

## DAVID GARCÍA-DORADO 2025 CALL

The Vall d'Hebron Hospital Campus (VH Campus) brings together the ideal conditions to be able to develop high-level translational research: large volume of highly complex pathology, professionals of proven and internationally recognized excellence, specialized health training programs that are chosen by the best residents of the state, and a Research Institute (VHIR) that is committed to opening new Research lines. The VH Campus' commitment to strengthening research translates into a training programme that includes specific, mandatory and optional courses for our resident staff, as well as the encouragement and reinforcement to participate in research activities.

In this context, the Post-FSE Carles Margarit and David García-Dorado fellowships have been created so that residents who have shown their interest in research can complete the projects started during their residency. This is an optimal way to open new avenues to translational research, without having to interrupt the care part of its specialization, since these grants will be compatible with a partial dedication to it. Carles Margarit call offers 3 contracts lasting one year to 3 researchers who have completed their FSE program and the best of these 3, will receive a David García-Dorado fellowship to continue developing their research for two more years within the framework of a doctoral program. The Garcia-Dorado fellowship is partially funded through donations from [Amics del VHIR](#).

### 1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the David García-Dorado fellowship is to offer a two-year contract for the realization of a research project and/or the doctoral thesis. The awardee will be selected mainly based on the activity related to the research that the applicant developed during the Carles Margarit grant.

This two-year contract will combine 50% research and clinical care activity, in accordance with the responsible person of the resident's speciality. The best candidacy will be chosen according to the criteria established in this call.

This grant does not imply any commitment to subsequent contracting the person awarded by the institution.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates must meet the following requirements before the deadline of the call:

- Have finished the previous Carles Margarit 2024 fellowship.
- To have obtained a favourable assessment in the final report of the Carles Margarit 2024 fellowship by the Evaluation Commission.
- To have a doctoral degree or to be enrolled in the academic supervision of the doctoral programme at the time of acceptance of the grant.

### 3. EVALUATION PROCESS

In April 2015, VHIR was recognized with the accreditation “HR Excellence in Research” of the European Commission (also known as “HRS4R”). In 2021 the HR Excellence in Research seal was renewed. This accreditation is based on the “European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code)” and obtaining the seal of HR Excellence in Research ensures that VHIR integrates into its human resources policies the 40 principles of the Charter & Code, based on a customized action plan/HR Strategy.

Our Recruitment and Selection Policy is based on the OTM Strategy (Open, Transparent and Merit-based recruitment) and in line with the principles defined in the OTM-R procedure ([VHIR Recruitment Policy for an Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers](#)).

**VHIR Internal Evaluation Committee** (Comisió d'Avaluació Interna, CAI) will evaluate and prioritize the candidates' applications based on the assessment expressed in the follow-up reports obtained during the one-year Carles Margarit 2024 fellowship and according to the curricular merits achieved together with the research project planned for the next two years of the current grant.

In the event that a candidate who wants to apply for a David García-Dorado call, was on maternity/paternity/medical leave during the Carles Margarit contract, the follow-up reports to be evaluated will proportionally contemplate the curricular merits achieved during this period, together with the research project planned for the two years of duration of the grant.

The Evaluation Committee will evaluate and prioritize the candidates' applications based on the following selection criteria (100 points maximum):

1. **Curricular merits (0 - 50 points):**
  - **Publications** (0-30 points).
  - Participation in **workshops, congresses, and/or conferences** (0-15 points).
  - **Dissemination activities** (5 points).
2. **Scientific proposal (0 - 50 points):** including scientific-technical quality, feasibility and capacity of the project to generate improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

*For a more detailed information, please review Annex 1 "Evaluation Criteria".*

### 4. DOCUMENTATION TO SUBMIT

Applications must be formalised by the applicant in his/her own name and interest and must be submitted by email to [ajuts@vhir.org](mailto:ajuts@vhir.org), within the period established in Clause 5 of the present call.

The candidate's application must be accompanied by the following documentation numbered and named as indicated:

1. **Excel Template** attached to the dissemination email. The name of this document must be: "1.GD\_Excel\_Template\_Surname".

2. PDF of the first page, and eventually the page containing the authorship of the top **10 selected articles** of the candidate. If it is an accepted publication, PDF that proves the acceptance of the publication. The name of this document must be: "2.GD\_Publications\_Surname".
3. PDF with all accredited **workshops, congresses and/or conferences**. Only official certificates of oral communications that have been made prior to the deadline for submitting applications will be evaluated. In the event that the certificate does not include an oral communication, the conference programme must be provided. The name of this document must be: "3.GD\_Congresses\_Surname".
4. PDF with all accredited **dissemination activities**. Only official certificates of the different activities that have been made prior to the deadline for submitting applications will be evaluated. The name of this document must be: "4.GD\_Dissemination\_Activities\_Surname".
5. **Research project to be developed** by the candidate during the period of enjoyment of the grant using the template provided in the dissemination email (maximum two pages for one side, Calibri 11, line spacing 1.5, normal margins). The name of this document must be: "5.GD\_Scientific\_proposal\_Surname".
6. **Tasks and timeline** that the candidate will perform (maximum two pages for one side, Calibri 11, line spacing 1.5, normal margins). Description of the tasks and timeline of their realization. The name of this document must be: "6.GD\_Timeline\_Surname".
7. **Report of the Evaluation Committee** at the end of Carles Margarit fellowship. The name of this document must be: "7.GD\_report\_Surname".
8. If the candidate has the PhD, it must be accredited. If not, provide a document that proves the enrolment in a doctoral programme at the time of acceptance of the grant. The name of this document must be: "8.GD\_enrollment\_Surname".

