

## Seeking applicants for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF) at Pere Virgili Institute for Health Research (IISPV) for the GEMMAIR group

### HOST INSTITUTION:

The Pere Virgili Institute for Health Research (IISPV) integrates the biomedical research of Camp de Tarragona and Terres de l'Ebre (Catalonia, Spain). The IISPV is the instrument provided by the university hospitals of the province of Tarragona (Joan XXIII University Hospital of Tarragona; Verge de la Cinta Hospital of Tortosa; Sant Joan University Hospital of Reus; Institute Pere Mata University Hospital of Reus) and the University Rovira i Virgili (URV), to bring together and manage biomedical research and innovation in the territory.

We are an institute committed to our society, and we promote health research in our territory with the aim of improving well-being and transferring knowledge to patients.

In 2022, IISPV renewed its commitment with Human Resources for Researchers obtaining HRS4R certification. IISPV and URV work together to promote and organize seminars and training activities applied to research, thus our staff can access to several courses. The institution is fully committed with gender dimension, open access, data management, and social impact, organizing annual workshops for these cross-cutting issues.

The institutional infrastructures/equipment are: Cell Culture Core Unit; Flow cytometry Platform; SeaHorse; Clinical trials Unit; Biobank; Histological Platform; Bioinformatics Platform; Animal Housing Facilities; Metabolomics Platform; Scientific and Technical Resource Centre (Confocal laser scanning and electron microscopy, MS MALDI TOF, etc.).

### RESEARCH GROUP:

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The Study Group on Metabolic Diseases Associated with Insulin-Resistance (GEMMAIR) is a clinical and basic research group comprised of a multidisciplinary team. This team includes medical and experimental researchers from the Joan XXIII University Hospital of Tarragona and the Sant Joan University Hospital of Reus: internists, surgeons, pathologists, molecular biologists, bioinformaticians, and laboratory technicians.

With over 25 years of experience in chronic liver disease research and over 15 years in the study of obesity and associated diseases, GEMMAIR has a rich history of expertise. Additionally, it has been accredited as a consolidated group by the Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) since 2009 and is recognized as a research group by the URV.

GEMMAIR has a long-standing history in studying the pathophysiology of obesity and its associated diseases. Currently, the group's primary focus lies in investigating metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD) and its comorbidities, such as obesity, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and metabolic syndrome. Our goal is to elucidate novel molecular mechanisms underlying the disease and identify biomarkers and potential therapeutic targets.

#### **OFFER DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS:**

The objective of the proposal is to explore hypotheses using the extensive database of bariatric surgery patients and collection of samples, linking changes in MASLD histopathological stage with serum biomarkers. We are looking for a candidate with experience in omics data analysis and clinical studies, since the scientific challenge of the research line includes: (a) finding potential changes in serum parameters associated with histopathological MASLD stage in a cohort of patients with obesity, (b) identifying novel molecular mechanisms involved in MASLD development, and especially in the metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis, and (c) assess potential therapeutic targets for these mechanisms. We are also interested in the role bisphenol A (BPA) and its analogues play in MASLD development, so newer research line will include correlating BPA in urine and blood samples with MASLD stage.

The selected candidate will be invited to work on the proposal together with Teresa Auguet, PhD and the International Projects Unit of IISPV starting in June 2024. Therefore, it is important to have availability during the summer months for the

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preparation of the proposal, which opens on 23 April 2024 and closes on 11 September 2024, 17.00, CEST.

In addition, the applicant must meet the eligibility and mobility requirements of the MSCA-PF. For eligibility:

- Have a Doctoral degree and a maximum of 8 years of full-time equivalent research experience.
- The candidate has not resided or carried out his/her main activity (e.g., work, studies) in the country of the Host Institution (Spain) for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date (exceptions to this apply under the career restart and reintegration panels).

### HOW TO APPLY?

The applicant must express their interest by sending an email to [gemmair.researchgroup@gmail.com](mailto:gemmair.researchgroup@gmail.com) with the subject "**MSCA-PF Manifestation of interest - CANDIDATE NAME**" before 10th June 2024. For any technical questions, please contact Teresa Auguet, PhD. The email must include:

- 1) Curriculum Vitae.
- 2) A brief outline of the proposed research project with defined objectives (max 2 pages).
- 3) Motivation letter.

## **HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH**

The IISPV has the European accreditation The Human Resources Strategy for Researchers (HRS4R), complies with the general principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers.

The IISPV has an internal recruitment policy that follows the Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment (OTM-R) policies. More information about the HRS4R policies implemented at the IISPV is available on the following website: <https://www.iispv.cat/hrs4r-hr-excellenceresearch/>

The IISPV will guarantee the right to equal opportunities and treatment, as well as the real and effective exercise of rights by people with disabilities under equal conditions with respect to other citizens, through the promotion of personal autonomy, universal accessibility, access to employment, inclusion in the community and independent living and the eradication of any form of discrimination, in accordance with articles 9.2, 10, 14 and 49 of the Spanish Constitution and the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and international treaties and agreements ratified by Spain.

In the event of a tie, priority will be given to hiring the person with a disability.

In the event of a tie between people of different genders, the person of the least represented gender in the work group/department/service in which he joins will be hired.