

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.

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 43204 (Tarragona)

Seu Tarragona:

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 C/ Doctor Mallafre, 4
 Edifici IRBCatSud
 43005 (Tarragona)

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

Liver Research Unit (LRU)

Our research group aims to understand the biological and pathophysiological processes driving the onset and progression of liver diseases, including steatosis, steatohepatitis, and cirrhosis. We focus on identifying novel therapeutic targets and developing innovative pharmacological approaches, while advancing the development, validation, and implementation of precision medicine in hepatology with a direct impact on clinical practice.

Building on these overarching goals, our specific research lines include:

- Regulation of hepatic microcirculation under physiological conditions and in chronic liver disease.
- Intercellular communication during the progression and regression of chronic liver diseases.
- Transcriptional regulation of hepatic endothelial genes and phenotypic characterization of endothelial cells in portal hypertension, ischemia–reperfusion, cirrhosis, and aging, with emphasis on signaling pathways and associated therapeutic strategies.
- Sinusoidal mapping in disease and aging.
- Identification of biomarkers associated with sinusoidal capillarization.
- Discovery of diagnostic biomarkers predicting therapeutic response.
- Integration of clinical and translational studies to validate biomarkers, vasoprotective therapies, and diagnostic tools in patients with chronic liver disease.

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- Multidisciplinary projects in collaboration with clinical hepatology, liver surgery, and systems biology to investigate acute and chronic liver injury.

Candidate profile

We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher interested in joining a multidisciplinary environment focused on understanding liver disease mechanisms and developing innovative therapeutic and diagnostic strategies. The ideal MSCA candidate will bring strong scientific curiosity, technical expertise, and a collaborative mindset to contribute to our work on hepatic microcirculation, endothelial biology, precision hepatology, and biomarker discovery.

Essential qualifications

- PhD in biomedical sciences, or related fields.
- Demonstrated research experience in one or more of the following areas:
 - Pathobiology of chronic liver diseases (steatosis, steatohepatitis, fibrosis, cirrhosis).
 - Endothelial cell biology, microvascular regulation, or vascular remodeling.
 - Intercellular communication, inflammation, or immune–endothelial interactions.
 - Metabolic dysfunction–associated mechanisms in liver disease (e.g., lipotoxicity, oxidative stress, metabolic rewiring).
 - Molecular mechanisms related to portal hypertension, ischemia-reperfusion injury, or aging.
- Strong background in experimental methodologies, such as:
 - Primary cell cultures, endothelial phenotyping, flow cytometry, omics approaches.
 - In vivo models of liver injury (desirable but not mandatory).
 - Advanced imaging, confocal microscopy, or spatial transcriptomics (asset).
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Proven ability to design, execute, analyze, and interpret research experiments independently.
- Desirable skills & experience
- Previous experience with omics analysis (RNA-seq, scRNA-seq, spatial transcriptomics/proteomics, epigenomics), bioinformatics, or computational biology.

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- Interest in translational research, biomarker validation, or precision medicine approaches.
- Familiarity with patient-derived samples or collaboration with clinical teams.
- Publications in peer reviewed journals demonstrating scientific excellence.
- Motivation to apply for highly competitive fellowships and contribute to a dynamic research environment.

Supervisor profile

Dr. Jordi Gracia-Sancho is a recognized expert in hepatic microcirculation and liver vascular pathobiology. He leads the Liver Research Unit at IRB CatSud, where his research focuses on sinusoidal endothelial cell biology, mechanisms of chronic liver disease, and the development of vascular-targeted therapies and precision biomarkers. He has extensive experience supervising PhD students and postdoctoral researchers, promoting scientific excellence, independence, and professional development. His group offers a strong translational environment with access to advanced technological platforms, clinical collaborators, and international partnerships, providing an optimal setting for hosting Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows.

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.