For the evaluation of the candidacies and for the resolution of the claims against the provisional and final lists of candidates, **it will be considered solely and exclusively those documents provided by the candidates together with their application**. The responsible unit will review the documentation to identify possible errors in proposals. **Amendments required by the responsible unit can be submitted during the first 48 hours after the deadline**. After the 48 hours-period, amendment of errors and/or omissions in the submission of documentation will not be admissible.

Each candidate will only be able to submit one application. The submission of more than one application will mean the rejection of all of them.

The submission of the application implies full acceptance of these terms and conditions.

## 5. DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Candidates may submit their applications until April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 at 14h via email to [ajuts@vhir.org](mailto:ajuts@vhir.org) with the following subject: **"Garcia-Dorado 2025 Call – Name of candidate"**.

Once received, an email will be sent to candidates confirming reception. The responsible unit will screen applicants against the requirements of the call to identify those applicants who do not meet the requirements, as well as suitability of the documents provided for the application.

## 6. RESOLUTION AND CLAIMS

Once all the presented applications have been evaluated and rated, the Evaluation Committee will issue and publish through the Internal Strategy Unit a provisional list of selected candidates.

A period of 2 working days will be opened for allegations. Those candidates who wish to formulate an allegation should send it to [ajuts@vhir.org](mailto:ajuts@vhir.org). Claims will only be considered valid when sent through this channel and within the established deadline.

The Evaluation Commission and the Legal Directorate will resolve the allegations based on reasoned criteria, within a maximum of 2 working days from the end of the period to receive allegations.

Once the allegations have been resolved, the final resolution will be published, and a 2 working days' period will be opened for appeal to the VHIR Internal Scientific Committee (CCI).

The CCI will be responsible for resolving the appeal against the final list based on its own regulations. The CCI resolution will not be susceptible to any other appeal.

## 7. ACCEPTANCE OF THE FELLOWSHIPS AND INCORPORATION

The acceptance of the fellowship will be formalized through the signing of the corresponding employment contract once the Carles Margarit fellowship has been completed.

Extension of the incorporation up to 4 months may be granted if the candidate:

- a) Has been on maternity or paternity leave;
- b) Has been taking care of children under six years of age, persons with physical, mental or sensory disabilities, or adults over 65 years of age who depend on the beneficiary and require special dedication;
- c) Has suffered a serious illness or accident with a medical leave equal to or greater than six months.

If the beneficiary does not sign the contract during the established period, the right to the fellowship will be lost.

In the event of a voluntary resignation within the first 6 months of the contract, the CCI may agree to grant the following candidate in strict order of the final resolution list. In the event that the person on the waiting list is awarded, she/he must be enrolled in a doctoral program. The new candidate will only be eligible for the remaining time of the initial contract.

## 8. ECONOMIC AND WORKING CONDITIONS

The Garcia-Dorado fellowship is partially funded through donations from [Amics del VHIR](#). The candidate will receive an annual gross salary of € 45.515,09. The specific contractual modality will be determined by VHIR HR Management Unit. This contract allows the combination of research activity

and patient care activity at 50%, in accordance to the responsible person. Thus, the awarded candidate will sign a contract with the Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron.

The contract may be continued in the period established by the grant in the event that the person obtains the PhD title before the end of the fellowship.

The possibility of requesting an interruption of the fellowship and its consequent extension is contemplated in the following cases:

- a) Permission periods derived from maternity or paternity, adoption, or reception purposes enjoyed in accordance with the protected situations set out in the General Social Security Regime. An extension will be applied in weeks equal to the number of weeks of leave enjoyed by each child.
- b) Temporary disability due to serious illness or accident of the applicant with medical leave equal to or greater than three months. An extension equivalent to the discount enjoyed will be applied.
- c) Temporary disability during pregnancy. An extension will be applied in weeks equal to the number of weeks of leave enjoyed by each child who will accumulate, if applicable, the extension collected in section a) above.
- d) Attention to people in a situation of dependency, in accordance with the provisions of Law 39/2006, of December 14th, on the promotion of personal autonomy and care for people in a situation of dependency. An extension will be applied in weeks equal to the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional caregiver.

This fellowship is not compatible with regular teaching activities, except for remunerations for the participation as a speaker at a symposia and/or congress.

