

iMM is recruiting a Postdoctoral Researcher under an Employment Contract - Reference IMM/CT/65-2022

The iMM – Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes is a leading Portuguese private non-profit research institute that offers a vibrant scientific environment, aiming to nurture innovative ideas in basic, clinical and translational Biomedical Research. Created in 2002, iMM Lisboa has established itself as a leading national and internationally competitive biomedical institute. Its strategy has been defined by promotion of excellence, leveraged by high-quality human resources, increasing expenditure in infrastructures and knowledge transfer to the society.

What iMM seeks: At this moment, iMM is looking for a Postdoctoral Researcher to join the Signaling in Cancer Laboratory coordinated by João Barata, under the research project “*IL7R_LungCan*”, funded by “La Caixa” Banking Foundation.

Work plan and objectives: Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the major lung cancer subtype, accounting for 85% of all cases. Immunotherapy based on PD-1 axis blockade transformed the therapeutic landscape of advanced NSCLC in recent years. However, resistance can emerge and constitutes a significant challenge. Another clinical hurdle stems from >50% primary tumors metastasizing.

Interleukin (IL)-7 and its receptor (IL-7R) are critical for T-cell development, survival of naïve T-cells, and generation and maintenance of memory T-cells, being essential for efficient immune anti-tumor responses. However, in the current project, funded by la Caixa Foundation and based on our preliminary data, we wish to demonstrate that IL7R can have an oncogenic role in lung cancer. We aim to:

- Demonstrate that IL-7R signaling in NSCLC cell lines and PDX samples leads to cancer cell proliferation, survival, motility, migration or invasion in vitro.
- Using xenograft and knock-in models of IL7R overexpression, show that IL-7R signaling promotes lung cancer development, expansion and/or metastasis in vivo.
- Characterize the tumor cell-intrinsic and microenvironmental mechanisms involved in IL-7R-dependent cancer development (with a particular focus on the immune compartment).

Profile of Candidate: Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that hold the following requirements can apply:

- Doctoral Degree in Biomedical sciences or related fields;
- Know-how in cancer research and/or immunology;
- Experience working with laboratory animals is highly valued (preferably with personal license for handling animals);
- Experience in molecular biology;
- Experience in multicolor flow cytometry analysis;
- Experience with cell culture of cell lines and primary cells (knowledge of proliferation, viability, migration and invasion assays is an important plus);
- Basic concepts of microscopy;
- High sense of responsibility, organization and method;
- Pro-active personality;
- Ability to work independently but also with team spirit;
- Excellent knowledge of English, spoken and written;
- The international experience of the candidate, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

What IMM offers: IMM will offer outstanding working conditions in this area in Portugal, including a full-time contract, starting predictably in July 2022, and the possibility to work in the interface of research and research support facilities. The start date is flexible to some extent, but preferably as close as possible to July 2022.

Working Conditions: - Unfixed-term employment contract with an estimated duration of 12 months (it can be extended until the end date of the project depending on the achieved scientific results); - Gross monthly salary of **2.153,94€** in accordance with the project budget and IMM Career By-Law. The indicated amount will be subject to the mandatory taxes accordingly to Portuguese Labor Law.

How to apply: Please submit: 1) Motivation letter with a short description of your previous research experience with relevance to the project, your main scientific achievements, and why you believe you are fit for the project; 2) your CV, including list of publications; 3) two reference letters and/or reference contacts. These documents should be uploaded in PDF format through the IMM website by clicking in the “**Apply**” button below the position job ad, **from 2nd of June until 9th of July 2022.**

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: IMM promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

International environment and experience: Diversity is a fundamental aspect of the essence of IMM, where researchers and non-researchers of different nationalities, backgrounds and areas of study work together, promoting the exchange of experiences and interactions, contributing to the personal and professional development of each person and to the existence of an international, inclusive and stimulating environment.

Pursuant to Decree-Law nr 29/2001 of 3rd February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication / expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications will be evaluated by João Taborda Barata (FMUL/ IMM), Rita Cascão (IMM) and Rita Fragoso (IMM). The admitted applications will be evaluated taking into account the quality, timeliness and relevance of the scientific path (scientific production and research experience) and curriculum of each candidate and their adequacy to the team and the proposed work plan.

First phase: Curriculum Analysis (60%) and Motivation Letter (10%). The Curriculum will be analyzed qualitatively, and in what concerns to its content and relevance for the tasks to be performed, namely: executed and/or published scientific work, with special emphasis on areas related to the work plan (20%); research experience and relevant knowledge in the area of the proposed work plan as described in the candidate profile (40%). The letter of

motivation will be evaluated in what concerns the motivation and adequacy for the activities to be performed (5%), and command of the English language (5%).

Second stage: The jury will select for the interview (evaluation: 30%) 5 candidates who obtained in the first phase the highest ranking, with a minimum of 50%. If less than 5 candidates obtained a minimum rating of 50% those with at least 50% will all be interviewed. No interviews will be conducted if none of the candidates achieves a score of at least 50% in the first phase.

After evaluation of all admitted applications, the jury will write a meeting minute with all process of recruitment, evaluation and selection including an ordered short list of approved candidates and their respective classification. If, after the interview, the score of none of the candidates reaches at least 90%, the Jury may decide that no candidate will be selected for the position.

The final decision of the jury shall be validated by the Head of the Institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

Results: Both admitted and excluded candidates list and final classification list shall be posted at iMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> and all admitted candidates will be notified by email.

Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline: After notification, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline. The present call is exclusively aimed at filling the indicated vacancy and may be terminated until the homologation of the final candidates' ranking list and expires with the respective occupation of the position on offer.

Lisbon, 1st of June 2022