Job opening: MELIS-PSR-INDF-2026-07

Job title: Research technician ref. MELIS-PSR-INDF-2026-07

Date of publication of the job offer: 11/03/26

Research line: Translational Project in RNA Therapeutics for Diabetes

Project and Institution that finance the contract: PID2024-155716OB-I00 / MICIU/AEI /10.13039/501100011033 / FEDER, UE
Title: Unraveling splicing regulatory programs in beta cell failure and diabetes

Job description:

The TransDEvo lab (transdevolab.com) is seeking an ambitious and highly motivated researcher to lead a translational project aimed at developing a novel RNA-based therapeutic strategy for diabetes. This position offers a unique opportunity to work at the interface of RNA therapeutics, pancreatic islet physiology and translational diabetes research, with hands-on exposure to technology transfer, IP strategy and spin-off development. This project is funded by several projects, including an ERC Proof of Concept and a PID grant.

The researcher will establish a screening platform to evaluate antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) modulating alternative splicing in pancreatic beta cells, with the goal to enhance beta cell function and insulin secretion in diabetes. The project includes validation in primary human islets and diabetic mouse models, optimization of beta cell-targeted delivery, and generation of data to support translational advancement. This position offers an exciting opportunity for researchers interested in expanding their profile beyond academia, integrating translational research with innovation management and early-stage spin-off creation.

The TransDEvo Lab is a multidisciplinary team working at the crossroads of genomics, developmental biology, and evolution, with a strong focus on alternative splicing. We combine computational and experimental approaches to study how cell- and tissue-specific transcriptomes are regulated, how they evolve across cell types, and how their disruption contributes to disease. A dedicated research line focuses on transcriptomic regulation in pancreatic islets and its impact on hormone secretion and metabolism.

<u>Key Responsibilities</u>

- In vitro culture and manipulation of beta cell lines and primary human and mouse islets.
- Molecular biology and gene expression analyses (e.g. RT-PCR, cloning, CRISPR-based approaches).
- Cellular assays related to beta cell physiology (e.g. insulin secretion, stress response and viability).
- In vivo studies of glucose metabolism and toxicity using mouse models.

- Data analysis, interpretation and presentation of results.

What we offer

- A dynamic and collaborative research environment.
- Opportunities for professional development and training in tech-transfer and business development.
- Exposure to a broad research program in biomedicine, genomics and evolution.
- Full-time position with a competitive salary based on experience, with opportunities for progression as the project advances.
- Expected start date: As soon as possible.

Information on the minimum requirements:

- High school diploma or Higher Vocational Training (CFGS/FP2 or equivalent) in the field of life sciences or a related area.
- Practical experience in biomedical research laboratory work.
- Experience in cell culture and basic molecular and cell biology techniques.
- Ability to work independently and in a team, with good organizational skills and strong motivation for research.

Other requirements:

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in Biology, Biomedicine, Biotechnology, or related fields.
- Previous experience with primary cell cultures and in vitro disease models, ideally on pancreatic endocrine cells, metabolism and diabetes.
- Experience in gene editing and transcriptional manipulation techniques.
- Experience in animal experimentation.

Expected remuneration: annual gross salary of 29,536.92 € to 36,692.70 € (depending on the candidate's experience and qualifications).

Group and complement*:* from PSR 3U to PSR 2Ñ

Dedication and working time: 35 hours/week (full time)

Type of contract: open-ended contract, according the *RD 32/2021 de 28 de desembre de 2021*; and the *article 23 bis de la Llei 14/2011 d'1 de juny, de la Ciència, la Tecnologia i la Innovació*.

Selection criteria:

1. Academic background: 0-20 points.
2. Professional experience/Appropriateness to the proposed profile: 0-60 points.

3. Other achievements: 0-20 points.

Minimum score to pass the selection process: 80 points.

Selection Committee:

President: MIQUEL JONÀS JUAN MATEU

Member 1: MANUEL IRIMIA MARTÍNEZ

Member 2: BERTA ALSINA ESPAÑOL

Information on the application process: send an email with a copy of the candidate's curriculum vitae, a motivation letter and the contact details of at least one referee, indicating the **reference MELIS-PSR-INDF-2026-07** in the subject line.

Contact: Applications should be sent to addresses <recruitment.melis@upf.edu>, <jonas.juan@upf.edu> and <manuel.irimia@upf.edu>.

Deadline to submit applications: 21/03/2026

Website (general project information; the selection process is not conducted through the website): transdevolab.com