PhD Position in Chemical Glycobiology and Cancer Heterogeneity at CIC bioGUNE

We seek a motivated PhD candidate to join "*PreMetaCan AECC*", a cutting-edge project on cancer metabolism and precision medicine. CIC bioGUNE has been awarded €2M by the Scientific Foundation of the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC) ExcellenceProgram – PreMetaCan AECC to tackle systemic tumour-host metabolic interactions and advance precision oncology. As part of grant, the PhD candidate will be integrated in a multidisciplinary project carried out in collaboration between the Chemical Glycobiology Lab (Jesús Jiménez-Barbero, Ana Gimeno) and Cancer Heterogeneity Lab (María dM Vivanco) at CIC bioGUNE, a Severo Ochoa Excellence research centre in Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain.

Description of the project

The selected PhD candidate will work on determining how glycosylation contributes to cancer heterogeneity, stemness and therapy resistance with the final aims being to identify and establish precise markers and improved targeted therapies in breast cancer.
This project represents a multidisciplinary collaboration between both labs, where chemical-based, with a strong focus on NMR as a main technique, and functional-based, using cell and organoid models, views will be combined to decipher the impact of glycosylation in cancer. The PhD candidate will have access to cutting-edge NMR spectrometers, including 600 MHz, 800 MHz, and 1 GHz magnets, FACS instruments and well-equipped chemistry and cell biology labs, working alongside experts in chemical biology, glycobiology and oncology.

Profile of the candidate

We welcome applications from motivated young scientists with a background in Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Medicine, or related fields. Candidates with experience or a strong interest in NMR and/or cancer biology, are particularly encouraged to apply. Given the nature of the project, experience in cell and tissue culture, molecular biology techniques and analytical skills will be considered as strong assets. Candidates must have completed their MSc degree at the time of incorporation, which is expected in the third quarter of 2025.

What We Offer

The successful candidate will receive a full-time PhD contract and access to state-of-the-art facilities, including high-field NMR and LCMS technologies. The research will be conducted in a multidisciplinary and highly collaborative environment, providing extensive training in molecular recognition techniques and cancer cell biology. This position is an opportunity to contribute actively to an emerging research area while receiving cutting-edge training in NMR & Molecular Recognition, complex cell culture systems, and cancer glycobiology. The student will also participate in local and international collaborations in the fields of cancer metabolism and precision oncology.

Application Details

Motivated candidates should submit an application including (i) a detailed CV, (ii) a cover letter describing your research goals, and (iii) contact details for two references.

Applications should be submitted via the form available at https://www.cicbiogune.es/job-offers-form, and indicating 42101 as reference.

For further details, please contact Dr. María dM Vivanco (Cancer Heterogeneity Lab) and Dr. Ana Gimeno (Chemical Glycobiology Lab).

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