Our group at the Unit of Infections and Cancer (UNIC) within the Cancer Epidemiology Research Program (CERP) at the Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO) in Barcelona (Catalonia, Spain) is looking for CANDIDATES to apply for a POSTDOC FELLOWSHIP from the Catalan Government, Spain.

The long-term main goal of UNIC is the study of the etiological role of infectious agents in human cancers.

Description and requirements:

We seek for candidates to apply to the Beatriu de Pinós Programme (BP-DGR 2011) - Modality B: Grants for the recruitment of research personnel to the Catalan science and technology system. The selected candidates may also be invited to apply to other postdoctoral programmes. Scientific and administrative assistance will be offered in the preparation of the proposals. High level research projects will be associated with the proposals.

As per the grant guidelines, candidates must fulfill the following requirements:

a) To have obtained the PhD title between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2010 (the date the PhD was obtained is understood to be that on which the thesis was defended and approved), or else between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2010 if any of the following circumstances are justified during this period:
   - Maternity/paternity leave,
   - If the applicant has had minors of less than six years old under their care, as well as people with physical, mental or sensorial disability or elderly people above sixty-five years old who depend on the beneficiary and require special care,
   - Has had a serious disease or accident with medical leave equal to or more than 6 months.

b) To have completed or be on a postdoctoral stay in a country other than the one in which the PhD is obtained and outside Spain for a minimum period of two years. This postdoctoral stay should have been completed when the beneficiary joins the organisation.

c) Not having worked for more than 12 consecutive months in the host centre on joining the application organisation.
We are looking for highly motivated candidates interested in our main areas of research which are as follows:

1.- Studies on human papillomavirus (HPV) and cancer:
   a) Studies on the association of certain HPV types with anogenital cancer
   b) Studies on the association of certain HPV types with head and neck cancers with special interest in viral genotypes and its variations worldwide
      - International Study of HPV prevalence and HPV typing in tumors of the oral cavity, pharynx and larynx
      - Studies on the natural history of pre-cancerous lesions and progression factors, interaction with alcohol and tobacco and characterization of markers of neoplastic transformation and tumor progression
      - Survival studies and prognostic value of viral detection in head and neck tumors
   c) Evaluation studies on cofactors related with tumours associated with certain HPV types with emphasis on the study of the anthropogenic role in the HPV transmission and the role of diet in the development of cervical cancer.
   d) Randomized clinical trials on the immunogenicity, safety and efficacy of HPV vaccines
   e) Studies on the impact of vaccination against certain HPV types in Spain (Phase IV studies)
   f) Modeling and economic evaluation studies on prevention measures against cancer in Spain and in other countries of particular interest (up to date: India, Vietnam, several countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, and 72 countries that are part of the GAVI Alliance)
   g) WHO/ICO Information Centre on HPV and Cervical Cancer (www.who.int/hpvcentre/eng)
   h) National and international professional training activities through the e-oncologia platform
   i) Monitoring and coordination of cervical cancer screening in Catalonia
   j) Validation studies of HPV biomarkers and cancer and application in mass screening programs
   k) Studies on HPV infections prevalence in Spain
   l) Studies on cervical cancer screening and sexual behavior in Spanish women
   m) Studies in particular populations:
      - HPVs and HIV-associations in the PISCIS cohort
      - Prevalence of HPV infections and vaccination impact against HPV in Mwanza, Tanzania
      - Evaluation of different biomarkers in population screening in South Africa and Burkina Faso

2.- Studies on haematological neoplasias of lymphoid origin
   a) Case control studies (Epilymph and MCC) on risk factors for infections, genetic and environmental associated with the development of hematological malignancies of lymphocyte origin.
   b) Studies of ultra genetic sequencing of chronic lymphocytic leukemia in the international cancer genoma consortium (IGCG)
   c) Studies of virological markers of Epstein Barr virus and Polyomavirus associated with the development of lymphomas: serological, molecular and immunohistologic biomarkers
   d) Studies on risk factors in lymphoproliferative processes (MBL) as precursors of chronic lymphocytic leukemia in the general Spanish population
3.- Studies on the evolution of the link between infection and cancer

a) Studies on diversity, phylogeny and evolution of PVS
b) Studies on the link between PVS phylogeny and tropism
c) Studies on the link between the generation of viral diversity interpacient and the progress of the infection
d) Studies on the interaction between viral diversity and genetic diversity of the host and the progress of the infection
e) Studies on the presence of viral DNA in precancerous lesions in humans and animals

