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Object: Selection notice for the awarding of n. 1 annual post-doctoral University research grant - Financial year 2023 for carrying out research activities for the Competition Sector 06/A4 - Pathological Anatomy - Scientific Director Prof. Stefano La Rosa

THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT

- Given article no. 22 of the Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, on research grants;
- Given the Decree of the Ministry for Education, University and Research no. 102 of 9 March 2011, which establishes the minimum gross annual amount for research grants;
- Given the Regulations for the Assignment of Research Grants (hereafter the Regulations) issued by Rectoral Decree no. 903 of 24 July 2013, latest amendments issued by Rectoral Decree no. 2021 of 18 December 2017, effective as of 3 January 2018;
- Given the (DM 336/2011 - DM 159/2012) concerning the determination of the insolvency sectors, grouped into insolvency macro-sectors, pursuant to art. 15 of Law 30 December 2010, n. 240
- Given the Law n. 14 of 24 February 2023;
- Having seen Law 30 December 2010, n. 240 art. 24 amended by Law no. 79/2022;
- Having seen the Legislative Decree 29 December 2022 n. 198 relating to urgent provisions regarding legislative deadlines;
- Considering that with the resolution of the Board of Directors of 16 December 2022, the forecast budget for the 2023 financial year was approved;
- Having seen the Rectoral Decree n. 317 of 24 March 2023 and the resolution of the Board of Directors of 5 April 2023,
- Considering that with Rectoral Decree n. 433/2023 of 19 April 2023, the "Financing proposals for n. 28 annual post-doctoral University research grants - Financial year 2023";
- Having seen the D.R. Rep. 1030 of 2023 for the approval of documents relating to the rankings of the announcement "Financing proposals for 28 annual post-doctoral University research grants - Financial year 2023";
- Considering that the project presented by Prof. Stefano La Rosa, as a post-doctoral research grant entitled "Identification of theragnostic biomarkers useful to select patients with high-grade neuroendocrine neoplasms to treat with immunotherapy" is among those financed;
- Given the acceptance of the financing by Prof. La Rosa;





- Recalling the Resolution of the Council of the Department of Medicine Technological Innovation Rep. n. 44/2023 Prot. n. 242 of 13 October 2023 which approves the activation of a selection for the award of a grant for carrying out post-doctoral University research activities. Exercise 2023 entitled "Identification of theragnostic biomarkers useful to select patients with high-grade neuroendocrine neoplasms to treat with immunotherapy" in Area 06 - Medical Sciences, Competition Sector 06/A4- Pathological Anatomy, Scientific-Disciplinary Sector MED/08- Pathological Anatomy, Macro-sector 06/A - Pathology and Laboratory Diagnostics, lasting 1 year, under the guidance of the Research Manager Prof. Stefano La Rosa;
- Ascertained that the amount of the grant referred to in this announcement is financially covered by the annual postdoctoral University Fund - Financial Year 2023;

DECREES

Art. 1 - Object

A selection procedure by qualifications and interview is hereby opened for the assignment of n. 1 departmental research grants with a duration of 1 year for the academic recruitment field the sector competition of 06 / M1 - General and Applied Hygiene, Nursing Sciences and Medical Statistics - Scientific and Disciplinary Sector MED/01 - Medical Statistics, Macrosector 06/M – Public Health in the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

Research Title: "Identification of theragnostic biomarkers useful to select patients with high-grade neuroendocrine neoplasms to treat with immunotherapy".

