

## ANNOUNCEMENT REF.: EOI 010-2024 – Postdoctoral researcher

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

[IDIBGI](#) is looking for highly-motivated and ambitious researchers of any nationality current residents of Europe interested in developing collaborative applications for the [Hevolution Foundation Postdoctoral Training in Geroscience \(HF-PTG\) Program](#).

HF-PTG is a research-focused fellowship. The major goal of this initiative is to identify and support outstanding PhD and MD/PhD students transitioning into postdoctoral training positions in biology of aging and/or geroscience over a period of 4 years. HF-PTG will provide funding for postdoctoral fellows to conduct high-quality research and receive comprehensive mentoring and training in order to successfully launch careers in aging research. The applicant is required to develop a research plan which focuses on strategies to improve healthy aging by addressing basic principles of aging biology and geroscience. This initiative will support research approaches that address:

- Basic research on the hallmarks of aging, including topics such as fibrosis, organelle dysfunction, the microbiome, and other areas identified as drivers of the aging process.
- Geroscience research with a clearly defined path towards clinical relevance, including pre-clinical studies on in vivo and in vitro models.
- The maintenance and/or improvement of molecular and cellular mechanisms during aging.

Research plans with a clinical focus such as the diagnosis or treatment of disease, involvement in a clinical trial, or social context of aging are not eligible.

#### Funding Range

The HF-PTG Program will fund individuals for up to 4 years including salary and funds for consumables and a limited annual child allowance:

- **Salary:** Annual salary allowance is set to **\$75,000 USD**. An **annual increase of 2%** in the salary for subsequent years (years 2-4) will be applied but is subject to the approval of scientific progress and financial reports by the foundation. The \$75,000 should cover salary of the postdoc and all other costs that the institution needs to cover (incl. social security, health benefits etc.).
- **Training-Related Expenses: \$7,000 per year** to be used flexibly to cover the costs directly associated with the research project, such as core facility use, omic data acquisition, and research supplies.
- **Childcare support: Up to \$6,000.** Hevolution Foundation recognizes the need to alleviate the impact of high childcare costs on its fellows and if eligible, supports each awardee with additional funds up to \$6,000. The support is intended for fellows with dependent children under the age of 6, attending a childcare facility.

#### Brief description of the Research Group

The [Horizontal Aging Program](#) at IDIBGI comprises two pre-existing cohorts from population-based, observational studies, representing a sample of the general population of the province of Girona (Northeast Catalonia, Spain) concerning multiple determinants and biomarkers of health status:

1. **Aging Imageomics Study** (n = 1030, ages 50-96), funded through the Strategic Plan for Health Research and Innovation (PERIS) 2016-2020 (SLT002/16/00250) of the Generalitat de Catalunya.
2. **Healthy Imageomics Study** Phase 1 (n = 2,000, ages 16-49), collecting data on health markers and lifestyles, and Phase 2 (n = 1,000, ages 16-49), which, in addition to the previous data, included whole-body MRI scans, funded by the Specialization and Territorial Competitiveness Projects (PECT) within the RIS3Cat framework and the Catalonia ERDF Operational Program 2014-2020.

These cohorts have allowed us to create a comprehensive population-based big data repository of the human body, which includes: an extensive repository of images, anthropometric and biochemical data, medical and medication history, physical examinations, body composition, neurocognitive tests evaluating six cognitive domains, psychological assessments (personality and emotional state tests), cardiovascular evaluations, lifestyle information, omics profiles (metabolomics and metagenomics), lipid and genetic profiles, and biological samples of blood, urine, and feces for complementary analyses. The knowledge gained from accessing this repository will enable the design of strategies for the prevention of prevalent chronic diseases and the promotion of health, thereby improving lifestyles, well-being, and quality of life in both young adult and elderly communities.

To conduct their research, applicants will leverage existing samples and data from participants provided by the [Horizontal Aging Program](#) at IDIBGI and the IDIBGI Biobank from the *Aging Imageomics Study*. They were processed following standard operating procedures with the appropriate approval of the Ethics Committee of the Dr. Josep Trueta University Hospital. Eligibility criteria included: community-dwelling participants aged  $\geq 50$ , aimed at identifying individuals at high risk of developing age-related diseases, no history of infection during the last 15 days, no contraindications for MRI, and consent to be informed of potential incidental findings. Participants, underwent comprehensive cognitive assessment and are well-phenotyped, including complete clinical and biochemical and anthropometric measures. Detailed description of the cohort can be found [here](#).

#### **Brief description of the Host Institution**

The [Girona Biomedical Research Institute Dr Josep Trueta](#) (IDIBGI) carries out translational research to improve health and care of people. IDIBGI is organised into 23 research groups distributed in five scientific areas (Cardiovascular and Respiratory, Metabolism and Inflammation, Neurosciences, Oncohematology and Mental Health) that bring together more than 400 people, including health professionals and basic researchers, in the counties of Girona.

The IDIBGI is a public foundation made up of the Government of Catalonia, the Catalan Health Institute (ICS) Girona, the Institute of Health Care (IAS), the Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO) Girona, and the University of Girona. It is a CERCA centre (Research Centres of Catalonia) since 2005.

The IDIBGI facilities at the Parc Hospitalari Martí i Julià in Salt host part of the research laboratories and personnel who, along with the rest of the researchers from the associated institutions, form multidisciplinary teams with different expertise, focused on finding synergies and solutions to the societal health challenges through translational research.

On 2015, IDIBGI received the "HR Excellence in Research" award and is continuously improving their HR policies according to the principles of the European Charter & Code for Researchers.

**Requirements of the candidates:**

- Applicants must be current residents of Europe, United States, Canada or UK.
- Applicants must be doctoral students who will complete their doctorate degree (PhD or MD/PhD) **prior to the award start date (March 2025)** or be a **recent PhD or MD/PhD graduates (earliest graduation date: May 2024)**.
- If applicants are expected to complete their doctorate degree (PhD or MD/PhD) after the internal deadline (**September 6th, 2024**), they must provide a letter from their current advisor or university confirming that they will obtain their doctorate degree (PhD or MD/PhD) before the award start date (March 2025).
- Applicants must conduct their postdoctoral research at host institution (IDIBGI) in Girona (Northeast Catalonia, Spain).
- Applicants must start their postdoctoral training appointment by March 2025.
- Applicants may not hold any other concurrent fellowships.

**Applications: documents to be submitted and deadlines**

- CV of the applicant (including the qualifications of the applicant based on academic excellence (peer-reviewed publications, conference posters and abstracts, awards, courses taken, etc. focus in the basic biology of aging or geroscience))
- Motivation letter: A strong personal statement from the applicant, highlighting his/her motivation to work in the field of aging biology or geroscience and stating the short-term and long-term objectives of career development.
- Strong endorsement/recommendation letter from the current advisor summarizing the applicant's accomplishments
- **Internal Deadline: September 6th, 2024**
- **Submission of Applications:** Fill in the [form](#) including the Letter of Introduction section, attaching the Curriculum Vitae and the documentation accrediting the merits and qualifications obtained.

Candidates will receive the support of the supervisors, as well as the project management department, to prepare and submit their application with the IDIBGI as a host institution.

**Timeline of the Call:**

- Deadline to Submit Full Application: October 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET
- Candidate Selection: January 2025
- Award Start: April, 2025

Note: Call is subject to the award and conditions of the grant