UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

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POSTDOCTORAL CANDIDATE INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A BEATRIU DE PINOS IN NEUROSCIENCES

NEUROSCIENCE

Are you a postdoctoral researcher thinking about your next career move? Beatriu de Pinós grants (BP) are a great option if you are an experienced researcher looking to give your career a boost by working abroad.

Institute of Neurosciences of the University of Barcelona allows you to work in a first class research environment while benefitting from an attractive salary to cover living, travel and family costs.

Group and project information

Applicants will be integrated into the research group "*Neurodegeneration and synaptic dysfunction in Huntington´s Disease*"; (P.I: Silvia Gines).

Motor disturbances are the core symptoms in Huntington´s disease (HD). However, cognitive deficits that often precede by over a decade the motor symptoms, contribute greatly to the patient´s loss of functional independence. Dysfunctional synaptic plasticity in different brain areas is postulated as an underlying mechanism of cognitive disturbances. However, most of this knowledge has been gained in studies only conducted in neurons, with almost no data on the properties of astrocyte-neuron communication. Gliotransmitter release by astrocytes has been reported to impact neuronal activity, and therefore synaptic transmission. On regulating such release, cannabinoid receptor 1 (CB1R) has emerged as a key player. Notably, deficits in CB1R expression and function have been reported in neuronal elements of HD human and mouse brain. We expect to demonstrate that synaptic disturbances in HD are not only due to a neuronal autonomous process, but also to an astrocyte-neuron signaling dysfunction. We anticipate that changes in astroglial CB1R expression and/or function will be fundamental to understanding HD synaptic deficits, opening new rational therapies.

Functions and tasks

To use cellular and animal models of HD to analyze CB1R function in astrocytes and how manipulation of CB1R expression or signaling, by using genetic approaches, modulates hippocampal-dependent HD deficits (animal behavior, biochemistry and cellular techniques, electrophysiology…)

Requirements for candidates

Skills/Qualifications:

- A minimum of two (2) years' post-doctoral experience outside Spain
- Experience in biochemical and celular biology techniques.
- Training and skills in primary cell cultures
- Desirable animal experimentation experience.

Languages:
English: Excellent

Specific Requirements:

- Not having resided or worked in Spain for more than 12 months over the last three (3) years prior to the deadline for submitting applications (11 March).
- Candidates must fulfilled eligibility Beatriu de Pinós criteria.

Working conditions

- Full time temporary contract
- Duration: 3 years
- The amount of the grant for the hiring of research staff is €132,300. This sum finances the cost of each contract over the course of the 3 years of the grant, and includes the remuneration to be received by the research staff and employer's social security contributions.
- Additionally, the grant also has a supplementary amount of €12,000

How to apply

Please submit your CV to Silvia Gines (silviagines@ub.edu); Reference: Beatriu de Pinos Candidate)

Deadline: 1 March 2021