



L-Università
ta' Malta

Office for Human
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& Development

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (Call ID: 183/2022)

Post/s of Full-Time Post-Doctoral Researcher - Research Support Officer III or IV

Project *FibroCanBiome* – “Preclinical and Clinical Evidence on the Alteration of Cannabinoids-Gut Microbiome link in Fibromyalgia: a Proof-of-Concept Study in Malta”

Funded by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR)

Department of Physiology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

1. Applications are invited for a Research Support Officer to carry out duties in relation to the **FibroCanBiome** project funded by the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation (MEYR), in consultation with the University of Malta (UM) and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry (MCCEI) and in which the University of Malta is a collaborator.
2. Applicants should be in possession of a PhD in the area of Neuroscience.

The University of Malta is an Equal Opportunity employer.

3. The selected candidate must be living in Malta for the period of employment and should be an EU citizen or the spouse of an EU citizen.
4. The post is for a period of 24 months. The gross salary per annum for the post will commensurate with the qualifications and experience. Candidates who already hold a Research Support Officer post at the University of Malta will start at their current salary rate in accordance with the salary structure for Research Support Officers. The salary per annum is as follows:
 - Research Support Officer III: initial €31,200 up to €33,280;
 - Research Support Officer IV: initial €41,600.
5. Candidates must upload their covering letter, curriculum vitae, and certificates (certificates should be submitted in English) and contact details of at least two referees **through this form** <https://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/workatum-projects> by not later than **Tuesday, 31st January 2023**.
6. **Late applications will not be considered.**
7. Further information may be obtained from <http://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/recruitment> and should you have any queries, please send us an email on projects.hrmd@um.edu.mt.

Office of the University,
Msida, 21st December 2022

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Further Information

1. The use of medical/recreational marijuana and its legal market size is on the rise worldwide, including in Malta. Medical cannabis has potential benefits for different diseases, but the lack of well-performed biomedical and clinical research has hindered its therapeutic use, including in fibromyalgia (FM). Indeed, conflicting results exist on the use of cannabinoids in FM due to both the variability of medical cannabis products and the wide spectrum of the disease. It has been long suggested that gut microbiota, pain, and many other comorbidities are linked, but till the present day, the potential causal correlations between FM, the gut microbiome, and cannabinoids are unknown. We will use cutting-edge in vivo and in vitro technologies in a fibromyalgia rodent model. These studies will then be translated into a cohort of FM patients to reveal the mechanisms of action of plant and endoCB and prove their translational potential for FM treatment. Further information may be obtained by contacting Professor Giuseppe Di Giovanni at giuseppe.digiovanni@um.edu.mt.
2. The appointee will be expected to undertake the following tasks:
 - a. Execute and analyze behavioral studies in animal models with specific behavioral protocols;
 - b. Performing stereotaxic surgeries;
 - c. developing and implementing in vivo electrophysiological electroencephalography (EEG) protocols to understand neuronal and circuit-level function in both normal and diseased brains;
 - d. train new personnel on in vivo electrophysiology and behaviour techniques;
 - e. produce deliverables and related reports within the stipulated time frames as specified in the project description;
 - f. keep detailed progress reports and abide to all the conditions imposed by the project;
 - g. assist in the dissemination process with the relevant stakeholders;
 - h. attend project internal meetings and consortium meetings;
 - i. travel and attend meetings/conferences as the need arises;
 - j. take part in the submission of EU-funded research proposals to sustain related research beyond the funding of the project; and
 - k. perform any other project-related task as instructed by the project coordinator and key experts.

3. The appointee will be expected to work at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.
4. The selection procedure will involve:
 - a. scrutiny of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application);
 - b. shortlisting; and
 - c. an interview and / or extended interview.
5. The post is for a period of 24 months, which will be subject to a probationary period and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University of Malta which are now or which may hereafter be in force. A potential extension for further 12 months is possible according to availability of funds.

Office of the University,
Msida, 21st December 2022