

A position of « Ingénieur(e) d'étude » at the Cancer Research Center of Lyon – France UMR INSERM U1052 CNRS 5286 CNRS CLB

The Research Laboratory on Viral Hepatitis at INSERM Unit 1052 (Cancer Research Center of Lyon – CRCL) is opening a position for a research engineer staff to work on its “HBV cure” program. The laboratory is looking for a candidate to work on a project in collaboration with a private partner to investigate the antiviral activity and mechanism of action of new anti-HBV compounds.

Chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infections remain a major public health problem worldwide. Current treatments induce viral suppression but do not achieve viral eradication because of the persistence of the viral minichromosome, cccDNA¹. Therefore, in the absence of strategies directly targeting cccDNA, combinatorial strategies aimed at lowering viral replication and antigen burden, together with immunomodulatory approaches could be envisaged².

The candidate will work in a program aiming at depleting the cccDNA pool in infected cells and will measure the different viral parameters (cccDNA, HBV RNA, viral proteins) using classic and cutting-edge molecular biology/virology approaches.

The Viral Hepatitis team has a longstanding experience in the study of the mechanism of HBV persistence and the identification of novel targets for antiviral therapy. The candidates will also benefit from the scientific environment and technical platforms provided by the CRCL (<http://www.crcl.fr>).

The position will be for a duration of 1 year.

The INSERM staff status will be a position of “Ingénieur d'étude”.

The highly motivated candidate will have to be strongly skilled in performing basic molecular biology techniques (i.e. nucleic acids extractions, real-time PCR) and cell culture. Experience in virology is not mandatory but appreciated. Fluency in oral and written English language is mandatory.

The candidates should send their application (letter of motivation, C.V. and two letters of recommendation) to:

Prof. Fabien Zoulim and Dr. Barbara Testoni

Viral Hepatitis team

e-mail: fabien.zoulim@inserm.fr, barbara.testoni@inserm.fr, marieagnes.vittoz@inserm.fr

References:

1. Martinez MG, Boyd A, Combe E, Testoni B, Zoulim F. Covalently closed circular DNA: The ultimate therapeutic target for curing HBV infections. *J Hepatol.* 2021 Sep;75(3):706-717. doi: 10.1016/j.jhep.2021.05.013.
2. Lim SG, Baumert TF, Boni C, Gane E, Levrero M, Lok AS, Maini MK, Terrault NA, Zoulim F. The scientific basis of combination therapy for chronic hepatitis B functional cure. *Nat Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2023 Jan 11. doi: 10.1038/s41575-022-00724-5.