



AntiHelix: "DNA helicases in genome maintenance: from molecular and cellular mechanisms to specific inhibitors as potential drugs"

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ETN programme G.A. N° 859853**

Call for Applications

for the assignment of **2 PhD** positions (level: early-stage researcher - ESR1) to be enrolled at IBBC - CNR, Via P. Castellino, 111, 80131- Napoli, Italy.

The offered positions will start in February/March 2020 and last three years. The 2 recruited ESRs will be enrolled in the PhD school in "Molecular Biosciences" of the *Università della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli* (UVAN). They will participate in an exciting multidisciplinary research programme that will enhance their career perspectives in both the academic and non-academic sector. In addition to their individual projects, the recruited ESRs will benefit from a dedicated training programme consisting of local and network wide training activities aimed at improving their scientific knowledge and transferable skills.

The AntiHelix consortium includes the following 9 European institutions as Beneficiaries: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Naples, Italy; Elettra - Sincrotrone Trieste SCpA, Trieste, Italy; University of Copenhagen, Denmark; VU University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; University of Sheffield, United Kingdom; University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany; Lead Discovery Center GmbH, Dortmund, Germany; Edelris SAS, Lyon, France; Lumicks BV, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

The AntiHelix program is coordinated by Francesca M. Pisani (Istituto di Biochimica e Biologia Cellulare - CNR, Naples, Italy; <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/224674/factsheet/en>).

Research projects

The 2 proposed projects are the following:

ESR research projects:

Project # 1: Investigating structure-function relationships of the DDX11 DNA helicase

Keywords: Biochemistry; Molecular Biology; Cell Biology

Project # 2: Identification of novel DDX11, FANCI and RECQ4 interaction partners by proteomic studies

Keywords: Biochemistry; Proteomics; Biophysics

Benefits

- 3-year full-time employment contract in accordance with the rules of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/careers_en.htm). ESRs will receive a Monthly Living Allowance plus a Mobility Allowance compliant with the applicable EC Marie Skłodowska - Curie Actions – ITN (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2018-2020/main/h2020-wp1820-msca_en.pdf)
- Enrolment in a local PhD school
- Access to state-of-the-art research and supervision by recognized experts
- Participation in network-wide training activities, schools and conferences
- Secondments periods at other network partners' labs

Requirements

Candidates must comply with the following requirements:

- Have not been resident or have conducted main activity (studies, work, etc.) for more than 12 months within the last three years in Italy
- Be in the first four years of their research career (measured from the date they have obtained a degree that allows them to enrol in a PhD program)
- Be fluent in English

Evaluation criteria and selection procedure

After finding the candidate's eligibility, the evaluation will consist of two selection steps: the first based on the documentation provided by the candidates and the second based on an interview. Within each step, the marks given for each criterion by the reviewers will be used against an established pass/fail threshold.

The following evaluation criteria will be applied respectively in the first and second selection step:

First selection step

Criterion	Mark (min/max)	Comments
Education and previous training	0/5	Points will be assigned based on: level and relevance of their educational and scientific pathway, including participation to congresses and publications (CV). Evaluation of the marks obtained for each exam and of the relevance of the study plan with respect to the AntiHelix PhD projects proposed.
Aptitude to carry out an individual project	0/5	Points will be assigned based on: research work and research experiences (CV), active participation in research projects.
Scientific quality and potential for excellence	0/5	Points will be assigned based on: degree of interest in research and in the research topic, determination in following a research career (from the candidates' motivation letters and CV).
Impact/benefit of training on candidate's individual research career	0/5	Points will be assigned based on: (1) competence on the research topics (CV); and (2) how important could be this position for the development of the students' career.
Reference letters	0/5	Points will be assigned based on the following elements: 1) level of detail, 2) specific information about the candidate, 3) knowledge about the candidate, and 4) profile of the candidate.
Overall Threshold to pass this evaluation step is 3/5 for each criterion		

Second selection step

Criterion	Mark (min/max)	Comments
Scientific knowledge in the field of interest	0/5	Applicants will be invited to describe their scientific profile with respect to the AntiHelix PhD projects proposed.
Research experience in the field of interest	0/5	Applicants will be invited to talk about their competence in and experience during the Master's Degree
Motivation	0/5	Interest of Applicants in pursuing a career in research will be evaluated.
English	0/5	Fluency in English will be evaluated.
Overall vision	0/5	Applicants will be evaluated based on organization, sequencing, content, motivation, vocabulary and word choice, logical and critical thinking, originality and creativity, capacity to work in team emerged during the interview.
Overall threshold to be included in the final ranked list is 3/5 for each criterion		

Composition of the Evaluation Committee

The evaluation procedure will be carried out by AntiHelix Project Coordinator, dealing with the administrative and formal requirements of the applications; 2) a Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC), reviewing the scientific quality of the applications (step 1 and 2) composed of 3 qualified members.

Deadline and procedure for the submission of the application

Deadline for application is 10 November 2019.

All the documents must be sent before the 10 November 2019 through e-mail to: antihelix.management@ibbc.cnr.it.

1. A motivation letter (max. two pages).
2. A CV including the details of education/qualifications, work experience, language skills and other relevant skills; indication of at least two Scientists for reference letters
3. A certified/signed copy of a recent transcript of exams taken with relative mark. A certified/signed copy of Master of Science certificate or a letter from the Head of the degree course stating that the Student is going to finish before the end of 2019
4. Position each candidate is interested in

Indicative date for the interview

The interview of candidates passing the first step of the evaluation procedure will be carried out via Skype starting from the end of November 2019.

Appointment conditions

The candidates with the highest scores will receive a notification of appointment and will be asked to accept the offered position within 15 days of notification.

The selected candidates will have to start their research activity by the 1st of March.

CNR will stipulate a fellowship grant contract.

The overall gross remuneration, will include:

- a living allowance of 3,413.88 €/month that will be paid in monthly instalment
- a mobility allowance of 600 €/month
- a family allowance 500 €/month

For any further information please contact: antihelix.management@ibbc.cnr.it

Dr Alessandro Soluri

Acting Director of IBBC - CNR