

CALL FOR A RESERACH FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/35-2022

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project **UIDB/50005/2020** (with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

Scientific Area(a) Immunology

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements (*indicate mandatory and preferential requirements*): Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled in a PhD degree course (in area related to the work plan) can apply.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- MSc degree holder in Biological Sciences, preferably in Immunology
- Final MSc marks equivalent to Excellent/Very Good
- Previous experimental lab work, preferentially in immunology
- Previous expertise in cell culture, flow cytometry and cell purification

NOTE: *In the event the MSc was awarded by a foreigner higher institution, the degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law nr 66/2018, 18th August, and all formalities established there must be fulfilled by applications deadline.* For further information about the procedure, please check [here](#).

Work Plan and Objectives:

The research work to be developed aims to select and expand recipient-specific Treg for subsequent clinical translation, focusing on the suppression of GVHD responses whilst preserving the GVL effect.

Tasks:

- Establish protocols for the generation and expansion of recipient-specific Treg in an HLA-matched setting. This will involve the detection and the expand donor Treg that recognize the recipient's mHA.
- Reproduce *in vitro* the immunologic milieu of human allo-HSCT, using cells from donor/patient pairs and investigate the ability of antigen-specific Tregs to suppress effector responses against healthy patient cells, while preserving responses against leukemic cells.
- Perform a thorough characterization of the functional mechanisms of recipient-specific Treg.

Legislation and Applicable Regulation: Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law nr 40/2004, from 18th August in its current form (altered by Decree Law nr 123/2019, 28th August) and current Regulation of Fellowships of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt> (approved by Regulation nr 950/2019, from 16th December).

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in november 2022, for a period of 12 (twelve) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project .

Work place and Scientific orientation: The research activities will be developed at JLacerda Lab of IMM, under the supervision of João Lacerda and Maria Soares.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: IMM undertakes to ensure compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and equality and to that extent, provides that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due in particular ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade 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.

Research Fellows Support Centre: The Research Fellows Support Centre works on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00AM to 6:30PM at Human Resources Office.

Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of **1144,64 €** in accordance with the defined in FCT table <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.phtml.pt>. The amount will be paid by wire transfer at the end of each month. The fellow will also benefit from a personal accident insurance to execute the proposed research activities as well as the right to Social Security through Voluntary Social Insurance regimen, if wanted, under the terms of Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social, and the contributions costs will be supported by the research project.

Application documents: - Motivation Letter; - Detailed CV; MSc certificate (please check the “*NOTE*” in *Fellowship recipients*); - Contacts of 2 references; - Candidate’s declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration. ***The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.***

In case the applicant does not have yet the required degree certificate, a declaration of honor stating the conclusion of the necessary qualifications for the purposes of this process will be accepted and must be sent by the end date of the call.

Jury evaluation and selection: Maria Soares, João Lacerda and Ana C. Alho (*all from JLacerda Lab IMM*).

Selection methods: Curriculum Vitae (80%), Interview (20%). (*The candidate with the most previous expertise in the area of the project and ability to present their motivation will receive the highest mark*).

Deadlines and application process: The call will be open from 3rd october 2022 until 17th october 2022. Applications should be submitted through IMM website, by clicking in the “Apply” button below the position job ad. ***The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.***

Notification of results: The evaluation results will be announced within 90 days after the termination of the applications submission deadline, by writing and publishing a jury meeting minute at iMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> with all process of recruitment, evaluation and selection including a list of all excluded and admitted candidates and for these last ones, their classification. 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.

Fellowship contracting: The Fellowship is granted through the signature of a [contract](#) between iMM and the selected fellow and after the fellow send the following mandatory documents: copy of identification document (in case of non-European citizens is mandatory the work visa / valid resident permit), document proving the required academic degree and the document proving the enrollment in a PhD study cycle degree course.

Applicants with academic degrees obtained abroad will be required to present a certificate of recognition in accordance with the applicable regulation. This document is mandatory only in the contracting phase.

For each Fellowship period an [Activity Report](#) must be prepared by the fellow as well as the [Report](#) by the supervisor.

Lisbon, 30th september 2022

The Executive Director of iMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota