



The Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR) is a public sector institution that promotes and develops the research, innovation and biosanitary teaching of the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital. Through the excellence of our research, we identify and apply new solutions to the health problems of society and we contribute to spread them around the world.



**Position: PhD**

**Group: Medical Molecular Imaging Research Group**

Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR) is a public sector institution, located in Barcelona (Spain) that promotes and develops innovative biomedical research at the University Hospital Vall d'Hebron. VHIR is oriented towards finding solutions to the health problems of the citizens and has the will to contribute to the scientific, educational, social and economic development within its area of competence around the world.

VHIR offers a job opportunity for a PhD student at the Medical Molecular Imaging Research Group led by Dr José Raúl Herance. The PhD candidate will be involved in the Innovative Medicines Initiative - EU Project which focuses on the development of PET radiotracers targeting specific immune cell subsets for immunotherapy evaluation applications. The goal of the current PhD thesis is to assess these new imaging tools *in vivo* in murine models of ulcerative colitis and cancer. This is a highly interdisciplinary research project which will allow the candidate to participate in all stages of radiotracer development, from synthesis to preclinical validation and image analysis. The guaranteed PhD funding is for 48 months. In addition to her/his individual scientific project, the candidate will benefit from further continuing education, which includes appropriate training and transferable skills courses as well as active participation in workshops and conferences.

More information about the project can be found here → <https://www.imi.europa.eu/projects-results/project-factsheets/immune-image>)

## JOB DESCRIPTION

### Education and qualifications:

#### Required:

- BSc/MSc in any of these life science disciplines: Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy or similar
- Accreditation to work with animals (FELASA or similar)

#### Preferred:

- BSc/MSc grade above 8
- Knowledge of statistical methodologies
- Methodical, organized and with good teamwork skills
- Good English level
- Familiarized with histological and molecular biology techniques



In April 2015, the **Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)** obtained the recognition of the European Commission **HR Excellence**. This recognition proves that VHIR endorses the general principles of **the European Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code)**.

Thus, there are no restrictions of gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation or age and **candidates with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.**

- Familiarized with radionuclide imaging techniques (PET or SPECT)
- Certification for working in radioactive facilities (operator or supervisor)
- Good academic and master thesis scores (at least 7.5 of average)

### Experience and knowledge:

- Experience with animal handling, mainly rodents. Knowledge in IBD or oncological models would be an advantage.
- Skilled in molecular biology and histological techniques (e.g. Western blotting, ELISA, IHC, IF, etc.)
- Cell culture knowledge.
- Previous experience in radiochemistry or handling of radioactive materials is desired but not required.

### Main responsibilities and duties:

The candidate will be actively involved in the development of animal models of IBD for the Innovative Medicines Initiative project. She/he will also participate in the radiolabelling of antibodies for molecular imaging applications and their evaluation *in vivo*. The candidate is also expected to undertake *ex vivo* characterization work using various histological and molecular biology techniques. She/he will also take part in the writing of scientific manuscripts for publication.

### Job conditions:

- Temporary contract: years
- Gross annual salary: To be determined in function of the candidate's experience.
- Working hours: 40 hours/week.
- Incorporation date: 20 December 2021

### HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae and a cover letter summarizing relevant experience to [raul.herance@vhir.org](mailto:raul.herance@vhir.org).