

DECRETO RETTORALE

Decree of the Rector n. 1572 of 19/12/2024
Competition for awarding 1 research grant at the University of Udine

DISCLAIMER:

The official and legally binding call for applications is in Italian only.
This document cannot be used for legal purposes and is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications (Decree of the Rector n. 1572 of 19/12/2024). Please refer to the official call published on: <https://www.uniud.it/it/albo-ufficiale>

Any change and integration will be made available on the above-mentioned web page. Therefore, no personal written communication regarding the examination date and/or competition results shall be provided to applicants.

Annex 1

Call for applications for the award of 1 grant for the performance of research activities at the University of Udine on the topic "New approaches and new molecules to trigger apoptosis in leiomyosarcoma cells" SSD: BIOS-10/A (principal investigator, Claudio Brancolini)

Research grant funded by the resources of the project PRIN 2022 - Prot. n. 20228A7JM7

Art. 1

A selection proceeding is hereby announced for the award of 1 research grant at the University of Udine for the performance of the research activity identified in Annex A, which forms an integral and substantial part of this call. The research grant is linked to the research project on which it is based and is subject to the corresponding financial coverage.

The grant may be renewed with the winner in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to Leg. Decree no. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted with amendments by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022) and the Regulations of the University of Udine for the awarding of research grants issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021, in the presence of a positive assessment by the scientific supervisor of the activity carried out by the research fellow, adequate scientific justification and related financial coverage, within the limits set out in Article 3, letters b) and c) below.

The research grant does not entitle the successful candidate to any rights as regards access to University roles.

Any personal communication to candidates relating to this selection will be sent exclusively to the email address indicated in the application form.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Art. 2

The activities covered by the research grant referred to in this call for competition and the admission requirements are indicated and described in Annex A. Failure to meet the admission requirements at the time of applying shall result in the **exclusion** of the candidate from the selection process.

Possession of a PhD qualification or equivalent qualification obtained abroad or, for the sectors concerned only, of a medical specialisation qualification accompanied by an adequate scientific production, constitutes a preferential requirement for the awarding of the grant envisaged for this selection, if it has not been mentioned as an admission requirement.

The Selection Board shall assess, for the sole purpose of admission to the competition, the suitability of any qualification obtained abroad, without prejudice to the assessment of the medical specialisation qualification to which Article 38, paragraph 3.1 of Legislative Decree 165/2001, as amended, and the relevant Community regulations apply.

The Board assesses the qualification obtained abroad based on the relevant documentation enclosed with the application to take part in the selection and may exclude the candidate if the submitted documentation does not provide sufficient elements for the assessment.

Candidates are therefore invited to enclose all documentation in their possession relating to their qualifications in order to provide the Board with sufficient elements to assess their position.

Candidates are admitted to the selection process subject to a reservation and their exclusion, for failure to meet the requirements, may be ordered at any time by reasoned decision.

Art. 3

The research grant referred to in this call cannot be awarded to the following subjects:

- a) Employees of Universities and the entities referred to in Article 22(1) of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to Leg. Decree no. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted with amendments by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022).
- b) Recipients of previous research grants pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, for the maximum period allowed by the regulations, excluding the period in which the grant was received in conjunction with a PhD, up to the legal duration of the relevant course.
- c) Those who have already been awarded research grants and fixed-term researcher contracts pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 for a total of 12 years, even if not consecutive.
- d) Those who have a degree of kinship or relationship, up to and including the fourth degree, with:
 - The Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Udine.
 - The principal investigator or a professor/researcher belonging to the department or structure of interest where the research grant activity takes place.

The research grant referred to in this call cannot be cumulated with the following:

- a) Awarded scholarships of any kind, except those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for supplementing, by means of stays abroad, the fellow's training or research activities.
- b) Other research grants.

DECRETO RETTORALE

- c) Employment relationships, even if part-time, without prejudice to the provisions of the regulations for employees of public administrations.

