**1st call for proposals**

**LabEx IBEID Springboard to Independence (S2I) Fellowships**

The transition from postdoc to independent scientist often lacks formal support structures and funding. The last year(s) of a postdoc, the scientist is generally most productive, faced with the task of tying up loose ends, completing work for publications, applying and traveling to new job opportunities and beginning work on the topic that they will carry on to their own independent careers. This step is not only a challenge to the postdoc, but can also be taxing on the resources of the host lab.

To facilitate this transition, the LabEx IBEID has created the Springboard to Independence (S2I) fellowship. The fellowship is intended as a two phase program of roughly 12 months each, to benefit both the host lab and the young transitioning scientist. **The first year of postdoc salary is expected to be covered by the host lab, while the second year of salary is provided by the S2I fellowship**. The first year is expected to focus on completing work in the current host lab (completing experiments, submitting papers, etc.), while the second year is more focused on preparing for the transition to an independent career (generate preliminary work on the project that the postdoc will take with them to their new host institution, prepare and travel to job interviews, acquire official supervising experience).

The proposal should describe the previous achievements of the postdoc, with emphasis on current work in the host lab, and provide a detailed plan on what work will be performed to complete this work, as well as what new research will be initiated to allow the fellow to transition out of the host lab with their own independent research program. The proposal should also outline what independent positions are being considered or will be targeted.

A selection committee will be formed by Carla Saleh, Marco Vignuzzi and Philippe Bastin. Other members of the LabEx and external reviewers will be invited as needed for their expertise.

Selected candidates will be given the opportunity to work closely with a mentoring committee, composed of senior members of the LabEx, that will help prepare them for their transition and interviews along the way.

**Important**

* **The 2-year S2I fellowships will cover the second year of salary for the senior postdoc for 12 months, and provide additional funding to be used for supporting technician salary, consumables, other bench fees, and/or travel, all in relationship to the postdoc’s future project as an independent researcher, for up to 220K euros total.**
* **The first S2I funding opportunity will be launched in 2020, followed by two more calls in 2021 and 2022.**
* **The start date for the S2I is expected to occur sometime in 2020, according to the postdoc’s schedule.**

**Eligibility**

1. The postdoc must belong to a group within the LabEx IBEID.
2. The proposed work must be in line with the research topics of the LabEx IBEID.
3. The postdoc must have minimum 3 years to maximum 6 years work experience after its PhD. Candidates that reach the limit of 54 months, will obtain a derogation (to be confirmed with Patrick Trieu-Cuot) for the duration of the S2I fellowship. Extra time will be afforded for parental or medical leave.
4. The postdoc must be considered competitive enough to obtain an independent position, with at least one impactful first author research publication in press or with a final acceptance, and a clear plan of future research as an independent scientist.
5. The proposal must be written by the postdoc.
6. Proposals must contain a letter of commitment from the current PI, accepting that the funding will only be used to help launch the postdoc’s transition to independence project.
7. The application must be submitted before **January 20, 2020**.

**The proposal.**

1. **Candidate’s Previous Research (1-2 pages):** Briefly review your research experience (undergraduate/ graduate/previous postdoc). Describe how your past experiences led to your current postdoc training. Importantly, describe in more detail your work in the current postdoc position up to the present application.
2. **Project Summary (1 page):** What is your area of research? What is lacking in the current understanding and how will your study contribute? State the big picture questions that you will ask in your independent lab. State the scientific problem, 2-3 sentences of background information, then the goal of the project. Next, summarize what you will do in your final postdoc phase, then transition (“Following my final year of postdoctoral work, I will …”) and summarize transition phase. End with one or two concluding sentences that address: What is innovative in your methods or your approach? What gives you a unique advantage that sets you apart from the field? What paradigms will be shifted if your hypothesis is correct? **Aims:** List the aims, divided into phase I (postdoc) and phase II (transition). Watch out for overly ambitious aims or having too many aims, consider the timing involved. Be succinct, do not write more than one or two sentences per aim.
3. **Proposed work plan for phase I (finalizing postdoctoral work) (up to 1 page).** Describe how you will spend the phase I period completing current work in your host lab. Provide a timeline.
4. **Proposed work plan for phase II (transition to independence) (1-2 pages).** Describe what new work will be performed to create an independent research path that could be the basis of your new laboratory in the future. Describe how the budget will be used to this end. What are the expected results and risks? Provide a timeline.
5. **Career Goals and Objectives (1 page):** How will you use the S2I award to advance your research career? Mention any additional training that the S2I award will provide you, that you would not normally receive in your current training. **Career Development/Training:** Be very specific! 1) Formal meetings with your mentor (How often will you meet? What are the benchmarks for progress?) 2) Training in new techniques? 3) Educational activities (grant writing/ career development/ ethics/ other?) 4) Mentored job search (What job opportunities will you target? When are the calls? Where?)
6. **Mentor Letter of support (1-2 pages):** The letter should indicate the full support of the hosting PI and show their understanding of the S2I funding and expectations. The letter should include, where relevant:

-Any overlap in research interests should be addressed, and your independence should be stressed. The PI should state that you will be free to take this project with you when you start your own lab.

-The PI should list some of the same career opportunities that you listed in your career development

-The PI should emphasize their training record and mentoring accomplishments (how many successful postdocs/grad students).

-The PI must also state what percentage of your time will be devoted to research for the lab, and should show the understanding that the transition phase should be focused on the postdoc’s future career, rather than current work.

1. **Budget Justification (1 page):** provide the budget breakdown of what is needed in terms of your salary, additional salaries, consumables, travel, etc.
2. **CVs**: Include Full CVs for yourself and your mentor(s).

**Schedule**

1. 11/2019 Announcement of S2I call
2. 20/01/2020 Deadline call
3. Mid 02/2020 Committee for evaluation
4. S2I contracts start in 2020 (from date suitable with the postdoc schedule)

**Project title**

**IBEID research topic which fits to the project**

❑ 1. Exploring microbial diversity/complexity and detecting emergences

❑ 2. Exploring host diversity/complexity upon confrontation with microbes

❑ 3. Exploring host-microbe interactions, defining the species barrier to transmission of infectious agents, finding novel targets for vaccinology and therapeutics

❑ 4. Exploring the biology of vectors playing a role in emergence

❑ 5. Creating the technological and integrative environment to support major scientific advances in the field of emerging infectious diseases

Applicant and Host Team

**Applicant**

First Name, last Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

**PI**

First Name, last Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

**Host Team**

Name of the host unit / laboratory:

Mailing address of the host team:

**1. Candidate’s Previous Research (1-2 pages)**

 **(Suite)**

**2. Project Summary (1 page)**

**3. Proposed work plan for phase I (up to 1 page)
*Finalizing postdoctoral work***

**4. Proposed work plan for phase II (1-2 pages)
*Transition to independence***

**(Suite)**

**5. Career Goals and Objectives (1 page)**

**6. Mentor Letter of support (1-2 pages)**

 **(Suite)**

**7. Budget Justification (1 page)**

**8. Full CVs
*Applicant and Mentor***

**Application should be sent as a pdf document to** **thierry.planchenault@pasteur.fr**

Submission deadline: **January 20, 2020**