Research Project: "Digestive high grade neuroendocrine neoplasms (NENs) represent a heterogeneous group of malignant proliferations characterized by proliferative grade 3 (G3: mitotic index >20 mitoses/ 2mm^2 and/or Ki67 index $>20\%$) and either well differentiated (G3-NETs) or poorly differentiated (NECs) morphology. Therapy of NEC is mainly based of platinum-based chemotherapy although with limited survival improvement, whilst the therapeutic approach to G3-NET is still matter of debate without generally accepted and validated protocols. In this complex scenario, immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) therapy may play a role in digestive G3-NENs management, although it still remains to be elucidated. For this reason, the identification of new theragnostic biomarkers is needed to improve clinical management. The identification of PD-L1 and mismatch repair (MMR) proteins (MLH1, hPMS2, hMSH2, hMSH6) expression and the identification targetable molecular alterations represent the first step to select patients who may potentially respond to immunotherapy (IT). With this aim, we will select a series of clinically and morphologically well characterized high grade NENs (20 G3-NETs and 20 NECs) that will be immunohistochemically investigated for PD-L1, and MMR proteins expression and will be tested with the NanoString Technology to evaluate gene expression profile including more than 700 genes involved in the main biological pathways of human immunity. The expected results include the possibility to stratify patients in different categories potentially responder to IT".



This research will be carried out in the Department of the Medicine and Technological Innovation of the University of Insubria

Research Coordinator: Professor Stefano La Rosa.

Art. 2 – General requirements

Scholars with a professional scientific curriculum suitable for carrying out the research activity envisaged by this selection can participate in the selection and possess one of the following qualifications:

- Master's Degree in Biology (obtained pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/2004) or equivalent qualification obtained under previous systems;
- PhD in Biomedical field (**mandatory requirement**)

A similar academic qualification obtained abroad and recognized as equivalent to the Italian qualification by the competent academic authorities.

The following constitute **preferential requirements**:

- Master's Degree course in Biology Applied to Biomedical Research;
- documented experience in the use and optimization of molecular biology methods applied to the study of tumors;
- skills in the use of parallel sequencing of tumor DNA and in the use of NanoString technology methods

Candidates must have no criminal record.

Applicants in possession of degrees earned abroad, who have not obtained the declaration of equivalence, must enclose in the application form a translation into Italian and a declaration of value of the foreign degree by a qualified Italian Diplomatic or Consular Representative in the country of origin, according to the Laws in force on the subject.

The degree earned abroad can be declared admissible, by the Judging Commission, only for purposes related to the selection.

Qualifications must be possessed on the date of closure established for the presentation of the application form.

Those who have already received grants according to law n. 240 of 30 December 2010 for more than 6 years, except for the period corresponding to a PhD without scholarship within the maximum limit of the legal duration of the related course, cannot participate in the selection. For the purpose of the duration of the grant, periods spent on maternity or sick leave are not relevant according to the current regulations.

Art. 3 – Incompatibility



Personnel employed in Universities and in other public institutions can participate in the selection procedure, as of article no. 22, paragraph 1 of the Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, but must resign should they obtain the research grant.

Civil Servants from different institutions from those mentioned in the paragraph above can receive the research grant, but must be placed on unpaid leave for the duration of the research grant.

The research grant is not compatible with enrolment in undergraduate courses, graduate courses, PhD courses with scholarship or medical specialization schools, in Italy or abroad, and with enrolment in other Schools/Courses which require mandatory attendance and prevent carrying out the activities established in the contract.

Relatives and in-laws within and including the fourth degree of a professor who is a member of the Department or the Structure which requested the Research Grant, or of the Rector, Director General or of a member of the University's Board of Directors cannot participate in the selection procedure for the assignment of a research grant.

The research grant cannot be cumulated with other kinds of granted scholarships, with the exception of those awarded by national or foreign institutions to aid, with periods of study abroad, the education of the Research Fellows. The research grant cannot be cumulated with subordinate work, with contracts of collaboration or with income deriving from freelance activities conducted in a continuous way.

Art. 4 – Application and deadlines

The application for participation in the selection, as well as qualifications held, the documents and publications voted helpful for the competition **must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, via computer**, using the computer application dedicated to page: <https://pica.cineca.it/uninsubria/dimit2023-adr003>

The computer application will necessarily require the possession of an e-mail address in order to perform the self-registration system. The candidate will have to enter all data required for the production of the application and attach the documents in PDF format. You can attach a maximum of n. 30 documents for publications and n. 30 documents for other qualifications to evaluate, and maximum 30 Mb.