The grant referred to in this call is also incompatible with simultaneous attendance of degree courses, master's degrees, and PhDs with scholarships and medical specialisation, in Italy and abroad.

Persons who have been convicted of a criminal offence resulting in disqualification from holding public office or inability to contract with the public administration as a secondary penalty are not eligible for selection.

Art. 4

Applicants must submit, in the manner described in Article 5 below, the application to take part in the selection, duly signed in handwritten or digital form. An application without a signature will result in the **exclusion** of the candidate, except in the case of access through the use of the Public Digital Identity System (SPID) in which case the signature will not be necessary.

The application must be uploaded in its entirety (i.e., every page), **otherwise** the applicant will be **excluded** from the selection.

Applicants must enclose the following with their application for participation in the selection, **under penalty of exclusion**:

1. The professional scientific *curriculum vitae* in Italian or English or one of the additional languages, if any, indicated in Annex A, highlighting the candidate's aptitude for carrying out and implementing the research programme.
2. Copy of valid identity document or other identification document. Citizens of non-EU countries must enclose a copy of their passport or, if available, a copy of the Italian identity document and of the valid residence permit.
3. Limited to citizens of non-EU states residing or authorised to reside in Italy, a copy of their residence permit or authorisation to reside in Italy.
4. For candidates who cannot provide a self-certification under the conditions set out below, documentation proving possession of the academic qualification required for admission to the selection. Possession of a higher academic qualification does not exempt the candidate from producing such documentation, which, if missing, will result in exclusion:
 - **Candidates who are Italian citizens or citizens of a European Union Member State** must submit a declaration in lieu of certification and, if necessary, a notarial deed regarding the academic qualification needed for admission (indicating the academic qualification, the academic institution awarding the qualification, the year it was awarded and the mark obtained) and the publications and other qualifications held, indicating for each one all the identification details necessary for the Board's assessment. **The application for participation counts as a declaration in lieu of certification of the declared academic qualification.** If the subject matter of the declaration is not clearly identified in terms of its nature, duration, time setting and institution concerned, the selection board will disregard it. The Administration reserves the right to carry out appropriate checks on the truthfulness of the content of the declarations made; in the event of a false declaration, the provisions of Article 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and Articles 483, 485, and 486 of the Italian Criminal Code shall apply. The University will not take into account any certificates attached by candidates who are Italian citizens or citizens of a state belonging to the European Union.

DECRETO RETTORALE

- **Citizens of a non-European Union State** must submit documents and qualifications in Italian or English or one of the additional languages, if any, indicated in Annex A, under penalty of exclusion from the selection or, as the case may be, non-assessment.
Documents and titles, originally in a different language, must be accompanied by a translation, made by the candidate under his or her responsibility, into Italian or English or any other language indicated in Appendix A. With reference to the dissertation only, the translation may be limited to an extended abstract.
- **Citizens of a non-EU State regularly residing in Italy** may use declarations in lieu of certification only in respect of states, personal qualities or facts that can be certified or attested to by Italian public bodies, without prejudice to the special provisions contained in the laws and regulations governing immigration and the status of foreigners.
- **Citizens of non-EU states authorised to reside in Italy** may use the aforementioned declarations in cases where they are produced pursuant to international conventions between Italy and the declarant's country of origin.

Applicants may also enclose with their application for assessment purposes their publications and any other qualification deemed useful to prove their qualification in relation to the research programme described in Annex A and to certify any research activity carried out in public and/or private entities (with the indication of the starting date and duration). The submission modalities are similar to those indicated in point 4 of the previous paragraph.

Only the qualifications possessed by the candidate on the date of submission of the application for selection and presented in accordance with Article 5 will be assessed.

Any exclusion from the selection procedure due to lack of eligibility requirements, absence of mandatory documents, failure to sign the application to take part in the selection or submission of the application in a manner other than that provided for in this call will be communicated to the parties concerned exclusively by email to the email address indicated in the application to take part in the selection.