4.- Studies on Hepatitis B Virus

a) International studies on hepatitis C virus in the female general population
b) Studies on hepatitis B and C virus infections and risk of cirhosis and liver cancer

Terms of appointment

For the first year each one of the contracts will be 37,904.84 euros and 39,231.51 euros for the second. This amount includes the minimum remuneration to be paid to research personnel, **28,912.92 gross euros per annum**, and the employer's Social Security contributions.

The research group may increase the salary of the research personnel recruited using their own funds and may also pay the employer's Social Security contributions.

The programme is cofunded by the European Union.

The reference **working week is of 40 hours** and the working day is of 8 hours.

Employees are entitled to an **annual leave of 22 working days per year of service plus 23 additional working days**.

Applications

To apply, please send a cover letter containing a statement of research interest and experience (pdf), a brief CV (pdf) and names and contact information for three researchers that are familiar with you and with your work to **adminCerp@iconcologia.net**.

Full details of the grant

**Beatriu de Pinós Programme:**
The selected candidates may also be invited to apply to other postdoctoral programmes.

Hosting Institution and Program

The Catalan Institute of Oncology (ICO) was envisioned to be a center for comprehensive oncological care, to develop and evaluate cancer control strategies, and to combine clinical and epidemiological disciplines as a means to increase the efficacy and efficiency in the fight against cancer. ICO is an advanced and highly specialized centre in oncology that offers in a coordinated form diagnosis, treatment, prevention, research and training.

The Cancer Epidemiology Research Program (CERP) at ICO is devoted to research on the causes, epidemiology, early diagnosis and prevention of cancer. It participates in European and International research networks and conducts clinical, epidemiological and prevention studies. The CERP is composed by a multidisciplinary group of professionals that includes epidemiologists, pathologists, biologists, statisticians, nutritionists, computer specialists, oncologists, project managers and support personnel.

The Unit of Infections and Cancer (UNIC) main studies focus on virus-related cancers and its team has conducted Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and liver cancer studies, notably on HBV vaccination trials in Africa, and notorious Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and cervical cancer studies.

UNIC’s HPV & cancer major scientific contributions include:

- Demonstrating causality in the relationship between HPV and invasive cervical cancer;
- Establishing the role of environmental co-factors for carcinogenesis among HPV-positive women; and
- Setting the scene for the identification of the international variation of HPV types in cervical cancer and some of its major variants.

UNIC’s group is currently participating in trials on HPV vaccines and interacts regularly with other groups and advisory boards.

On the other hand, since its creation the Unit has been committed in transferring methodology and specialized training on cancer epidemiology, cancer prevention and cancer registration not only at the local level but also to various health professionals in Europe, Africa, and the Americas and to various Tumor Registries. The Unit offers also advice in the designing, development and analysis of clinical and epidemiological research, providing biostatistical and methodological support to other cancer research groups.

Currently, the group is involved in several randomized clinical trials of HPV vaccines and epidemiological studies on the HPV role in several cancer sites. The group is also responsible of
monitoring and evaluation of the impact of HPV vaccine and cervical screening programmes in Catalonia, Spain. The unit also coordinates and edits a worldwide recognized series of Monographs and learning materials on cervical cancer prevention using the novel options of HPV vaccines and screening. Specific regional reports are being prepared to facilitate decision making on cancer prevention at the local level.

The Unit coordinates the WHO/ICO Information Centre on HPV & Cervical Cancer (www.who.int/hpvcentre).

As part of the efforts to bridge knowledge with the medical and Public Health communities, CERP edits since 2001 the international newsletter HPV Today (www.hpvtoday.com), currently distributing more than 20,000 printed copies in five languages, and a regular free electronic version with at least 20,000 subscriptions. The group is also the organizer and current coordinator of a distant learning effort (e-oncología) devoted to continuous professional education in Spanish-speaking countries associated with major Universities worldwide (www.eoncologia.net) and which was initially funded by a European Commission Alfa Grant. CERP has extensively participated in many European Commission funded projects.