The application form must be completed in all its parts, as indicated in the electronic procedure, and must include:

- A scientific and professional CV
- A copy of a valid ID card

No other forms of submission of applications or useful documentation for participation in the procedure are allowed.

Within the application deadline, the procedure can be saved in draft mode. The date of electronic submission of the request for participation in the selection is certified by the computer system through an automatic receipt, which will be automatically sent via e-mail.

At the end of the submission period, the system will no longer allow access and submission of electronic forms.

Every application will be assigned an identification number, which, together with the selection procedure code in the application information, must be specified for any subsequent communication.

The process of compiling and sending electronic application must be complete **no later than 12:00 pm November, 7 2023.**



The submission of the application form must be completed and concluded as follows:

- **Sign your document on the ConFirma server**
To digitally sign the document, you must have specific hardware which is compatible with the ConFirma service (for example, smart card or USB device with a digital certificate of subscription issued by an accredited certifying body). After signing, it will be possible to download the signed PDF file
- **Digitally sign the document on your electronic device**
- To digitally sign the document, you must have specific hardware (for example, smart card or USB device with a digital certificate of subscription issued by an accredited certifying body) and a digital signature software with which you may create, starting from the PDF file of the document downloaded from this site, a signed pdf.p7m file. The pdf.p7m file must be uploaded again to the website
- **Sign the application (no digital signature)**
If you can't sign the document digitally as specified in the other sections, you need to download the PDF file of the application, print it, sign it, scan it in a PDF file and upload it again to the website.

ATTENTION: a copy of a valid ID card must be attached as the last page of the scanned PDF, after the application form pages (this step can be skipped if a copy of the document was uploaded as an attachment of the application form).

Applications without the candidate's signature will be declared inadmissible.

Foreign nationals who reside in Italy can take advantage of the self-certification above, when substantiating states, facts and personal qualities certifiable by public or private Italian entities (article no. 3 of the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 445 / 2000).

Foreign nationals who do not reside in Italy cannot use in any way the institution of self-certification (article no. 3 of the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 445/2000).

Qualifications, certifications and publications which do not comply to the abovementioned indications will not be taken into account. In the application of the rules on self-certification, the University will verify the accuracy of the substitutive declarations and self-certifications pursuant to the Decree of the President of the Republic no. 445/2000.

Only the documents received by the final deadline indicated in the call will be considered valid. The addition of qualifications earned or presented after the expiration date of the deadline of the call will not be admissible to the selection procedure.

Reference to documents and publications previously submitted for participation in other selection procedures in this or other Administrations is not allowed.

Candidates must provide at their expense to the restitution of qualifications and publications sent to participate in the selection procedure, prior to agreements with the Research and Internationalization Office of the University of Insubria.



Art. 5 - Information on the implementation of legislation on the prevention of corruption

The University, in implementation of the legislation on the subject, adopted its three-year plan for the prevention of corruption and appointed the Head of the Prevention of Corruption.

The three-year plan is published on the institutional website at <http://www4.uninsubria.it/on-line/home/naviga-per-tema/amministrazione-trasparente/articolo4719.html>

Any reports can be sent to: anticorruzione@uninsubria.it

Art. 6 – Selection Procedure

The selection takes place through a comparative evaluation of the curricula of the candidates who have submitted an application on the basis of qualifications and publications.

The evaluation of the qualifications will take place **on 13 November 2023 at 14:00 am through teams**

The interview will take place remotely **on 20 November 2023 at 13:00 c/o Institute of Pathological Anatomy, via O. Rossi 9, 21100 Varese** and candidates will receive a communication via e-mail (indicated in the application) relating to the score received for the evaluation of titles and publications.

For the evaluation of candidates, the Commission has 70 points, of which:

- for scientific and professional qualifications, including the evaluation of scientific publications: up to a maximum of 40 points;
- per interview: up to a maximum of 30 points;

Candidates who have achieved an overall score of no less than **25/70** in the evaluation of their qualifications and publications will be admitted to the interview.

