

EURO-CHOLANGIO-NET COST Action CA18122

**“COST for MSCA” PROGRAM – AVAILABILITY FORM FOR HOSTING LABORATORY**

This availability form has to be mailed to: melissa.kerr@uniroma1.it by **April 30, 2023**

NAME OF HOSTING MENTOR ( <i>last, first, middle, title</i> ) AFFÒ, SILVIA, DR	
INSTITUTION / ORGANIZATION  Name CLÍNIC BARCELONA RESEARCH FOUNDATION-AUGUST PI I SUNYER BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (FRCB_IDIBAPS)  Mailing Address ( <i>street, city, state/province, postal code, country</i> ) CARRER ROSSELLÓ 149-153,08036, BARCELONA, SPAIN	
TELEPHONE / FAX ( <i>country code, area code &amp; extension</i> )	EMAIL ADDRESS saffo@recerca.clinic.cat
TEL:	FAX:
WEBPAGE: <a href="https://www.clinicbarcelona.org/en/idibaps">https://www.clinicbarcelona.org/en/idibaps</a>	

**RESEARCH FIELD** (*please insert here a brief summary of the research interests of your lab*).

The focus of my current research is the investigation of the plasticity and heterogeneity of the tumor microenvironment in primary solid tumors and liver metastasis, with a special focus on cancer-associated fibroblasts and cholangiocarcinoma. Investigating the dynamic plasticity of cancer-associated fibroblasts and tumor cells during cholangiocarcinogenesis, will allow to decipher, dissect, and reprogram these cells toward a therapeutically favourable phenotype, for the development of new combined therapeutic therapies.

**SKILLS** (*please list here the skills – technical and soft – that a potential fellow **could** learn in your lab*)

Supported by national and international funding including the prestigious ERC starting grant awarded in 2022 and guaranteeing time and funding protection until end 2028, in our laboratory we provide the opportunity to develop both technical and soft skills.

Joining our laboratory, the candidate will acquire new technical skills including patient-derived 3D cell cultures (avatar spheroids and organoids), transgenic animal models, primary and metastasis liver tumor models in mice, The Chicken Egg Chorioallantoic Membrane (CAM) Models, induced pluripotent stem cells, highthroughput technologies including spatial transcriptomics, single cell RNA sequencing, Multiome and biocomputational analysis.

The candidate will also develop soft skills including teamwork and communication, thanks to the weekly lab meeting and the participation to national and international conferences as well as lab activities and training courses. The adaptability, critical thinking, time management as well as problem solving capabilities will also be developed with the main goal to accompany the fellow toward the next step in her/his career.

**MENTOR** (please list here your previous experience in mentoring post-doctoral fellows including MSCA fellows)

*Number of PhD students supervised: 3 (2 in Barcelona, Spain and 1 in München, Germany)*

*Number of Postdoctoral Fellow supervised: 2 in NYC at Columbia University, USA.*

*Number of MSCA Fellows supervised: none, but I was myself a MSCA fellow*

*Other (please specify): member of 3 thesis committee*

**INSTITUTION/ORGANIZATION** (please briefly write here the support your Institution/Organization has established for foreign postdoctoral fellows)

IDIBAPS gives support to its foreign researchers when they arrive to Barcelona through the Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU). Catalonia is becoming one of the main knowledge centers in the Mediterranean. To facilitate this process, Barcelona Centre Universitari (BCU) helps foreign researchers in the extra-academic aspects of their life. IDIBAPS has signed an agreement with this initiative, supported by the Government of Catalonia, the Barcelona City Council, the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation and the universities located in Barcelona. This agreement means that, when they arrive to IDIBAPS, foreign researchers can enjoy support services such as:

- Assistance in finding housing suitable to their needs.
- Help in the search for a public or concerted school for their children in the neighborhood they have chosen to live in. At school children will receive a special course to learn Catalan and get used to the new educational system.
- Finding different professional profiles which may be needed when arriving: cleaning, insurance, lawyers, security, documentation, etc..
- Introduction to the cultural life of the city through the BCU Agenda and attending concerts and other entertainments.

The BCU also provides services for those attending conferences held in Barcelona, such as "low cost" housing for fellows, doctoral students or teachers who want to attend a conference to be held in the city.

You can learn more about this initiative on its website: [www.bcu.cat](http://www.bcu.cat).