



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.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

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**).

VHIR embraces Equality and Diversity. As reflected in our values we work toward ensuring inclusion and equal opportunity in recruitment, hiring, training, and management for all staff within the organization, regardless of gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability or race.

Post-doctoral researcher

Liver disease unit / microbiology research group

VHIR offers vacancy/vacant position for a PhD researcher within the liver disease unit of the microbiology research group. This job consists in providing experimental support, data analysis and writing of scientific manuscripts, related to a project aimed at studying Hepatitis B (HBV) and D (HDV) viruses quasispecies by next-generation sequencing (NGS), and to design and test *in vitro* silencing strategies. In addition, the candidate will also test new delivery systems for optimizing the efficiency of these silencing strategies.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Education and qualifications:

Required:

- Possess a PhD related to biosciences. Or possess a degree related to biosciences and being about to obtain a PhD related to biosciences.
- Possession of a PhD not related to biosciences will not be assessed.

Desired:

- Additional training (courses, seminars...) in flow cytometry or other techniques related to cell culture, demonstrated by the corresponding certificates of achievement.
- Additional training (courses, seminars...) in NGS Illumina platforms (preparation of amplicon libraries, handling of the platform...), demonstrated by the corresponding certificates of achievement.

Experience and knowledge:

Required:

- Experience in setting up and optimizing molecular biology techniques, such as PCR, quantitative PCR, *in vitro* transcription and plasmids recombination.



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- Having a proved experience (publications and certificates obtained during training courses or seminars) in NGS, especially applied in studying viral quasispecies.
- Experience in cellular biology, with special focus on viral infection modeling (infection, transfection, and immunofluorescence).

Desired:

- It will be important having experience in the study of viral hepatitis quasispecies, especially the HBV and HDV. This experience should be proven by authoring / co-authoring relevant bibliography (journal articles, abstracts presented in national or international congresses) related to this subject.
- Experience in the use of the NGS platform MiSeq (Illumina), will be particularly well valued. Experience with MinION platform will also be considered.
- Experience in testing *in vitro* and/or designing directed gene therapies will also be valued, especially by having authored or co-authored journal articles, or abstracts presented in national or international congresses.

Main responsibilities and duties:

To collaborate in developing a competitive project lead by the group, aimed to study HBV and HDV quasispecies, and use the obtained data to design and produce new gene therapy strategies to silence expression of these viruses. In addition, the candidate will test new delivery systems such as nanoparticles. This includes:

- To prepare amplicon libraries for analyzing HDV or HBV quasispecies by NGS through the MiSeq platform and contribute to setting the library preparation for the analysis of the viral quasispecies at full genome with MinION platform.
- Collaboration with the subsequent bioinformatics analysis and interpretation of the sequencing data obtained to design silencing molecules against HBV and HDV viruses.
- To perform *in vitro* dose-response studies to evaluate silencing strategies toxicity, efficacy and effective concentrations.
- Contribution in testing a system based on nanoparticles to promote the delivery of designed molecules for their future application in further preclinical studies.
- Writing scientific manuscripts for publication of results obtained in relation to the project.

Labour conditions:



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- Full-time position: 40h/week.
- Starting date: June 7th 2023.
- Gross annual salary: 24,785.40 € (consistent with our Collective Agreement pay scale)
- Contract: *linked to project*

What can we offer?

- Incorporation to Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR), a public sector institution that promotes and develops the biomedical research, innovation and teaching at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital (HUVH), the biggest hospital of Barcelona and the largest of Catalan Institute of Health (ICS).
- A scientific environment of excellence, highly dynamic, where high-end biomedical projects are continuously developed.
- Continuous learning and a wide range of responsibilities within a stimulating work environment.
- Individual training opportunities.
- Flexible working hours.
- 23 days of holidays + 9 personal days.
- Flexible Remuneration Program (including dining checks, health insurance, transportation and more)
- Corporate Benefits: platform through which you can obtain significant discounts on travel, culture, technology, gastronomy, sports... among many others.

How to apply:

Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae and a cover letter with the reference "Post-doc, viral hepatitis" to the following email addresses: david.tabernero@ciberehd.org and seleccio@vhir.org