



## RECRUITMENT CALL

### INTERNATIONAL PHD FELLOWSHIP AVAILABLE

**PROJECT: PIPgen** - PI3K/PTEN-related monogenic disease to understand cancer

**HOST INSTITUTION: CICBioGUNE**, Bilbao, Spain

**RESEARCH PROFILE:** First Stage Researcher (R1<sup>1</sup>)

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**OFFER DESCRIPTION:** The Innovative Training Network (ITN) "PIPgen - PI3K/PTEN-related monogenic disease to understand cancer" will recruit a highly motivated PhD candidates through an international transparent and open recruitment procedure. The fellowships are funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme under the ITN-Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement N° 955534.

More info at: [https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks_en)

#### ABOUT THE PIPgen NETWORK

The **PIPgen** network brings together 9 leading European basic and clinical institutions and 3 private companies experts in the PI3K/PTEN- related diseases, to train 15 researchers in a wide range of scientific and complementary competences. Selected candidates will carry out specific projects under the supervision of a Principal Investigator within one of the 11 world-leading European host institutions from the network. They will also perform secondments in other European institutions within the network to provide the needed interactions to achieve research and training excellence, and to improve their future career perspectives.

Fellows will be enrolled in a PhD programme and will receive an outstanding and tailored training designed specifically for them. The embedding within the PIPgen network, with experienced trainers from academia and industry and from two research environments (clinical and basic), offers a unique multidisciplinary and multisectoral training opportunity in the field of PI3K/PTEN-related diseases.

#### SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

PIPgen stems from the emerging links between monogenic rare diseases and cancer, and how these fields can cross-fertilise and inform an integrated approach to both their understanding and treatment. Monogenic diseases offer 'clean' molecular, cellular and organismal information

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<sup>1</sup> First Stage Researcher (R1) PhD candidate or equivalent. Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.





about the affected genes, whereas cancer is a compendium of genetic and epigenetic perturbations illustrative of complex diseases. Genetic alterations in the phosphoinositide 3-kinase (**PI3K**)/**PTEN pathway** are a common event in both monogenic rare diseases and in cancer, presenting a truly unique paradigm of which PIPgen will take advantage. PIPgen aims to critically contribute by providing a dynamic learning strategy to enhance our understanding of the PI3K/PTEN pathway based on the molecular, biological and clinical integration of both pathological scenarios. **PIPgen has been conceived with the view to make a real clinical and therapeutic impact without losing focus on the underpinning basic bioscience.**

### PhD POSITION AVAILABLE

#### PhD Project 10: (poly)Genic alterations which emerge from monogenic PTEN-loss driven prostate cancer

Prostate tumours are associated to the process of aging and lifestyle, which could relate to the progressive accumulation of mutations or to the decline of systemic antitumoral capacity. ESR10 will characterise in a PTEN loss-driven mouse model, the impact of aging and lifestyle factors in the susceptibility to develop prostate lesions and we will combine this information with data derived from human prostate cancer specimens. We will perform molecular characterisation of the tumour and stromal component, seeking to define key drivers of the tumorigenic process that can be mechanistically deconstructed. We will capitalize on human prostate cancer multi-omics datasets to determine the clinical relevance of the drivers derived from the mouse model. It is intended that ESR10 will have a predominant training in computational biology. This project has the impact to provide new research tools to the field while generating key knowledge that can be critical for prostate cancer management.

Host: [CIC bioGUNE](#) (cic-BIO), Spain

Supervisors: [Dr. Arkaitz Carracedo](#) and [Isabel Mendizabal](#)

Doctoral programme: Universidad País Vasco

Envisioned secondments: qGenomics, Inserm

**Position requirements:** We are seeking for an extremely motivated candidate who is passionate about understanding cancer biology. The project will involve big data analyses from multi-omic technologies, which requires solid statistical and programming competences. Basic coding skills are required (such as R, Python). Previous experience on genomic data analyses and linux environments will be highly appreciated. Biologists or similar (bioengineers, biotechnologists, biochemists etc) with a Masters on Bioinformatics or Computational Biology, as well as individuals with a quantitative science background (statisticians, mathematicians, engineers etc. ) with a main interest on cancer biology are encouraged to apply.





### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

We welcome applications from PhD candidates from any country fulfilling the following criteria:

- Eligible candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract).
- Eligible candidates shall at the date of recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract), be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not have been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Eligible candidates must have a master's degree relevant for the chosen position (including biology, medicine, biochemistry, bioinformatics or a related discipline, depending on each PhD project) or its equivalent that would entitle them to a doctorate or must hold an official university qualification from a country of the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 300 ECTS of official university studies.

Candidates must have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English, which will be assessed with the motivation letter and the interview, respectively.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

#### How to apply:

If you are interested, please send your application to: [hrpipgen@carrerasresearch.org](mailto:hrpipgen@carrerasresearch.org). Please clearly indicate on the SUBJECT of the email **PIPgen: Project 10**.

Applications must be in English and should include:

- CV
- Contact details from 2 referees (Include name, title, current position, institution and e-mail address)
- A letter of motivation
- Bachelor and Master degree certificates (please include the transcripts to English of the academic records)
- Include in your email the answers to the following questions:
  - Nationality
  - Gender
  - Countries where you have resided for the last three years (indicate periods of time)
  - Do you have more than 4 years of research experience?
  - Have you been previously awarded a doctoral degree?
  - How did you find the offer?





### Selection process:

Eligible applications will be ranked on the basis of CVs and merits by a selection committee. The 3 best candidates for each position will be invited for a virtual interview where the final candidates will be selected.

Applicants with a positive evaluation but not selected will be included on a reserve list to cover eventual future positions and might be contacted at a later stage.

### Timeline

- Application deadline: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Announcement of preselection results and call for interviews: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Interviews: candidates will be interviewed 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Announcement of pre-selected candidates: 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Communication of the final results: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022
- Tentative start of the fellowship: June- August 2022

### Benefits

- 3-year full-time employment contract (salary depends on the country of the recruitment considering both local and MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers and their family status at the time of the recruitment).
- Enrolment in a PhD programme (In case of 4 years University Programmes, a 4th year contract will be assured).
- Shared research and innovative multidisciplinary and multisectoral training by experts and experienced trainers from two sectors (academia and industry) and two research environments (clinic and basic).
- A structured training programme consisting of soft skill courses, targeted workshops, retreats, social events and networking.
- Secondments at other institutions within the PIPgen consortium.
- Gaining experience abroad.
- Opportunities for participation in national and international meetings.
- Enlarged professional network and improved future scientific career perspective in academia and the private sector.

For further information on the PIPgen network, please visit <https://pipgen.eu/>



