



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.



# Clinical researcher

## Infection in Immunocompromised Pediatric Patients

VHIR offers vacancy/vacant position for Clinical Researcher within the VHIR as a partner of the Zikaction consortium funded by the DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION of the EU Commission for the H2020 Call “Addressing the urgent research gaps against the Zika virus and other emerging threats in Latin America”. More information about our group can be found in [www.penta-id.org](http://www.penta-id.org) or at [http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/206838\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/206838_en.html)

### Objectives of the Project:

To conduct prospective cohort studies in ZIKV-affected countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean in order to:

- a. Assess the association between ZIKV infection in pregnancy and adverse pregnancy and fetal/infant outcomes, including fetal demise, in utero growth restriction, microcephaly and other infant defects, and investigate factors that may modify such outcomes, such as previous, recent or current co-infections with dengue virus (DENV) and/or chikungunya virus (CHKV)
- b. Estimate the risk of vertical transmission of ZIKV by gestational age and identify risk factors for transmission including maternal characteristics (e.g. symptomatic ZIKV infection, primary or recurrent infection), infant and viral factors, and evaluate the presence of ZIKV in breastmilk
- c. Estimate incidence of ZIKV infection in pregnancy and in the postnatal period in endemic and emerging/established epidemic situations and describe risk factors and clinical presentation, including the incidence of neurological disorders
- d. To develop harmonized case definitions for congenital ZIKV infection, to define the natural history of congenital infection and postnatally acquired, symptomatic paediatric infection, and to explore the feasibility of developing systems for longer-term follow-up of children with congenital ZIKV to allow future monitoring of late sequelae
- e. To use animal models to investigate the timing and mechanisms of ZIKV vertical transmission and to assess the causal role of ZIKV infection during pregnancy on fetal malformation and other adverse pregnancy outcomes
- f. To develop ZIKV diagnostics and to establish clinical algorithms optimised for rapid diagnosis of ZIKV in pregnant women, infants and children, supported by clinical data
- g. To develop and implement a strategy for communication, training, data-sharing and sustainable surveillance and research in partnership with all other EU funded ZIKV consortia, as well as other relevant national and international stakeholders, in order to facilitate the geographic and scientific expansion of activities during the course of the project, rapid dissemination and exploitation of findings, and maintenance of activities in the future
- h. To develop and implement harmonized practices for conducting laboratory and observational studies of arboviruses and other infectious disease in Latin America in close collaboration with all other EU funded ZIKV consortia.



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.**

## JOB DESCRIPTION

### Education and qualifications:

#### Required:

- Master of Tropical Medicine and International Health.
- Paediatrics speciality and more than 15 years of experience in general paediatrics.
- Medicine and Surgery.

#### Preferred:

- Master of Epidemiology.
- Experience in Tropical Medicine in Latin American countries, mainly in Brazil.
- English and Portuguese.

### Experience and knowledge:

- At least 15 years of paediatric research experience.
- Management of databases and knowledge of statistical analysis.
- Top record publications in congenital infections.
- Experience in Tropical Medicine clinical work in Spain and tropical countries.

### Main responsibilities and duties:

- Principal investigator/Work Package leader for Paediatric Clinical studies ZIKA-PED: development and implementation of congenital and acquired paediatric infection studies.
- Supervising the development of research clinical studies in our sites in Jamaica, Costa Rica, Brazil, Argentina and Haiti.
- Work Package co-leader for ZIKA-COLLAB: creating and maintaining management structures and communications activities shared with all EU funded ZIKV consortia and ensuring ethical and regulatory compliance of all activities across consortia.

### Labour conditions:

- Disponibility to travel to Latin American countries over the next 52 months.
- Part-time contract for a total of 32.5 h/week during 52 months and an annual gross income salary according to value.
- Working location at Vall d'Hebron Institut de Recerca.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae and a cover letter with the reference "Zikaction" to the following email addresses: [psoler@vhebron.net](mailto:psoler@vhebron.net) and [seleccio@vhir.org](mailto:seleccio@vhir.org) before 31-12-2016.

