

Post-Doctoral Fellow – Job Description

Job Title: Post-doctoral fellow – NK-cell biology / cancer immunology / viral immunology / translational immunology

Group/Lab: Garcia-Beltran Lab / **INK Lab**

Direct Supervisor: Wilfredo F. Garcia-Beltran, MD, PhD

Employing Hospital and Department: Ragon Institute of Mass General Brigham, MIT, and Harvard

Last Update: 10/6/2026

Minimum degree and field of knowledge: PhD required

Years of experience required: 0 – 5 or more years of relevant experience

Summary:

The Garcia-Beltran Lab at The Ragon Institute of Mass General Brigham, MIT, and Harvard is seeking a full-time (on-site), creative, motivated, and collaborative postdoctoral fellow who will lead projects spanning natural killer (NK) cell biology, synthetic biology, genetic screens, cancer immunotherapy, and virology; mentor for trainees in the lab; and develop and lead an independent research project.

The Ragon Institute is an energetic and fast-paced research center leading fundamental and translational immunology research. In addition to its state-of-the-art facilities, the institute is known for a genuinely supportive and collaborative culture, where scholars work together to improve human health. The Ragon's connection to Mass General Brigham creates enormous opportunities for clinical translation, and affiliations with MIT and Harvard attract brilliant scholars and students who constantly push new ideas and projects.

Within the Ragon Institute, the Investigations of Natural Killer Cells Laboratory (**INK Lab**), led by Wilfredo F. Garcia-Beltran, M.D., Ph.D, aims to expand our knowledge of fundamental NK cell biology and leverage it to create next-generation immunotherapies for challenging and undertreated cancers and viral infections of global significance. Our vision is to produce widely accessible therapies that are safe and effective to treat a variety of human diseases. To this end, the lab studies the underlying biology of NK cells to understand their capabilities and limitations, engineers novel constructs to introduce into NK cells, and conducts *in vitro* and *in vivo* downstream functional immune assays and screens to characterize and enhance their function.

Postdoctoral fellows in the lab are expected to take intellectual ownership of their projects, produce rigorous and high-impact work suitable for publication in leading journals, and present their work at national and international conferences. They are also expected to contribute to collaborative projects within the lab and advance our scientific mission as a team. Fellows will have opportunities to collaborate with laboratories across the Ragon Institute and the broader Boston research community and to gain mentorship experience by supporting students and trainees in the lab.

The **INK Lab** team shares the values of pursuing excellent science with a strong work ethic while upholding a collaborative, collegial, and respectful work environment. Our motto is: "Do exceptional science and enjoy doing it!" Visit our website: inklab.bio.

Job Duties:

Postdoctoral fellows are expected to perform the following responsibilities with increasing independence under the mentorship of the PI:

- Design, execute, and analyze high-complexity experiments (for example, molecular biology, multi-color flow cytometry, live-cell imaging, RNA/DNA sequencing analysis, genetic screens, *in vivo* mouse experiments, etc.).
- Co-mentor students in the lab by supporting experimental design and troubleshooting efforts, and identifying opportunities for improvement and learning.
- Work on site full time.
- Learn and adapt quickly to new scientific protocols and findings in the field.
- Integrate lab findings with available scientific and clinical data in the field to generate new hypotheses and validate studies.
- Work with human samples, and the possibility of *in vivo* mouse work (not required)
- Rigorously document all work in an electronic laboratory notebook, data repository, and protocol repository.
- Analyze data effectively and independently.
- Draft manuscripts, grant applications, presentation slides, and figures effectively.
- Actively participate in lab activities and lead journal clubs and lab meetings.
- Independently reviews literature to stay up to date with the most recent findings in the field.
- Remain honest, kind, and respectful at all times, even under stress.
- Meet weekly with PI.

Qualifications:

- PhD or MD/PhD in immunology, cancer biology, molecular biology, virology, or related field.
- Strong background in cellular immunology; background in NK biology is not required.
- Experience in molecular biology (plasmid design, cloning, sequencing, etc.).
- Experience in tissue culture, flow cytometry, and microscopy.
- Keen interest in synthetic biology and cellular immunotherapies.
- Passion and experience in mentorship and working in teams.
- Strong organizational skills, attention to detail, and the ability to meet deadlines.
- Demonstrated scientific curiosity, initiative, and internal motivation.
- Strong interpersonal skills.

Contact:

Interested candidates, please send a cover letter (that includes a personal statement), CV, and names/emails of 3 references to Wilfredo F. Garcia-Beltran, M.D., Ph.D., at INKteam@garciabeltranlab.org and wgarciabeltran@mgh.harvard.edu.