International Agency for Research on Cancer

World Health Organization

Postdoctoral Opportunity in
Cancer Epigenomics in Early and Adult Life
Environment and Lifestyle Epidemiology (ENV) Branch

Location: International Agency for Research on Cancer / World Health Organization, Lyon, France
Deadline for applications: 22 November 2026
Start date: As soon as possible
Duration: 12 months with the expectation of renewal
Stipend: 3,218 € per month (net)
Contact and Required Documents: Applicants should send a **CV** (including **list of publications, clearly marking those with lead role**), **a motivation letter** and, if possible, the names and addresses of **two academic referees**, by email, with a subject header "ENV Postdoc 2026", to Dr Akram GHANTOUS (GhantousA@iarc.who.int).

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) is a multi-disciplinary research institute based in Lyon, France. It is an independently funded institution, and a specialized cancer agency of the World Health Organisation. The particular focus of IARC is international collaborative research projects spanning a wide range of disciplines including cancer epidemiology, aetiology, genomics, carcinogenesis, early detection, prevention and implementation science.

Our Branch conducts research involving state-of-the-art omics technologies applied in preclinical, clinical and/or epidemiological models. The successful candidate(s) will support leveraging omics data and innovative statistical and computational methods to understand the molecular mechanisms associated with cancer and/or its exposure risk factors in early and adult life. Recently funded projects encompass cancer risk factors such as tobacco and alternative nicotine delivery systems (including waterpipe), cancer outcomes (e.g. child brain and adult lung cancers), and health determinants, measured along the development span from birth to adulthood. The projects are supported by funding from the French National Cancer Institute (INCa).

The selected candidate will interact closely with Dr Akram GHANTOUS as supervisor, as well as with other scientists, laboratory technicians and bioinformaticians at ENV and IARC and with international research consortia. The postdoctoral opportunity will involve bioinformatics and statistical analyses, drafting of manuscripts and reports based on data generated from the aforementioned resources. The candidate will be supported by a research team with interdisciplinary expertise encompassing fields such as bioinformatics, biostatistics, epidemiology and molecular biology.

Your profile:
The successful candidate would ideally have:
• A recent (i.e. less than 5 years) PhD in bioinformatics, biostatistics, epidemiology, molecular biology or related fields;
• Strong background in the analysis of biological, clinical and/or epidemiological data;
• Prior experience manipulating genomics, epigenomics, transcriptomics, multi-omics or related fields using statistical methods;
• Strong background in bioinformatics or biostatistics and scripting languages such as R or Python;
• Good experience in literature and database mining;
• Good communication skills, with the desire to interact with a group of international collaborators;

• Strong English language skills, both spoken and written;
• Willingness to learn new skills and techniques.

We offer:
The postdoctoral scientist will evolve in an innovative and scientifically stimulating environment and will have opportunities to interact and collaborate with colleagues from IARC and its worldwide networks. The postdoctoral scientist will conduct research activities in a modern and scientifically invigorating environment. The cost of return travel for the successful candidate, and in certain circumstances for dependents, will be covered. If applicable, IARC will pay dependence and health insurance allowances.

IARC postdoctoral scientists are based full-time in Lyon and are expected to be in-person at the office the majority of time, whilst allowing for attractive flexible work arrangements to help promote a healthy work-life balance.

For more information about postdoctoral stays at IARC, please read the IARC Postdoctoral charter. For more information about IARC/Early Career and Visiting Scientists at IARC, please consult IARC's Welcome Pack and ECVS Frequently Asked Questions.

We value diversity:
IARC is committed to achieving gender parity and geographical diversity in its staff. Applications from people with disabilities, and nationals of low- and middle-income countries are particularly encouraged. IARC currently has more than 340 personnel members from almost 60 countries. Postdoctoral scientists at IARC (around 70 at any point in time) have access to a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines and to a unique network of collaborators across the world.

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