



Lisbon, October 16, 2019

One Post-Doctoral fellowship is available to join the CMAzzalin laboratory at the Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes in Lisbon (iMM).

Website: <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/pt/investigacao/laboratorios/azzalin-claus-m-lab/>

We are looking for a highly motivated scientist to join our laboratory and work on research lines dedicated to the functional characterization of the physical interactions between the long noncoding RNA TERRA and telomeric proteins involved in telomere integrity maintenance and length regulation in mammalian cells.

Work plan:

- Expression and purification of recombinant mammalian telomeric proteins using bacteria and/or insect cells.
- Implementation of biochemical assays to test the interaction between recombinant telomeric proteins and telomeric RNA.
- Generation of mutant telomeric proteins unable to bind telomeric RNA.
- Expression of mutant proteins in human cells and evaluation of telomere/genome integrity.

Candidate profile:

- PhD in biology or related areas (obtained not more than 2 years before January 2020).
- Experience in recombinant protein biochemistry (protein expression and purification, RNA and DNA EMSAs, etc.).
- Experience in mammalian tissue culture (transgene expression, CRISPR/Cas9-based genome editing, fixed cell microscopy, etc.).
- Deep interest in telomere biology, genome stability, cancer and aging.
- Orientation towards a career in academia.
- Team player aptitude, strong organizational skills and independence.
- Proficiency in written and spoken English.

The fellowship will start in January 2020 and will be initially awarded for 6 months with the goal of extending it upon positive evaluation.

Applications including a motivation letter and CV should be sent until November 26, 2019 directly to Claus M. Azzalin (cmazzalin@medicina.ulisboa.pt) or through the iMM website. Letters of reference from qualifying candidates will be requested if necessary.

References:

- Telomere functions grounding on TERRA firma. CM Azzalin & J Lingner (2014). *Trends Cell Biol* **25**: 29-36.
- TRF1 participates in chromosome end protection by averting TRF2-dependent telomeric R loops. YW Lee et al. (2018). *Nat Struct Mol Biol* **25**: 147-153.
- FANCM limits ALT activity by restricting telomeric replication stress induced by deregulated BLM and R-loops. B Silva et al. (2019). *Nat Commun* **10**: 2253.

The iMM offers a vibrant and young scientific community with state-of-the-art facilities and connections with one of the largest hospitals in Portugal. The commonly spoken language is English. No candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due to ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.