Art. 5

Registration for this selection will begin on January 16, 2025 at 2:00 pm (Italian time) and will end on April 7, 2025 at 2:00 pm (Italian time).

The application to take part in the selection must be completed, under penalty of exclusion, using the appropriate online procedure, available at <https://pica.cineca.it/>.

For those who do not already have a user account, the procedure involves a registration phase for the applicant, and a subsequent phase for completing the application online.

Once completed, the application must be signed in the manner (handwritten signature, with attached identity document, or digital signature) described in the online procedure, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. The application does not have to be signed if the above-mentioned online procedure is accessed using the Sistema Pubblico di Identità Digitale (SPID - Digital ID Public System). In the case of a handwritten signature, the applicant must upload the application to the system in its entirety. The information entered in the application form shall constitute a declaration in lieu of certification and affidavit, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000.

DECRETO RETTORALE

The qualifications referred to in Article 4 must be attached to the application in .pdf format. Individual files, in .pdf format, may not exceed 30MB in size.

It is not permitted to submit attachments to the application in the form of links to files residing on "online storage/file sharing" services or web pages. Reference may not be made to documents or publications submitted to this or other administrations or documents attached to the application for participation in another selection procedure.

The application for participation in the selection is automatically sent to the University of Udine with the final closure of the online procedure.

The University Administration:

- accepts no liability if it is impossible to read the submitted documentation in electronic format due to damaged files;
- does not accept or take into consideration qualifications or documents received in paper form or by any other means than those specified in this article.

The Administration accepts no liability in the event of incorrect indication by the candidate of his/her email address or in the event of failure or delay in communicating a change in the email address indicated in the application, nor for any digital transmission errors attributable to third parties, unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure.

Applicants are advised not to wait until the last few days before the deadline to submit their application. The University accepts no liability for any malfunctions due to technical problems and/or overloading of the communication line and/or application systems.

Art. 6

The selection test takes place according to the modalities set out in Annex A.

The test will aim to ascertain the candidates' preparation, experience and research aptitude. It will consist of an assessment of the professional scientific curriculum, publications and titles submitted, and an interview, where applicable.

Failure of the candidate to attend the interview will be considered as withdrawal from the selection, whatever the cause.

Candidates who intend to avail themselves of the benefits provided for by Article 20 of Law no. 104 of 1992 (need for assistance, possible use of additional time for the performance of examination tests) in relation to their disability situation, must declare this and accompany the application with appropriate medical certification in order to allow the Administration to prepare in time the means and tools to guarantee the statutory benefits; failure to submit the medical certification exempts the Administration from any obligation in this regard.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Art. 7

The Competition Selection Board is identified in Annex A to this call, of which it forms an integral part. At its first meeting, the Board appoints the Chairperson and the Secretary taking the minutes, and establishes the criteria and procedures for assessing the qualifications and the interview, where applicable.

The results of the assessment must be made known to the parties concerned at the interview, where provided for.

The Board can attribute to the selection a total number of 100 points (one hundred hundredths). At the end of its work, the Board formulates the overall merit list based on the total marks obtained by each candidate and draws up the minutes of the competition operations.

The grant may be awarded, subject to the ranking list, to candidates who have obtained a minimum overall mark of 70/100 (seventy hundredths).

The Board's judgement is final on the merits.

The ranking list will be made public exclusively by publication on the University's official notice board; the outcome of the assessment will not be the subject of personal communication to candidates.

Those who do not declare their acceptance of the research grant and do not present themselves at the structure where the research activities are to be carried out to sign the contract by the deadline communicated by the same to the email address indicated by the candidate in the application shall forfeit their right to the research grant, except for health reasons or reasons of force majeure duly documented and promptly notified.

