

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDENT CALL

Nutritionist – Health Sciences - Epidemiology

The **Human Nutrition Unit (UNH, <https://www.nutricio.urv.cat/ca/>)**, the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, the Rovira i Virgili University (URV, Reus, Tarragona), and the Institut d'Investigació Sanitària Pere Virgili (IISPV) **is seeking for a candidate interested in carrying out his/her doctoral training in the field of nutritional epidemiology.**

Our multidisciplinary team has extensive experience in the field of Nutrition and prevention of cardio-metabolic diseases. In addition, our team has led many randomized clinical trials in the context of the beneficial effect of specific food groups (for example, nuts) and is one of the centers where the PREDIMED (Prevention with Mediterranean Diet) study was carried out. It is important to highlight that the research group is the current coordinating center of the PREDIMED-Plus trial and the CORALS study.

The PREDIMED-Plus study (<https://www.predimedplus.com/>) is a multicenter clinical trial of nutritional intervention conducted in 6874 overweight/obese women and men between 55 and 75 years of age (BMI ≥ 27 and < 40 kg/m²) and with metabolic syndrome (MetS), who were randomized (1:1) to two interventions lasting 6 years and 2 more years of follow-up. The main objective of the study is to evaluate the long-term effect of two lifestyle interventions (an intensive intervention for weight loss based on a hypocaloric MedDiet, promotion of physical activity and motivational-behavioral support, and a non-intensive intervention with only traditional MedDiet recommendations following usual medical advice) on the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. The CORALS study (<https://corals.es/>) is a prospective multi-center study that includes children from 3 to 6 years of age (n=1500) with follow-up for an average of 10 years with the main objective of identifying and quantifying risk factors for childhood obesity. In this study, nutritional, anthropometric information, physical and cognitive status and biologic samples of infants are collected annually.

During its doctoral thesis, the student will have the opportunity to evaluate the associations between lifestyle factors (diet, physical activity and increased sedentary behaviours) and cardio-metabolic risk factors and other relevant end-points in either of these two study populations.

Requirements

- Degree in Health Sciences (Human Nutrition and Dietetics, Biomedicine, Medicine, Biology, Biochemistry) or other qualifications related to biomedical sciences with a final grade higher than **8.3**.
 - Degree grades scaled according to the Spanish scale: <https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/gestion-titulos/estudios-universitarios/titulos-extranjeros/equivalencia-notas-medias.html>
- Master's degree in relation to nutrition, biomedicine, public health, biostatistics or similar (obtained it in the last two years or being studying it in the current academic year).

Merits that will be positively valued:

- Publications, conference attendance and other merits.
- Basic knowledge/experience in nutritional epidemiology (use of R and STATA softwares)
- Previous experience in nutritional biology, biotechnology and/or laboratory experience.

- Experience in writing scientific reports and publications in English (English B2 or higher level)

Applicants must send a cover letter, a curriculum vitae (CVA and CVN) and a copy of the degree qualifications to nutriciohumana@urv.cat **before September 30th, 2023**. Each attached document must be named with the candidate's name, surname, and Subject: **"PREDOC NUT"**