

### **Postdoctoral position in Structural Biology of Giant Viruses**

**Context.** A funded postdoctoral position (A\*MIDEX) is available in the new team of Elsa Garcin (Professor at AMU starting in January 2020, Chaire d'Excellence A\*MIDEX; Adjunct Associate Professor at UMBC: <https://sites.google.com/a/umbc.edu/garcinlab/>) in the Laboratoire d'Information Génomique et Structurale (IGS), a CNRS/AMU laboratory located on the Luminy Campus of Aix-Marseille University. The IGS is a dynamic lab led by Chantal Abergel and a world-renowned expert in giant virus research (<https://www.igs.cnrs-mrs.fr/les-publications/>). Giant virus discovery was revolutionary for the field of virology, as they revived old debates about the concept of virus, their position in the tree of life, their biology, and the role they may have played in the emergence of life on earth. **Characterizing new metabolic pathways in these viruses may therefore provide new clues about chemical and biological processes at the origin of life.**

**Goals.** The postdoctoral project aims at deciphering novel metabolic pathways in giant viruses, and is focused on structure-function studies of giant virus proteins. The successful candidate will join an interdisciplinary team of bioinformaticians, cell biologists, virologists, protein chemists, and structural biologists. The project will be carried out in close collaboration with partner labs (IBS Grenoble, spectroscopy; BIP, EPR) and groups and platforms at the Institut de Microbiologie de la Méditerranée (EPR, Proteomics, Microscopy, Biophysics).

**Required education, experience, and skills.** We are looking for a highly motivated, scientifically independent and creative fellow, who can contribute to a team environment. To be eligible for this postdoctoral position, candidates must have completed their PhD within the last two to five years at the start of the contract. A PhD in Biochemistry, Biophysics or a closely related discipline is required. Candidates should have a strong background in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, protein expression and purification. Prior research experience in at least one of the following areas is mandatory: protein or RNA biochemistry, x-ray crystallography, and electron microscopy. Experience with anaerobic techniques is a plus, but not required. Candidates should have strong communication skills, the ability to conduct research independently, to prepare manuscripts and presentations, and the ability and willingness to work with graduate and undergraduate students in the laboratory. Working language is English; knowledge of French is not required.

**How to apply:** Interested applicants should send their application by email to Elsa Garcin ([garcin@igs.cnrs-mrs.fr](mailto:garcin@igs.cnrs-mrs.fr)), including a **cover letter** describing their current and future research interests and motivation for joining the team, and **curriculum vitae** with complete publication list. They should also arrange for **three letters of recommendation** to be sent **directly** by email to Elsa Garcin ([garcin@igs.cnrs-mrs.fr](mailto:garcin@igs.cnrs-mrs.fr)). Review of application materials will begin January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

*Aix-Marseille University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. Women and minority candidates are encouraged to apply.*

#### **Contract.**

Start date: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

Duration: 12 months (renewable depending on results for a maximum of 33 months total)

Salary: salary will be calculated based on the successful candidate's experience

Location: IGS, UMR7256 AMU/CNRS, Parc scientifique de Luminy, 163 avenue de Luminy, 13288 Marseille, France

**Contact information:** Elsa D Garcin ([garcin@igs.cnrs-mrs.fr](mailto:garcin@igs.cnrs-mrs.fr))