Candidates holding qualifications obtained abroad, if successful, must submit the following, if not already attached to the application:

- **For degrees issued by a country that is a party to the Lisbon Convention (<https://www.enic-naric.net/>), the following documentation:**
 - *Supplement* Diploma or similar certificate in English issued by the competent University.
 - "Certificate of Verification of Foreign Qualification - CIMEA" issued by CIMEA (Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalences) via the "*diplome*" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>
- **For degrees issued by a country not party to the Lisbon Convention (<https://www.enic-naric.net/>), one of the following options:**
 - Declaration of the on-site value of the qualification held and the certificate relating to the qualification with examinations and grades. The certificate in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation into one of those languages (certified by the competent diplomatic-consular authority or sworn at a court in Italy).
 - "Certificate of Comparability and Verification of Foreign Qualifications - CIMEA" issued by CIMEA (Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalences) via the "*diplome*" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>

DECRETO RETTORALE

If the aforementioned documentation is not available at the time of the conclusion of the contract, the candidate must prove that he or she has requested it and submit it as soon as possible; if it is not submitted within six months of the start of the contract, the candidate will forfeit the contract and will be required to repay any related sums received to date.

Art. 8

The research activity cannot be started before the contract defining the terms of the collaboration is signed.

The activity covered by the research grant must have the following characteristics:

- a) Be carried out in the context of the research programme covered by the grant and not be a purely technical support to the same.
- b) Close connection with the implementation of the research programme that is the subject of the relationship with the winner.
- c) Having a continuous and in any case temporally defined character, not merely occasional, and in coordination with the overall activity of the University.
- d) Performance in a condition of autonomy, within the sole limits of the programme prepared by the Head of the same, without predetermined working hours.

The research fellow is obliged to submit a detailed written report on the work carried out and the results achieved, together with the opinion of the scientific supervisor, to the reference structure within the deadlines laid down in the contract. The research fellow will also have to submit interim reports and time sheets if requested by the reference structure and/or the scientific supervisor.

The research fellow is bound to strict confidentiality regarding the data and information to which he/she becomes privy in the course of his/her research activity. At the request of the scientific coordinator, he/she will be required to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement.

The industrial property rights to the results obtained by the research fellow in the performance of the research activity belong exclusively to the University, without prejudice to the moral right of the research fellow to be recognised as an author or inventor.

The University reserves the right to revoke this call for competition for reasons of public interest, should the research project and/or the financial backing on which the research grant is based cease to exist. Should these causes arise after the contract has been signed, the University may terminate the contract without notice.

Art. 9

The following apply to the grant under this call:

- On tax matters, the provisions of Article 4 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, as amended.
- On social security matters, the provisions of Article 2(26) et seq. of Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995, as amended.
- On compulsory maternity leave, the provisions of the Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007.
- On sick leave, the provisions of Article 1(788) of Law No 296 of 27 December 2006, as amended.

DECRETO RETTORALE

During the period of compulsory maternity leave, the allowance paid by INPS pursuant to Article 5 of the Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007 is supplemented by the University up to the full amount of the research grant.

The grant will be paid in monthly instalments in arrears.

Art. 10

The data collected as part of the procedure referred to in Article 5 is necessary for the proper management of the selection procedure, for the possible subsequent management of the research grant and purposes related to the management of the services provided by the University. The University of Udine is the Data Controller. At any time, the data subject may request access, rectification and, compatibly with the institutional purposes of the University, cancellation and restriction of processing or may object to the processing of his/her data. He/she can always lodge a complaint with the Italian Data Protection Authority. The full information is available on the University of Udine website in the "Privacy" section accessible from the home page www.uniud.it Direct Link: <https://www.uniud.it/it/it/pagine-speciali/guida/privacy>

Art. 11

For any matters not expressly mentioned in this call, reference is made to the relevant regulations in force cited in the introduction and to the "Internal regulations for the award of research grants pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021.

Art. 12

The official in charge of the proceeding is Dr. Sandra Salvador, Head of the Research Services Area of the University of Udine.

The reference office at the University of Udine is the "Area Servizi per la Ricerca - Ufficio Formazione per la Ricerca", Via Mantica 31 - 33100 Udine.

