and synthetic biology, we will develop innovative CAR designs to address tumor antigen heterogeneity and overcome the immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment, while minimizing off-tumor toxicity. These therapies will be evaluated in relevant preclinical in vitro and in vivo models, including syngeneic and xenograft mouse models and patient-derived specimens. Our work will provide new strategies to enhance CAR-T efficacy and pave the way toward safer, more effective therapies for solid cancers.

What we are looking for

We are seeking a highly motivated candidate with a Master's degree or equivalent in Biomedicine, Immunology, or a related field, and a strong interest in cancer immunotherapy. Previous experience in molecular biology, immunology, or cell culture is desirable. Experience with CAR-T cell culture and manipulation will be highly valued. Expertise in genetic engineering, genome editing (e.g., CRISPR-Cas9), or flow cytometry will be considered an asset. The ideal candidate should be curious, proactive, eager to learn, and capable of working both independently and collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team. Strong English communication skills are required.



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Next-Generation CAR-T cells: precision genome editing for long-term function in solid tumors

Principal Investigator
Sònia Guedan

Keywords

Cancer immunotherapy, solid tumors, T cell exhaustion, smored CAR-T cells, translational research.

Our research

Our research focuses on engineering next-generation CAR-T cell therapies for solid tumors. We investigate the mechanisms limiting CAR-T efficacy, including T-cell dysfunction and tumor immune escape, and develop genetic engineering strategies to enhance persistence, safety and antitumor activity. We perform comprehensive preclinical evaluation of these strategies through in vitro assays and in vivo studies in mouse models. Our work aims to translate innovative CAR-T designs into clinically applicable therapies through close collaboration with multidisciplinary clinical teams.

What we are looking for

We are looking for a highly motivated and proactive predoctoral researcher with a Master's degree in Biomedicine or a related field and a strong interest in cancer immunotherapy and cell therapy. The ideal candidate will have a background in molecular biology, immunology and cell culture, with good analytical and problem-solving skills. The candidate will be expected to independently design, perform and analyze experiments, as well as present and discuss research results. Previous experience with T-cell culture, CAR-T engineering, genome editing or flow cytometry will be considered an advantage.



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Authorisation request

I hereby authorise:

The **FUNDACIÓ DE RECERCA CLÍNICA BARCELONA – INSTITUT D'INVESTIGACIONS BIOMÈDIQUES AUGUST PI I SUNYER (IDIBAPS)**, to process my data for personnel recruitment purposes, transferring them only in cases where legally required, in line with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, and the corresponding regulations that develop it.

Name and Surname:

DNI/NIE/ID:

Signed:

Barcelona,