## **9. GRANT MONITORING**

The awardee of the grant must submit a report of their activity at the end of each year to the Evaluation Commission in order to assess the development of the presented project and establish an appropriate use of the fellowship. The responsible unit will request the report from the candidates. In the event that the Evaluation Committee determines that the progress is insufficient, it will issue an unfavourable report justified within 15 days of the submission of the report. Against this report, the beneficiary of the grant may appeal to the VHIR Direction within 5 calendar days from the notification of the Evaluation Commission Report. If within five days of receiving the claim, the VHIR Direction ratifies the criterion of the Evaluation Committee by issuing an unfavourable final resolution, the contract that binds the beneficiary of the grant with VHIR will be resolved, and no right towards the contract corresponding to the time not enjoyed will be generated.

## **10. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

Rights and obligations of the beneficiary of the contract are:

- a. Guarantee the truthfulness of the data provided in their application and accept that any negligent or guilty falseness in them will lead to the exclusion of the candidacy from the selection process.
- b. In the event that the candidate is finally chosen, he or she can accept or reject the grant within the period established in the call.

If the person accepts the fellowship and joins VHIR:

- c. Sign the contract previously indicated and receive the applicable gross annual salary.
- d. To be considered VHIR's employee and researcher for all intents and purposes.
- e. To use the services offered by VHIR and to participate in all its activities in accordance with its internal regulations, as a result of his/her researcher condition.
- f. The ownership of those patents and utility models and any other industrial and/or intellectual property rights obtained through the research work carried out by the beneficiary will correspond to VHIR. Nevertheless, the researcher may enjoy the copyright and property rights derived from his/her research activity as established by both VHIR in force regulations and current legislation.
- g. The beneficiary of the contract will specifically agree to comply with VHIR regulations, in particular with those matters regarding data protection, professional ethics, public procurement and, in general, on any other relevant aspect related to the Foundation.
- h. Candidates must enrol on the doctoral studies programme in the first official enrolment.
- i. Any publication or dissemination activity taken by the candidate must include the acknowledgement of the present fellowship.
- j. The host PI and the candidate commit to involve the candidate in institutional activities if the VHIR's Direction requires so, including, but not limited to, participation in the VHIR Scientific Day, *Amics del VHIR* meetings, outreach activities, that may require the presence of the beneficiary.

VHIR's rights and obligations are:

- a. To comply with the rules of the present call.
- b. To provide an employment contract to the beneficiary of this call, using the contractual form determined by the VHIR HR Management, in accordance with its internal regulations applicable.
- c. To comply with the corresponding legal obligations regarding Social Security and Occupational Risk Prevention.
- d. To offer the researcher those VHIR's own services, according to the Foundation's internal regulations.
- e. To inform the researcher of all applicable regulations.

## 11. PERSONAL DATA

By submitting their application, candidates agree to become part of the VHIR's record and files with the aim to manage, and process, both the assessment, granting, awarding, payment and monitoring of the grant, according to the present call.

Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, cancellation or opposition of their data by writing to the VHIR Management (Passeig Vall d'Hebron, 119-129, Edifici Mediterrània, 2a planta, 08035 Barcelona) together with a copy of their ID.

**Dr. Begoña Benito Villabriga**

Director

Vall d'Hebron University Hospital Foundation – Research Institute

Barcelona, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

## Annex 1: Evaluation criteria

Candidate's assessment (50 points)		
Description		Points
<b>Publications</b>	<b>Indexed publications</b> (original articles and reviews). A maximum of 1 review is accepted. Only publications indexed in the JCR of 2023 will be accepted.	<b>Up to 30 points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 points for publications as 1<sup>st</sup> author or corresponding</li> <li>7 points for publications as 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> author</li> <li>2 points for publications as &gt;3<sup>rd</sup> author</li> </ul> <p>In the event that the publications are published in Q1 add 5 points and in Q2 add 3 points for each publication.</p>
<b>Oral communications</b>	Oral communications at congresses <sup>(1)</sup> <sup>(1)</sup> "Congress" is understood as a scientific event organized by a scientific society, therefore, participation in the VHIR Annual Conference will not be taken into account. Posters or poster presentations will not be accepted.	<b>Up to 15 points:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 point for each national oral communication as 1<sup>st</sup> author</li> <li>2 points for each international oral communication as 1<sup>st</sup> author</li> </ul>
<b>Dissemination activities</b>	Broadcast via social media, newspapers, participation in Research Night, scientific workshops, round tables, educational scientific talks in schools, patients' associations, etc...	<b>Up to 5 points.</b>

Scientific Proposal and Timeline (50 points)			
	Description	Evaluation criteria	Points
<b>Scientific Proposal and Timeline</b>	<b>Scientific-technical quality</b>	The hypothesis and degree of competence on the state of knowledge of the subject will be evaluated; novelty, originality, relevance and innovation of the proposal (indispensable to present systematic review of the literature); clarity and concretion in the formulation of the objectives; methodological solvency and methodological adequacy to the proposed objectives.	20
	<b>Feasibility</b>	Work plan, task distribution and timeline; available infrastructures.	20
	<b>Capacity of the project to generate improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases</b>	Applicability in public health and health services will be valued. The impact of the proposal and the complementarity of the proposal with other national, international or regional R+D+I actions will also be valued.	10