To request information on the call, please complete the following form available on the University of Udine website: https://helpdesk.uniud.it/SubmitSR.jsp?type=req&accountId=universityofudine&populateSR_id=42105

DECRETO RETTORALE

Annex A

Responsabile scientifico della ricerca / Principal investigator:

Nome e cognome / Name and surname: Claudio Brancolini
Qualifica / Position: Professore Ordinario / Full Professor
Dipartimento / Department: Medicina (DMED) / Medicine
Area MIUR / Research field: 05 - Scienze Biologiche
Settore concorsuale e Settore scientifico disciplinare / Scientific sector: 05/BIOS-10; BIOS-10/A – Biologia cellulare e applicata

Titolo dell'assegnio di ricerca / Topic of the research fellowship "assegnio di ricerca":

I bandi sono consultabili dal sito dell'Ateneo, del MUR e di Euraxess / The calls are available on the University, MUR and Euraxess websites

Testo in italiano:

Nuovi approcci e nuove molecole per l'induzione dell'apoptosi nelle cellule di leiomiomasarcoma.

Text in English:

New approaches and new molecules to trigger apoptosis in leiomyosarcoma cells.

Obiettivi previsti e risultati attesi del programma di ricerca in cui si colloca l'attività dell'assegnista di ricerca / Foreseen objectives and results of the research programme performed by the research fellow "assegnista di ricerca":

I bandi sono consultabili dal sito dell'Ateneo, del MUR e di Euraxess / The calls are available on the University, MUR and Euraxess websites

Testo in italiano:

I sarcomi dei tessuti molli (STS) sono neoplasie rare che rappresentano circa l'1% dei tumori degli adulti. Il leiomiomasarcoma (LMS) è un sottotipo comune di STS, che rappresenta il 25% degli STS. Gli LMS hanno cariotipi complessi e sbilanciati caratterizzati da grave instabilità genomica che determina molteplici aberrazioni genetiche. Gli LMS sono un cancro aggressivo, con recidiva locale e metastasi che si verificano in circa il 40% dei casi, riducendo drasticamente la sopravvivenza. Alterazioni nel pathway PI3K/AKT/PTEN, delezioni dei soppressori tumorali TP53 e RB1 e mutazioni in ATRX e MED12 sono comuni negli LMS. In queste condizioni, le terapie esistenti sono ampiamente inefficaci e l'identificazione di nuovi target terapeutici è urgentemente necessaria. L'obiettivo di questo progetto di ricerca è testare nuovi composti per la loro capacità di colpire le regolazioni epigenetiche sotto l'influenza dell'asse MEF2-HDAC negli LMS. Gli HDAC di classe IIa (HDAC4, HDAC5, HDAC7, HDAC9) e MEF2 (MEF2A, MEF2B, MEFC, MEF2D) svolgono un ruolo importante nella proliferazione e nell'aggressività delle cellule di LMS e alterazioni della loro espressione sono associate a una prognosi sfavorevole nei pazienti con LMS. Più specificamente, il progetto valuterà i percorsi di morte cellulare innescati da un nuovo composto recentemente isolato e denominato XMH95. I dati di RNA-seq saranno utilizzati per identificare i geni specificamente modulati da XMH95. Le cellule muscolari lisce uterine umane immortalizzate (UtSMC), che non muoiono in risposta a XMH95, saranno utilizzate come controllo. L'espressione dei geni deregolati sarà confermata mediante qPCR. Successivamente, approcci di editing del genoma saranno utilizzati per silenziare l'espressione dei geni più promettenti. Inizialmente, saranno utilizzati esperimenti iRNA, seguiti da approcci CRISPR/Cas9 per la convalida. L'identificazione dei geni necessari per l'attività di morte cellulare del nuovo composto XMH95 è importante per valutare la potenziale risposta nei pazienti LMS. Parallelamente, altre nuove piccole molecole saranno testate per la loro capacità di sopprimere la proliferazione cellulare in un pannello di linee cellulari di LMS. L'induzione della morte cellulare sarà valutata utilizzando approcci classici come il test del

