Date of the call: August 17, 2012

Deadline: August 27, 2012

The tender documentation is available on CIPKEBIP web page: <http://www.cipkebip.org>

On the basis of Article 102 Rules of Procedures (co-financing, assessing and monitoring the implementation of research activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 4/11, 72/11 and 45/12) and notification of the decision on the selection of mentors for the year 2012, adopted by the Director of the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia on July 27, 2011 with decision no. 6316-3/2011-784 and after procedure of complaint confirmed by the Governing Board of the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia on September 7, 2011 with decision no. 6316-3/2011-854

announces a

**PUBLIC CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS WITH SELECTED MENTOR IN 2012**

1. **Subject of the Public call**

Subject of this tender is the selection of candidates for early stage researchers to be trained at the Centre of Excellence for integrated approaches in chemistry and biology of proteins to obtain a doctorate.

1. **Mentor and research area**

The successful candidate will be trained in the research field of biochemistry and molecular biology at the mentor. Prof. Dr. Dušan Turk.

Training of early stage researchers will be linked to the following priorities:

Protein degradationis a part of the protein metabolism and carried out in the endosomes where endosomal proteases degrade biological macromolecules into smaller peptides and their basic building blocks - amino acids. In the body, there is a specific population of cells - professional antigen presenting cells (APC's) (macrophages, B cells and dendritic cells), which in case of infection with pathogenic microbes activate the immune response. In endosomes of APC's foreign pathogenic microbes are degraded for their recognition. The immune response can be initiated and directed in the case that the degradation products of antigen i.e. antigenic peptides, are sufficiently unique. Complexes between the antigen peptides and MHC class II molecules are then presented on the cell surface, where are T-cell receptors of CD4 + T-lymphocytes.

There is the essential difference between human metabolism and protein degradation of antigens. The recognized by the molecular mechanism of antigen degradation and formation of peptide antigen peptides has not been yet investigated.

The long term goal of the group is to understand proteolytic degradation of protein antigens for presentation purposes, their mechanism of binding to MHC class II molecules and explore the selective mechanisms that enable the selection of the most advantageous candidates for antigenic presentation.

1. **The requirements for early stage researchers**

Candidates for early stage researchers must fulfil the following requirements:

- Has at least a university degree in the appropriate direction, achieved in the study program, adopted in the Republic of Slovenia prior to the June 11, 2004, and the average grade for all examinations and coursework (excluding thesis) of at least 8.00 and qualifies for entry to doctoral studies or

- A second-level education in the appropriate field, achieved under the Master's study program, adopted in Slovenia after June 11, 2004, and the average grade for all examinations and coursework (excluding thesis) of at least 8.00, or

- Has a master's degree, achieved after the master's study program in the Republic of Slovenia adopted before June 11, 2004 or

- According to the first, second and third indents of comparable qualifications obtained at foreign universities and

- That has passed more than 5 years from the defence of a diploma from the first or second indent, or master of defence in the third paragraph and taking account the five year period to September 30 of current year, if the applicant for a early stage researcher with no financial support from the agency or ministry responsible for science is already enrolled in postgraduate studies, the period of the defence of a diploma or master's degree extended over five years, for each academic year to add one year.

If the candidate for an early stage researcher has already enrolled in postgraduate studies to obtain a scientific degree or a master's degree, achieved after the Master's study program in the Republic of Slovenia adopted before June 11, 2004, undergraduate grade point average is not important except in the case of re-entry in the first year of postgraduate study.

If the candidates for early stage researchers taking parental leave - for one child are one year - the period of the defence of a diploma or master's degree extended over five years. The same is true for longer, more than six months, documented sick leave.

Candidates who were already financed as early stage researchers in Republic of Slovenia and cancelled the contract or did not finish the studies in expected period, cannot be financed again.

Conditions are set out in Article 103r of the Rules of Procedures (co-) funding, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of research activity (Official Gazette RS, no. 4/11, 72/11 and 45/12).

1. **Criteria for assessment of candidates:**

Candidates will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The average grade for all examinations and coursework (excluding thesis), must be at least 80% of all examinations and coursework at undergraduate level;

- A completed MSc;

- Enrolment in the studies to obtain a scientific title;

- Awards and recognition;

- Published articles;

- Cooperation in research work.

The criteria are listed in Article 102 of the Rules of Procedures (co-) funding, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of research activity (Official Gazette RS, no. 4/11, 72/11 and 45/12). The criteria and their use are also visible in the form certificate and evaluation sheet completed by the tutor and accompanied by the tender documents for information only.

