

Call for Chairs of Excellence - Labex SIGNALIFE

The Laboratory of Excellence for Innovation in Signal Transduction Pathways in Life Sciences ([Labex SIGNALIFE](#)) brings together high-profile researchers from five institutes of biology ([Centre Méditerranéen de Médecine Moléculaire](#), [Institut de Biologie Valrose](#), [Institut de Pharmacologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire](#), [Institute for Research on Cancer and Aging, Nice](#) and [Institut Sophia Agrobiotech](#)) and one research Institute for Digital Science and Technology ([Inria](#)) at [Université Côte d'Azur](#) in Nice, France. The common goal of the SIGNALIFE teams is to study signaling pathways from their architecture to their modulation, in order to understand their role in the development and the functions or dysfunctions of organs and organisms. Various biological models are used, and the applications resulting from basic and translational research include biomedical research, pharmacology, development and agriculture.

To strengthen its research on signaling pathways, SIGNALIFE is launching an international call for **Chairs of Excellence** to recruit scientific leaders who will establish new research groups in each of the SIGNALIFE institutes of biology. Applications are open to candidates of any nationality, including researchers with a permanent position in France, but candidates must not be working in a SIGNALIFE laboratory at the time of their application. The proposed project should be ambitious and relate to the scientific axes of the SIGNALIFE program: Cellular Architecture of Signaling Pathways (axis 1), Plasticity of Signaling (axis 2), Stress Signaling (axis 3), Signaling in Aging and Disease Progression (axis 4) and New principles in Signaling and Applications, possibly in association with Inria (axis 5). The added value of the proposal to the SIGNALIFE network will be an important selection criterion.



For this Chairs of Excellence call, the [Institut Sophia Agrobiotech](#) (ISA <https://www6.paca.inrae.fr/institut-sophia-agrobiotech/>) is looking for an internationally renowned researcher or a young researcher with a strong track record to develop a project on the cellular and molecular interactions between plants and associated parasites/pathogens or symbionts. The project should address topics related to "Host cell reprogramming", "Intercellular communication", "Microenvironment signaling" or "Stress signaling", and may cover a spectrum from molecular aspects to a systems biology approach. A fundamental research project with perspectives for the development of innovative strategies for plant health management in agriculture would be welcomed.

ISA has more than 200 people working on Plant Health issues and is located on the Sophia Antipolis campus. The institute is supported by INRAE, Université Côte d'Azur and CNRS, and brings together strong skills in molecular biology and biochemistry, comparative genomics, evolutionary and functional genetics, ecology, agronomy and modeling. The Institute provides an attractive multi-model environment (plants, microbes and invertebrates) that promotes synergistic discussions and in-house interactions.

The selected scientist will receive a SIGNALIFE starter package (up to €600,000) for up to five years including operating costs (€100,000) and salaries (group leader/post-doc/PhD student/technician, up to €500,000). He/she will be provided with office and laboratory space (around 50 m²) and will have full access to state-of-the-art technological platforms (bioinformatics, cell culture, metabolomics and proteomics, imaging/live imaging, histology) and to facilities dedicated to transgenic plant and pathogen manipulations. Other facilities (e.g., high-throughput sequencing, electron microscopy, etc.) are also available on the campus. He/she will be supported by dedicated university services for short-term lodging upon arrival ([Faculty Club](#)), given practical and administrative advice and assistance ([Welcome Center](#)) and will receive appropriate help and support to apply for other highly competitive national and European programs and for a French academic research position (if applicable).

Procedure to apply:

Applicants should provide, in a single PDF file (single-spaced, 11-point Arial font):

- Name of the applicant, address, email and telephone number, project title, SIGNALIFE theme and laboratory associated with the proposed project
- Project abstract (1 page)
- Detailed project description (4 pages) including the objectives, the rationale and the methodology, highlighting the novelty, originality and feasibility of the project as well as the added value to the SIGNALIFE network and the host laboratory
- Description of past and present research activities (2 pages)
- CV (1 page) and list of publications

Applications should be addressed to Dr. Philippe Castagnone (philippe.castagnone@inrae.fr) no later than **March 1st, 2021**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an on-site interview.