DECRETO RETTORALE

trypan blu e la misurazione dell'attività della caspasi. Una volta convalidati i nuovi composti, saranno eseguiti esperimenti di RNA-seq per comprendere le vie di segnalazione cellulare attivate da queste nuove molecole. Infine, per progettare nuovi inibitori specifici dell'HDAC di classe IIa, la definizione della regione critica per il targeting è di fondamentale importanza. Pertanto, il progetto prevede anche di generare tramite editing del genoma una versione dell'HDAC4 difettosa per il legame con MEF2 o con un difetto nel dominio catalitico e conseguente mancanza di reclutamento del complesso NCOR1/NCOR2/HDAC3. HDAC4 è stata scelta come esempio paradigmatico di un HDAC di classe IIa e per il suo ruolo nella soppressione della senescenza. Le cellule LMS SK-LMS-1 saranno ingegnerizzate attraverso l'inserimento di due codoni di stop a monte del dominio catalitico di HDAC4 per generare una versione più corta priva del dominio deacetilaso che assomigli alla variante naturale di splicing di HDAC9, MITR. Il sistema Cas9/CRISPR verrà utilizzato per inserire la sequenza mutante tramite riparazione omologa. Utilizzando un approccio simile, l'elica anfipatica di HDAC4 richiesta per il legame a MEF2 verrà eliminata. È plausibile che, a causa dell'elevata omologia tra HDAC4 e HDAC5 in questa regione, entrambi i membri possano essere mutagenizzati. Questo punto deve essere indagato attentamente. Come alternativa all'editing mediato da Cas9, il progetto prevede di utilizzare Cas12a/Cpf1, che utilizza un semplice crRNA e riconosce una PAM appena a monte del protospacer, come i PAM ricchi di T (TTTN), consentendo una progettazione più semplice degli sgRNA. Per selezionare i cloni mutanti, sarà necessario generare cellule LMS che esprimono una versione mutante PAM inducibile di HDAC4 per contrastare la possibile induzione di senescenza dopo la generazione di mutanti di HDAC4 e quindi l'impossibilità di selezionare i cloni ricombinanti. Una volta generate, queste cellule saranno testate per l'induzione della senescenza e i cambiamenti nell'espressione genica in assenza di espressione della versione mutante PAM di HDAC4. Questi reagenti non solo forniranno ulteriori informazioni sul ruolo degli HDAC di classe IIa, ma saranno anche importanti per comprendere quale regione sia più importante da una prospettiva terapeutica.

Text in English:

Soft tissue sarcomas (STS) are rare malignancies that account for about 1% of adult cancers. Leiomyosarcoma (LMS) is a common subtype of STS, accounting for 25% of cases. LMS have complex and unbalanced karyotypes characterised by severe genomic instability resulting in multiple genetic aberrations. Alterations in the PI3K/AKT/PTEN pathway, deletions of the tumour suppressors TP53 and RB1, and mutations in ATRX and MED12 are common in LMS. LMS is an aggressive cancer, with local recurrence and metastasis occurring in approximately 40% of cases, drastically reducing survival^{1,2}. Under these conditions, existing therapies are largely ineffective and the identification of new therapeutic targets is urgently needed. The aim of this research project is to test new compounds for their ability to target the epigenetic regulations under the influence of the MEF2-HDAC axis in LMS. Class IIa HDACs (HDAC4, HDAC5, HDAC7, HDAC9) and MEF2 (MEF2A, MEF2B, MEF2C, MEF2D) play an important role in the proliferation and aggressiveness of LMS cells and their altered expression is associated with a poor prognosis in LMS patients. More specifically, the project will evaluate the cell death pathways implicated by a new compound recently isolated and named XMH95. RNA-seq data will be used to identify the genes specifically modulated by XMH95. Immortalised human uterine smooth muscle cells (UtSMC), which do not die in response to XMH95, will be used as a control. Expression of dysregulated genes will be confirmed by qPCR and next genome editing approaches will be used to silence expression of the most promising genes. Initially, iRNA experiments will be used, followed by CRISPR/Cas9 approaches for validation. The identification of genes required for the cell death activity of the new compound XMH95 is important to assess the potential response in LMS patients. In parallel, other novel small molecules will be tested for their ability to suppress cell proliferation in a panel of LMS cells. The induction of cell death will then be assessed using classical approaches such as the trypan blue assay and measurement of caspase activity. Once the new compounds have been validated, RNA-seq experiments will be performed to dissect the cellular pathways targeted by these new molecules. In order to design new class IIa HDAC specific inhibitors, the definition of the critical region for targeting is of fundamental importance. Therefore, the project also plans to generate by genome editing a version of HDAC4 defective for MEF2 binding or with a defect in the catalytic domain and consequent lack of recruitment of the NCOR1/NCOR2/HDAC3 complex. HDAC4 is chosen as a paradigmatic example of a class IIa HDAC and for its