1. **Time of financing**

The duration of financing the training of early stage researchers to obtain a doctorate at:

- not more than four years and six months if they are enrolled in a four-year doctoral program (old program);

- not more than three years and six months if they are enrolled to study at the third Bologna cycle (new program).

The duration of funding given in the second indent of the first paragraph of this section (new program) is reduced:

- For one year, if a early stage researcher at the signing of contracts already in the second year of study at third Bologna stage and

- For two years, is already in the third year of study at third Bologna stage.

Start of financing the training of early stage researchers by the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, which is in accordance with the notice of decision on the selection of mentors for the year 2011, and adopted by the Director of the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia on July 27, 2011 with decision no. 6316-3/2011-784 and after procedure of complaint confirmed by the Governing Board of the Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia on September 7, 2011 with decision no. 6316-3/2011-854 to December 1, 2011.

The time of financing is described in the Article 106 of the Rules of Procedures (co-) funding, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of research activity (Official Gazette RS, no. 4/11, 72/11 and 45/12).

1. **The content of the application**

Application to tender must include

-a completed and signed application form (application form) and a separate annex:

- CV

- Proof of qualifications (university degree):

-photocopy of diploma with the written statement (Statement No. 1) that an applicant will graduate and send the proof of university degree up to September 14, 2012, or

-scientific proof of completion of the scientific master’s degree, or

- Certificate of enrolment in graduate studies leading to a scientific degree (if the applicant is already enrolled in a postgraduate course to obtain a scientific title);

- Official proof of completion of exams and exercises with an average grade (no diploma) or at the undergraduate level or on the second level Bologna study,

- Photocopy of identity document by showing the year of birth,

- A written declaration by the candidate that was not funded in the program of early stage researchers (Statement No. 2),

- Candidate's written statement (Statement No. 3) that the personal data stated in the application are used for registers or lists as determined by the Rules of Procedures (co-) funding, evaluating and monitoring the implementation of research activities,

- A photocopy of any maternity or. Parental leave or long absence due to illness documented.

If a candidate for an early stage researcher was not undergraduate or master's study in the Republic of Slovenia must provide:

• A decision on the recognition of higher education institution for the purpose of learning a foreign education in the Republic of Slovenia and

• converting the average scores of undergraduate study on the evaluation system, implemented at higher education institutions in the Republic of Slovenia, prepared by the training, taking into account the system performance evaluation in education abroad, or

• a written statement (Statement No. 1) that will provide higher education institution's decision on the recognition of foreign education in the Republic of Slovenia together with the conversion of mean scores of undergraduate study up to and including September 14, 2012.

Foreigners or candidates who graduated abroad and who will apply to this call must obtain all necessary documentation for employment in the Republic of Slovenia in accordance with the applicable laws of the Republic of Slovenia until September 15, 2012.

The candidate may also submit the following application separate annexes:

- Proof of award or prize received,

- Proof of published scientific articles (with respect to authorship and co-author)

- Description of current cooperation in research work.

1. **Deadline and submissions of applications**

The tender with all required forms and attachments and marked "Call for early stage researcher« must be submitted in a sealed envelope in person or by mail to the following address:

-at the headquarters CIPKeBiP, Jamova cesta 39, Ljubljana 1000 (Room J422) or

- Sent by post no later than **August 27, 2012**. For validation the date of registered mail postmark is crucial. Late applications will not be considered.

Candidates will be informed of the selection no later than until August 31, 2012.

1. **Tender documentation**

Tender documents are available on [www.cipkebip.org](http://www.cipkebip.org) in section Public calls and includes:

* Public call
* Application form
* Statement No 1
* Statement No 2
* Statement No 3
* Confirmation and assessment form (information material, fulfilled by mentor)

1. **Further information**

Applicants may obtain additional information regarding the public tender at tel. No. +387 1 477 3856 or e-mail [info@cipkebip.org](mailto:info@cipkebip.org).

Grammatically masculine in this tender is used as gender-neutral format, which applies to both women and men.

Dr. Livija Tušar

Director

Tender documentations:

* Public call
* Application form
* Statement No 1
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Connections:

* Rules of Procedures (co-financing, assessing and monitoring the implementation of research activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 4/11, 72/11 and 45/12):

<http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?urlid=20114&stevilka=110>

<http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?urlid=201172&stevilka=3130>

<http://www.uradni-list.si/1/objava.jsp?urlid=201245&stevilka=1884>

* Public Research Agency of the Republic of Slovenia (ARRS) – early stage researchers: <http://www.arrs.gov.si/sl/mr/>
* Centre of excellence for integrated approaches in chemistry and biology of proteins : http://www.cipkebip.org