The ranking will be published on the page relating to the University competition and will have the value of notification to interested parties.

Access to the interview is open to candidates for whom the evaluation of qualifications and publications has been carried out, who have not therefore been excluded for the reasons indicated in art. 7.

For inclusion in the final ranking, after the interview, candidates must have achieved an overall score of no less than **42/70**.

TITLES AND PUBLICATIONS (UP TO 40 POINTS)

- 1) Master's degree in Biology maximum 5/70 and in particular:
 - score 110/110 cum laude 5.0 points;
 - score from 105 to 110 points 3.0;



- score from 99 to 104 points 1.0;

2) PhD thesis in the biomedical field maximum 5 points

3) Master's Degree Course in Biology Applied to Biomedical Research maximum 10 points

4) documented experience in the use and optimization of molecular biology methods applied to the study of tumors maximum 5 points

5) skills in the use of parallel sequencing of tumor DNA and in the use of NanoString technology methods. maximum 5 points

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (UP TO 10 POINTS)

scientific publications maximum 10 points

INTERVIEW (UP TO 30 POINTS)

Following the evaluation of the titles and publications, the committee will send the link to the interview to the e-mail address indicated in the candidate's application.

Failure to appear for the interview is considered an explicit and definitive manifestation of the candidate's will to renounce the selection.

At the conclusion of the works, the Commission will announce the result of the selection and compile a merit ranking.

The final ranking is approved by provision of the Department Director and will be published on the page of the official University Register and on the University website with the value of notification to interested parties.

The merit ranking will be used in the event of withdrawal or termination of the fellowship, upon proposal by the research manager, provided that the proposed period for the contract is not less than one year.

Art. 7 – Exclusion

Candidates are admitted conditionally.

The following imply exclusion from the procedure:

- 1) submission of the application after the expiration date of the call;
- 2) failure to sign the application form;
- 3) lack of participation requirements;
- 4) existence of situations of incompatibility.

Exclusion is provided for with a motivated decision of the Director of the Department and will be communicated to the candidate using the e-mail address provided in the application.



Art. 8 – Withdrawal

Should candidates decide to withdraw from the procedure, they should send the withdrawal form via email to the address indicated above in article no. 4 of this call.

Art. 9 – Collaboration contract

The selection result is communicated to the recipient of the research grant, who will have to sign the private-law contract within a specified period, otherwise they will forfeit. This fixed-term contract does not represent in any way a permanent contract of employment and does not give right to be admitted to permanent positions within the University. The University provides equal opportunities to men and women.

The grant implies carrying out the activities briefly mentioned below at the Department Medicine and Technological Innovation of the University of Insubria and under the supervision of the Research Coordinator Prof. Stefano La Rosa within the research program: “Identification of theragnostic biomarkers useful to select patients with high-grade neuroendocrine neoplasms to treat with immunotherapy”.

The conditions are indicated by the contract and governed by the Regulations.

The position has a duration of 1 year and can be renewed for periods of not less than one year, up to a maximum of a total of six years, including those within different institutions and universities, with the exception of the period in which the grant was received together with a PhD, not exceeding the legal duration of the course.

The contracts referred to in Article no. 24 of Law no. 240/2010, also with different universities and research institutions, as described in paragraph no. 1 of article no. 3 of this call, may in no case exceed twelve years, including non-consecutive ones. For the purposes of the abovementioned contract, periods spent on maternity or sick leave, in accordance with the current regulations, are not considered.

Renewal is still subject to a positive evaluation of the activities by the Department's Board, as well as to availability of budgetary funds.

For non-EU citizens, the grant will start when they have obtained the residence permit for scientific research, and from the actual beginning of the research activity.