DECRETO RETTORALE

role in suppressing senescence. LMS SK-LMS-1 cells will be engineered to insert two stop codons upstream of the catalytic domain of HDAC4 to generate a shorter version lacking the deacetylase domain that resembles the natural HDAC9 splice variant MITR. The Cas9/CRISPR system will be used to insert the mutant sequence by homologous repair. Using a similar approach, the amphipathic helix of HDAC4 required for MEF2 binding will be deleted. It is plausible that due to the high homology between HDAC4 and HDAC5 in this region, both members could be mutagenized. This point must be investigated carefully. As an alternative to Cas9-mediated editing, the project plans to use Cas12a/Cpf1, which uses a simple crRNA and recognises a PAM just upstream of the protospacer, such as T-rich PAMs (TTTN), allowing for a simpler design of sgRNAs. To select the mutant clones, it will be necessary to generate LMS cells expressing an inducible PAM mutant version of HDAC4 to counteract the possible induction of senescence after the generation of HDAC4 mutants and thus the impossibility of selecting the recombinant clones. Once generated, these cells will be tested for the induction of senescence and the changes in gene expression in the absence of expression of the PAM mutant version of HDAC4. These reagents will not only provide further information on the role of class IIa HDACs, but will also be important in understanding which region is most important from a therapeutic perspective.

Struttura dell'Università di Udine presso la quale verrà sviluppata l'attività di ricerca / Department or other structure of the University of Udine where research activities will be carried out:

Dipartimento di medicina (DMED). / Department of medicine.

Importo dell'assegno di ricerca (al lordo oneri carico assegnista) / Total grant gross for the research fellowship:

€ 20.266,72

Durata dell'assegno di ricerca / Duration of the research fellowship "assegno di ricerca":

12 mesi / months

Finanziamento / Financed by:

La copertura finanziaria graverà sul progetto PRIN 2022 – "Targeting class IIa HDACs to reset super-enhancers activity in cancer cells: towards selective epigenetic therapies in the 3D reality"; Prot. n. 20228A7JM7. Decreto direttoriale MUR n. 1401 del 18/09/2024 "Disposizioni per lo scorrimento delle graduatorie" relativo al bando PRIN 2022 (Decreto direttoriale 2 febbraio 2022, n. 104). Decreto di finanziamento n. 20425 del 06/11/2024 - Settore LS7. Codice CUP G53C24001030006. Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca.

