

MSCA-PF: Expression of Interest

1. European Postdoctoral Fellowships

Purpose

- Support excellent researchers of **any nationality** who want to conduct research in Europe or move within Europe.
- Enhance scientific excellence, mobility, and acquisition of new skills through advanced training.
- Improve talent and facilitate knowledge transfer across Europe.

Mobility & Eligibility

- Supported fellows must be **postdoctoral researchers** at the date of the call deadline.
- At the call deadline, researchers must have a **maximum of 8 years** full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree.
- Researchers must comply with the **mobility rule**: they must not have lived or worked in the host country for more than 12 months in the last 36 months before the call deadline.
- Researchers can be of **any nationality**.

Duration

- 12 to 24 months hosted in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
- An **additional period of up to six months at the end of the project** can be awarded to researchers who will spend that period in a non-academic organisation established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Impact for Fellows

- Improved research and transferable skills.
- International, inter-sectorial and interdisciplinary experience
- Stronger employability inside and outside academia.
- Broader networks and enhanced communication skills.

Allowance

There are two types of contributions:

- a) Contributions for the recruited researcher (per person-month)
- **Living allowance: 6350€** (minus all compulsory deductions under national legislation).
 - **Mobility allowance: 710€**. This allowance covers their additional, private mobility-related costs (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).
 - **Family allowance: 660€**. If the postdoctoral researcher has or acquires family obligations during the action duration
 - **Long-term leave allowance: 7060€ * % covered by the beneficiary**. This allowance contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiary in case of the researcher's leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days.
 - **Special needs allowance: Requested unit * (1/number of months)**. This allowance contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities
- b) Institutional unit contribution (per person-month)
- **Research, training and networking contribution: 1000€**. This should cover, for example, costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researchers' career development.

A country correction coefficient (CCC) applies to the living allowance to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers. For Spain, the CCC is **94.2%**.

For more information, you can access the full work programme [here](#).

2. Brief description of IRB CatSud

The Institut de Recerca Biomèdica Catalunya sud (IRB CatSud) is an institution that integrates research in the field of biomedicine in the Camp de Tarragona and the Terres de l'Ebre. IRB CatSud is the instrument that the university hospitals of both health regions have been endowed with (Joan XXIII University Hospital of Tarragona, Verge de la Cinta Hospital of Tortosa, Sant Joan de Reus University Hospital, Institut Pere Mata University Hospital of Reus) and Rovira and Virgili University, in order to bring together and manage biomedical research and innovation in the territory.

Seu Reus:

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 Avda. Josep Laporte, 2
 Planta 0 - E2 color taronja
 43204 (Tarragona)

Seu Tarragona:

Parc Sanitari Joan XXIII
 C/ Doctor Mallafre, 4
 Edifici IRBCatSud
 43005 (Tarragona)



IRB^R
CatSud

Institut
 de Recerca
 Biomèdica
 Catalunya Sud

The research we lead aims to answer relevant questions related to the health of the population through the scientific method, the most advanced technology and the talent of the people who work in our teams. We listen to patients, we look for strategies to develop our projects, we seek financing to carry them out and, finally, we transfer the results achieved to society by promoting spin-offs or medical devices that we patent.

IRB CatSud and the research groups that belong to it have enormous international prestige. We are part of the CERCA institution (Institution of Research Centers of Catalonia Foundation (I-CERCA) of Catalonia).

For more information about our Institute, visit the following website:
<https://www.iispv.cat/en/>

3. Short presentation about the group and research lines

Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Research Group (IBODI)

The Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Research Group (IBODI) operates within a highly translational clinical environment with direct access to patient cohorts, biological samples and specialised colorectal surgery activity. IBODI aims to advance the understanding and clinical management of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), particularly Crohn's disease, through an integrative approach combining microbiota research, immunology, metabolism and regenerative medicine. A distinctive focus of the group is the study of mesenteric adipose tissue, particularly creeping fat, as a key inflammatory niche involved in disease progression, persistence of intestinal inflammation and postoperative recurrence.

IBODI combines complementary clinical and experimental capabilities, including prospective patient recruitment through the accredited IBD Unit at Hospital Joan XXIII, systematic collection of biological samples (plasma, intestinal mucosa and mesenteric adipose tissue), and advanced experimental approaches such as microbiome analysis, transcriptomics, epigenomics and functional immunometabolic studies. These capabilities allow the group to conduct fully translational research from molecular mechanisms to validation in human samples and development of novel therapeutic strategies.

The main research lines of the group include:

- Advanced therapies based on extracellular vesicles derived from mesenchymal stem cells for inflammatory bowel disease.

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- Immunometabolic remodelling of mesenteric adipose tissue (“creeping fat”) in Crohn’s disease, including browning and mitochondrial activation.
- Microbiota–metabolite–immune interactions involved in chronic intestinal inflammation and postoperative recurrence.

More information: <https://www.iispv.cat/en/grup/ibodi/>

Candidate profile

The candidate should hold a degree in biomedical sciences, biology, biotechnology, medical engineering, or a related discipline, with a strong interest in translational research.

Previous experience in molecular biology techniques, such as gene expression analysis, cell culture, immunohistochemistry, or microbiome analysis, will be considered an advantage. Experience working with human samples or in translational biomedical research is also desirable.

The candidate is expected to demonstrate a strong motivation for research in inflammatory bowel diseases, the ability to work both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team, and excellent communication skills in English. A proactive attitude towards scientific training, collaboration, and dissemination of research results will be highly valued.

Supervisor profile

Dr. Carolina Serena leads the Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Research Group (IBODI) and is an established I3 researcher (Ramón y Cajal track) with more than a decade of experience in adipose-derived stem cells, immunometabolism and inflammatory mechanisms in inflammatory bowel disease.

Her research focuses on the role of mesenteric adipose tissue, particularly creeping fat, in Crohn’s disease pathophysiology and on the development of innovative therapeutic strategies based on extracellular vesicles derived from mesenchymal stem cells.

She currently leads competitive national and regional research projects, including the Spanish National Plan project PID2023-146315OB-I00 and the innovation project AGAUR PRODUCTE (PROD2025-00210), aimed at translating mechanistic discoveries into therapeutic applications. Dr. Serena also contributes as an expert evaluator in European competitive programmes (European Commission: MSCA, EIC Pathfinder,...).

If you are interested in this opportunity, send your expression of interest to upi@irbcatsud.cat, indicating the [MSCA-PF + research group](#) in the subject.