Art. 10 - Recruitment and HRS4R

The recruitment of fixed-term researchers (or Established Researchers, using the European definition) will conform to the European Charter for Researchers (ECR), the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (CCR) and the Code of Ethics, code of conduct and principles of research integrity of the University of Insubria, which provide the general framework for the guidelines and requisites for the roles, responsibilities and rights of these positions, thus guaranteeing that selections procedures are open, transparent and meritocratic.

The University of Insubria received the European Quality Award “HRS4R - Human Resources Strategy for Researchers” in February 2019: such certification recognizes organizations their efforts to implement the Charter and Code in their policies and



practice, and identifies the universities and institutions which create and promote a stimulating and encouraging research environment.

Art. 11 – Remuneration

The annual amount of the research grant is of € 19.367,00= inclusive of taxes and which must be paid by the recipient.

The University will provide medical insurance and third-party civil liability.

The amount is tax free according to article no. 4 of the Law no. 476 of 13/08/1984 and is subject, on social security matters, to the regulations according to article no. 2, paragraph 26 and following amendments and additions, of the Law no. 335 of 8/08/1995.

The grant will be paid in monthly instalments.

Art. 12 - Suspension of the contract for maternity and sick leave

The research activity is suspended for maternity leave.

To such a case there apply the provisions of the Decree of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies of 12/07/2007, published in the Official Journal no. 247 of 23/10/07. Sick leave is regulated by article no. 1, paragraph 788 of the Law no. 296 of 27/12/2006 and following amendments and additions.

During the period of mandatory maternity leave, the amount paid by the National Institute for Social Security (INPS), according to article no. 5 of the abovementioned Decree of 12/07/2007, will be integrated by the University to match the total amount of the research grant.

The period of mandatory maternity leave must be made up for after the natural expiration of the contract, as provided by the law, upon decision of the Director of the Department.

Art. 13 – Termination by the recipient of the research grant

The recipient has the right to terminate the relationship, by notifying the Director of the Department with a notice of at least thirty days.

Failure to notify will entail withholding remuneration for a sum related to the period of failed notice.

Art. 14 – Termination of the contract

Should the Research Fellow not continue the activities provided for in the research program without justification or in case of serious and repeated shortcomings, the contract may be terminated upon reasoned request of the research Coordinator, authorized by a resolution of the Department's Board.

The contract is automatically terminated, without prior notice, in the following cases:

- undue failure to commence or undue delay of the activity;
- undue suspension of the activity for a period exceeding 15 days;



- serious infringement of incompatibility, according to article no. 7 of the Regulations.
- negative assessment of the research activity on the part of the Department's Board.

The termination provisions are ordered by the Director of the Department.

Art. 15 – PhD and Master's Degrees

The recipient of the research grant can attend, also in excess and without scholarship, PhD courses, provided that they pass admission tests.

The participation of the recipients of research grants in Master's degrees is incompatible.

Art. 16 – Administrative proceedings

According to Law n. 241 dated 7/08/1990 Dr Roberto Battisti - Administration Office, Department of Medicine Technological Innovation of the, the University of Insubria Via Guicciardini 9, 21100 Varese, Italy e-mail: segreteria.dimit@uninsubria.it. in charge of the administrative proceedings

Art. 17 – Processing of personal data

In applying the Legislative Decree no. 196/2003, the University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by the candidate. All data provided will be handled only for purposes connected to the selection procedure and to the management of the collaboration relationship, with respect to the current regulations as provided for in the attached document.

Art. 18 - Final regulations and publication

For matters not provided for in this call, please refer to the applicable laws and regulations on the subject.

This call will be published on the University's official online Board and on the "Calls" page of the University, of the Ministry of Education, University and Research and of the European Union websites.

Varese, *October 19, 2023*

THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
Prof. Giulio Carcano
Digital signed

DATE OF PUBLICATION ON THE OFFICIAL ONLINE BOARD **on October, 23th 2023**

EXPIRATION DATE OF THE TERMS **on November, 7th 2023**

Responsabile del Procedimento Amministrativo (L. 241/1990): Dr. Roberto Battisti
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