



1 Doctoral Candidate Position for MSCA Doctoral Network INTRABRAIN

- Applications are invited for one full-time Doctoral Candidate (DC)/PhD student position within the **MSCA Doctoral Network, Intrabrain** - "Nanoplatfroms and Oncolytic viruses for novel cancer immunotherapy strategies of glioblastoma". The project is funded by the EU (Grant Agreement number 101227308).
- **The salary** is competitive and complies with the MSCA Work Programme (Living and Mobility allowance). A conditional Family allowance can be added to the salary.
- **Intrabrain** is an **innovative multinational, multisectorial, and multidisciplinary research and training programme** that aims to create more efficacious vaccines using polymeric nanoparticles and self-assembled nanoplatfroms in combination with modified oncolytic viruses to be used in glioblastoma.
- **The Intrabrain project comprises 14 (DCs) positions** with individual research projects focused on developing efficacious immunotherapy strategies to eradicate glioblastoma.
- The **DC** will be based at the Department of Pharmacy at Università degli Studi "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti – Pescara (G. d'Annunzio University Chieti – Pescara, Italy – Ud'A). He/she will support the following **INTRABRAIN** activities: development of nanoparticle formulations for virus protection and enhanced transfection, with a focus on improving antitumour efficacy in glioblastoma model, under the main supervision of Professor Piera Di Martino. The **DC#4** will focus on (i) formulate PLGA nanoparticles loaded oncolytic virus; (ii) promote transfection of glioblastoma cells; (iii) demonstrate antitumour efficacy to glioblastoma cell lines.
In detail, the candidate will (i) investigate the encapsulation efficacy of an oncolytic virus into PLGA nanoparticles produced under different techniques; (ii) characterise physico-chemically the produced PLGA nanoparticles loaded oncolytic virus; (iii) demonstrate the transfection and antitumor efficacy in glioblastoma cell model.
- The project offers the DC **research and training excellence at the intersection of oncology and immunology**. The partners of Intrabrain are leading research groups in **molecular oncology, immunology, molecular patho-biology, biology and data analysis** and their research institutes actively promote young researchers.
- The 10 academic research groups and 3 partners from the private sector join forces in Intrabrain to create a **platform of intersectoral and multidisciplinary mobility and training**. To complement the academic and scientific goals of the DCs, the project offers **customized research projects, structured interdisciplinary local and network-wide transferable skills training activities**, and secondments **at top-ranking European universities and industry partners**.

Selection process

Applicant candidates interested in the Intrabrain's Doctoral Candidate (DC) position are kindly requested to fill and submit the application form via email. Please send a PDF file containing your application to the following email addresses: ateneo@pec.unich.it, by

specifying the subject: **Expression of Interest – Research Appointment – Department of Pharmacy – INTRABRAIN – GA No. 101227308**

Informal Inquiries

Informal requests for additional information can be sent to Prof. Piera Di Martino at piera.dimartino@unich.it

MSCA-DN eligibility requirements:

- **Doctoral Candidate requirement:** The applicant must not be in possession of a doctoral degree on the first day of employment. Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis, but who have not yet been awarded the doctoral degree are not eligible.
- **Mobility rule:** At the time of recruitment by the recruiting beneficiary G. d'Annunzio University Chieti – Pescara, Italy, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (e.g., work and studies) in the country of their recruiting beneficiary (Italy) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately prior to their recruitment. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not considered.
- **English language:** Network fellows (DCs) must demonstrate that their ability to understand and express themselves in both written and spoken English is sufficiently high for them to derive the full benefit from the network training.
- **Master's Degree in Pharmacy, Chemistry, Materials Science, Medical Biotechnology, and related fields is a plus.**
- **Prior experience in working with nanoparticle formulation and cancer related formulations is considered a plus.**
- Researchers must commit full-time to the research activity, unless authorization is granted by the European Commission for personal or family reasons. They also must carry out exclusively the research activities related to the specified research program, refrain from receiving any additional income beyond what is specified in the call, agree to sign all necessary agreements concerning intellectual property rights and maintain confidentiality in accordance with the regulations of the European Project.

The application must contain the following documents as a single pdf, all provided in English:

- Filled INTRABRAIN DC application form
- Curriculum Vitae (max 2 pages)
- Cover letter (max 1 page): Indicate your motivation to apply for the specific DC position and your skills that are specifically adapted to the chosen topic, providing support evidence to your arguments.
- Certificate of Master's Degree (or equivalent) with transcript of records.
- Proof of English proficiency
- **Recommendation letter(s)** from 2 previous supervisors or employers
- List of publications, if applicable.



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- Manuscript of listed publication, if applicable.
- Work/research experience certificates, if applicable.
- All official certificates should be provided in their original European language or associated official English translation for non-European documents. If you are applying for a country different from your native country, an English supplement of the certificates with transcripts should also be provided.

We appreciate your attention to this requirement and look forward to reviewing your application.

The deadline for applications is 16 October 2026 at 23:59 (Italian time).