



P.N. 0738-P/212209

24 February 2026

One (1) PhD Student Position

[Ref # PAR-0882]

The research group of **Microbiology and Plant Biotechnology** under the **Fondation Sante Research Grant**, entitled **“Exploring Extreme-Environment Microbes for Anti-inflammatory and Anticancer Potential Through Drosophila Models”** (Program Coordinator **Prof. Panagiotis Sarris**) invites applications for one (1) motivated PhD student to assist with: **1)** Microbial cultivation and secondary metabolites isolation.

About the lab

Our research is focused on the elucidation of the molecular “dialogs” between hosts and microbes (beneficial or pathogens). We also search for novel secondary metabolites from beneficial microbes that could be used as novel drugs. Microbial natural products have long served as a source of novel therapeutic components, yet much of the microbial diversity on Earth remains unexplored. Bacteria that live in extreme environments, adapted to thrive in harsh environments, represent a largely untapped reservoir of bioactive compounds with potential applications in human health.

About the project:

In this project we will combine a well-established fly inflammation model with tumor-prone genetic backgrounds to evaluate whether selected bacterial extracts suppress inflammatory signaling or reduce tumor burden. Promising candidates will then be chemically profiled through LC–MS-based metabolomics to identify active compounds. By linking biological effects to chemical fingerprints, we aim to establish a discovery pipeline that integrates functional in-vivo assays with natural product chemistry.

In this approach we aim to provide a cost-effective and rapid screening platform, with findings that can be directly translated into mammalian systems in follow-up studies. In the long term, our work will contribute to expanding the repertoire of extremophile-derived molecules with therapeutic potential, laying the groundwork for new classes of therapeutics targeting inflammation and cancer.

Job Description:

WP1 - Functional Screening in Inflammation Model; WP3 - Metabolomic Profiling and Mechanistic Insight.
Deliverables: 1. A shortlist of extracts with proven in vivo immunomodulatory activity; 2. Chemical fingerprints associated with in-vivo efficacy.

Required qualifications:

- BSc in Biology
- MSc in Molecular Biology – Biomedicine
- Must be enrolled in a postgraduate program leading to a doctoral degree at a Greek University
- Oral and written skills in English language
- More than 3 years’ experience with Molecular Microbiology techniques; Molecular Host – Microbe Interactions studies; Microbial genomics studies.

	Evaluation criteria	Maximum score
1.	B.Sc. degree grade (Score points = grade x 2)	20
2.	M.S. degree grade (Score points = grade x 2)	20
3.	Relevant laboratory experience (6-12 months = 10 points, 12-24 months = 20 points, 24-36 months = 30 points, >36 months = 40 points)	40
4.	Oral and written skills in the English language (B1 = 5 points, B2 = 10 points, C1 = 15 points, C2 = 20 points)	20
5.	Enrollment in a postgraduate program at a Greek University leading to a doctoral degree	YES/NO
Total score		100

Contract Duration: 6 months with the possibility of extension according to the project needs

Total budget: 750 € monthly cost (scholarship)

Envisaged starting date: April 1st 2026

Application submission: Interested applicants should submit their application electronically by **March 06, 2026 @ 13:00 (Greece time)**

The application should consist of:

1. Application Form (see below)
2. CV
3. Brief statement of purpose
4. The names and contact details of two referees
5. Scanned copies of academic titles
6. Scanned copies proving all the qualifications
7. Certificate of enrollment in a Postgraduate Program at a Greek University

Submission of applications: par0882@imbb.forth.gr

Evaluation procedure

Applications will be evaluated by a three-member evaluation committee. In case of interview procedure, applicants will be invited to participate in person or teleconference.

In case of titles and qualifications awarded by foreign Higher Education Institutions, the provisions of the Law 55/2023 (article 36) and 4957/2022 (article 304) are implemented.

The results of the selection will be announced on the website of IMBB-FORTH. Applicants have the right to appeal the selection decision, by addressing their written objection to the IMBB secretariat within five days since the results announcement on the web. Objections are submitted in one of the following ways: in person, by an authorized person, by post, by courier. They also have the right to access (a) the files of the applicants as well as (b) the table of applicants' scores (ranking of applicants results). All the above information related to the selection procedure will be available at the secretariat of IMBB-FORTH in line with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority. Access to personal data of co-applicants shall be limited to personal data (and relevant data) and supporting documents which have been the basis of the evaluation of the applicants for the specific post(s). Prior to the announcement of the personal data and/or documents of the co-applicants to the applicant, FORTH will inform the data subjects in an appropriate way.

The selected applicants will be notified personally regarding the success of his/her application and will be requested to submit certified copies of his/her degrees. If the submitted documents do not agree with the original application, the applicant will be dismissed.

Throughout the duration of the project, and if there is a need to replace persons selected in accordance with this Call, the replacement will be carried out by selecting - based on score/point allocation - another candidate(s) from the compiled ranking list.

In the event that for any reason the funding provided for the project is interrupted, FORTH-IMBB reserves the right to interrupt the execution of the contract with a special declaration of interruption and without compensation.

FORTH-IMBB does not undertake any commitment to conclude a contract and is entitled to cancel or repeat the procedure without obligation to pay any compensation, excluding any relevant claim by the candidates.

Participation in this call for expressions of interest implies full acceptance of the terms of this.

GDPR Disclaimer

FORTH is compliant with all legal procedures for the processing of personal data as defined by the Regulation EU/2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data. FORTH processes the personal data and relevant supporting documents that applicants have submitted. Processing of that data is carried out exclusively for the needs and purposes of this specific call. Such data shall not be transmitted to or communicated to any third party unless required by law.

FORTH retains the above data up to the announcement of the final results of the call, unless further process and reservation is required by law or for purposes of exercise, enforcement, prosecution of certain one's legitimate legal rights' as defined in the Regulation EU/2016/679 and/or in national law. Under the Regulation EU/2016/679, applicants have the rights to be informed about their personal data, access to, rectification and erasure, restrictions of process and objection to as provided by applicable regulation and national laws. Applicants have the right to file a complaint to the national Data Protection Authority. For any further information regarding exercise of personal data protection rights, applicants may contact the Data Protection Officer at FORTH at dpo@admin.forth.gr.

Applicants have the right to withdraw their application and consent for the processing of personal data at any time. In this case, FORTH shall destroy such documents and/or supporting documents submitted and shall delete the related personal data.

APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____
Surname: _____
Date of birth (dd/mm/yy): _____
Address: _____
Telephone number: _____
Email address: _____

TO
FOUNDATION OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (FORTH)
INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Hereby I submit my application for the position:

In the framework of the project: _____

Position code [Ref #] _____

Submitted with this application:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

I certify that:

- A) I accept the terms and conditions of the job announcement
- B) I possess all the necessary certificates and documents and I can present them in their original form to the committee without any delay if I am asked to do so
- C) I am able to complete the project within the foreseen time -frame
- D) all the information given in the framework of this application are accurate and true.

Date: _____

Applicant name

(signature)