Requisiti di ammissione / Minimum qualifications necessary:

Possesso di un diploma di laurea vecchio ordinamento (ante decreto 3 novembre 1999 n. 509) o di laurea specialistica/magistrale (ex decreto 3 novembre 1999 n. 509 e decreto 22 ottobre 2004 n. 270) o titolo equivalente conseguito all'estero. / Possession of a University degree obtained before Decree n. 509 of 3 November 1999 or specialistic/Master's degree (post decree n. 509 of 3 November 1999 and decree n. 270 of 22 October 2004) or equivalent degree obtained abroad.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Modalità di presentazione della documentazione oggetto di valutazione / Arrangements for the submission of documents:

La modalità di presentazione della documentazione oggetto di valutazione è specificata all'art. 4 del bando. / The way of presenting the documentation under evaluation is specified in art. 4 of the present notice.

Ai fini valutativi, i candidati potranno presentare le pubblicazioni e ogni altro titolo ritenuto utile a comprovare la propria qualificazione in relazione al programma di ricerca descritto nell'Allegato A, nelle seguenti lingue: / For evaluation purposes, candidates may present publications and any other qualifications deemed useful to demonstrate their qualification in relation to the research program described in Attachment A, in the following languages:

- Italiano / Italian
- Inglese / English

Procedura selettiva / Competition procedure:

Valutazione per titoli e colloquio. / Evaluation of titles and oral exam.

I risultati della valutazione dei titoli saranno resi noti agli interessati nel corso del colloquio. / The evaluation of the qualifications will be disclosed to candidates during the interview.

Calendario del colloquio / Calendar of the oral exam	Modalità / Modality	Videoconferenza / Videoconference
	Data / Date	19 aprile / April 2025
	Ora / Time	13:00 / 1:00 pm (Italian time)
	Luogo / Place	-

Per sostenere il colloquio i candidati devono esibire un valido documento di riconoscimento. / Candidates must come to the interview with a valid identity document.

Eventuali variazioni saranno rese note esclusivamente mediante pubblicazione all'albo ufficiale on line dell'Ateneo / Any change will be made public solely through publication on the University web site http://web.uniud.it/ateneo/normativa/albo_ufficiale

Nota / Note: Le indicazioni sulle modalità di svolgimento della prova in modalità telematica saranno inviate ai candidati con successiva email da parte del Presidente della Commissione. Ai fini dell'identificazione e a pena di esclusione dalla procedura selettiva, ciascun candidato è tenuto ad identificarsi prima che il colloquio abbia inizio, esibendo il medesimo documento di identità allegato alla domanda di ammissione al concorso. Il candidato deve risultare reperibile nella giornata e all'orario indicato sul bando. Il mancato collegamento, l'irreperibilità del candidato nel giorno o nell'orario stabilito o la mancata esibizione del documento identificativo, sono motivo di esclusione dalla procedura selettiva. La registrazione delle prove orali è vietata. L'Ateneo adoterà pertanto tutti i provvedimenti in suo potere per tutelare i soggetti coinvolti qualora venissero diffuse tramite internet – o altri mezzi di diffusione pubblica – video, audio o immagini della procedura selettiva. / Instructions on how the video interviewing will be conducted will be provided to candidates by the Chairman of the Examining Board via email. For identification purposes, each candidate is required to identify him/herself before the interview by exhibiting the same identification document attached to the application. Candidates must be available on the day and time

DECRETO RETTORALE

established by the call for applications. Failure of the candidate to establish a video connection, the unavailability of the candidate on the day and/or time established or failure of the candidate to provide the required identification document are all grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure. Recording of the video interviews is prohibited. The University will adopt all the measures within its power to protect all personnel involved as a result of dissemination via the internet or via other forms of public dissemination, of videos, audios or other pictures of the selection procedures.

Commissione giudicatrice / Examining Board:

Nome e Cognome	Qualifica	SSD	Università
Membri Effettivi / Permanent members			
Claudio Brancolini	PO	BIOS-10/A	Università degli Studi di Udine
Roberta Benetti	PA	BIOS-10/A	Università degli Studi di Udine
Valentina Rapozzi	PA	BIOS-07/A	Università degli Studi di Udine
Membro Supplente / Temporary member			
Eros Di Giorgio	PA	BIOS-07/A	Università degli Studi di Udine