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Jury Meeting Minute
Reference of Fellowship IMM/BII/17-2024

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project *"Plasmodium liver stage schizogony: high replication and genetic diversity"*, with the funding support from the European Comission.

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal on 18th of March 2024 and also disseminated in iMM website.
The call was opened from 19th of March 2024 until 2nd of April 2024 and during which the following applicant applied:

- ✓ Ana Catarina Salgueiro Rodrigues
- ✓ Aberham Abere Alemayehu
- ✓ Awoke Minwuyelet Ayale
- ✓ Hugo Alexandre Leitão Mateus
- ✓ Maria Eduarda Cazelli
- ✓ Mebratu Tamir
- ✓ Sebastião Maria Mollet Morais de Barros
- ✓ Suzete Maria Almeida
- ✓ Zeeshan Ahmed

The applicants Aberham Abere Alemayehu, Hugo Alexandre Leitão Mateus, Maria Eduarda Cazelli and Suzete Maria Almeida were excluded because they did not submit all documents required in the job advertisement.

On the 11th of April of 2024, the jury composed by Maria Manuel Mota (FMUL/IMM), Inês Fernandes Bento (IMM) and Ângelo Ferreira Chora (IMM) met to analyze the application documents (motivation Letter, detailed CV, BSc and MSc certificates, contacts of 1 reference and candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships).

Work Plan and Goals:
Evaluate parasite replication during an in vivo infection of hepatocyte cells. Towards this end, the fellow will:
- *Perform in vivo studies to analyze Plasmodium replication during the liver stage in fixed intact mouse liver tissue;*
- *Process liver tissues for immunostaining and click chemistry followed by advanced imaging of processed tissues.*

Candidate's Profile:
- *MSc degree holder in in the field of Biology or related (mandatory requirement);*
- *Experience in the field of host-pathogen interactions research;*
- *Experience with animal models of malaria, namely P. berghei (desirable);*
- *Personal license to work with Laboratory Animals equivalent to FELASA Category B (desirable);*
- *Experience with imaging and flow cytometry techniques (desirable);*
- *Excellent knowledge of English, spoken and written.*

The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

Necessary Documents for Applications: - Motivation Letter; - Detailed CV; - BSc and MSc certificates; - Contacts of one reference. 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.

Selection Methods: Curricular Evaluation (80%) and motivation letter (20%).

Curricular Evaluation (80%)

The Curriculum Analysis took in consideration the following criteria:

- Education (20%);
- Experience in host-pathogen interactions research (15%);
- Experience with animal models of malaria (15%).
- Personal license to work with Laboratory Animals (15%).
- Experience with imaging and flow cytometry techniques (15%)
- Motivation to integrate the team and to undertake novel research (15%)

Motivation Letter (20%)

The Motivation Letter took in consideration the following criteria:

- Motivation to integrate the team and to undertake novel research (15%)
- Communication in English (5%)

The analysis and discrimination of the admitted candidate's classification in the sole phase of this process are presented in Annex I.

At this stage, the selected candidate is the one with the highest score.
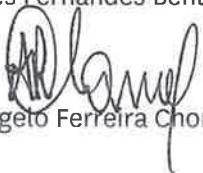
Lisbon, 22nd of April 2024

Maria M. Mota

Maria Manuel Mota (FMUL/iMM)

Inês Fernandes Bento

Inês Fernandes Bento (iMM)

Ângelo Ferreira Chora (iMM)

ANNEX I - EVALUATION: Fellowship Reference IMM/BII/17-2024

Applicant	Curricular Evaluation (80%)					Motivation Letter (20%)		Total	Justification
	Education (20%)	Experience in the field of host-pathogen interactions research (15%)	Experience with animal models of malaria (15%)	Personal license to work with Laboratory Animals (15%)	Experience with imaging and flow cytometry techniques (15%)	Motivation to integrate the team and to undertake novel research (15%)	Communication in English (5%)		
Ana Catarina Salgueiro Rodrigues	20	13	14	15	10	14	5	91	The applicant holds a Masters in Molecular Biology and Genetics. She holds a personal license to work with laboratory animals and has conducted her master's research in the field of host-Plasmodium interactions using rodent models of infection. The applicant explicitly states relevant experience with both imaging and flow cytometry techniques. The applicant shows great enthusiasm to integrate the team and to undertake novel research.
Awoke Minwuyelet Ayale	20	12	0	0	10	13	5	60	The applicant holds a Masters in Medical Parasitology. He has conducted his master's research in the field of malaria. The applicant explicitly states relevant experience with microscopy/imaging techniques. The applicant shows a clear enthusiasm to integrate the team and to undertake novel research.
Mebratu Tamir	20	12	0	0	10	13	5	60	The applicant holds a Masters in Medical Parasitology. The applicant conducted research in the field of parasitology and has some specific training in malaria related methodologies. The applicant has some experience with both microscopy and flow cytometry techniques. The applicant shows enthusiasm integrate the team and to undertake novel research.
Sebastião Maria Mollet Morais de Barros	20	10	7,5	0	6	12	5	60,5	The applicant holds a Masters in Bioengineering and is currently doing a PhD. He seems to have some experience working with rodents but does not state any specific training or license. The applicant conducted research in the field of anti-bacterial agents, more specifically using copper and analyzing it's effects in eukaryotic cells/organisms and role as bactericide. The applicant appears to have some experience with imaging techniques. The applicant shows enthusiasm to integrate the team and to undertake novel research.
Zeeshan Ahmed	20	12	10	15	0	13	5	75	The applicant holds a Masters in Zoology. He holds a personal license to work with laboratory animals and has some experience in malaria research. The applicant shows clear enthusiasm to integrate the team and to undertake novel research.

Maria Manuel Mota (FMUL/IMM)

Inês Fernandes Bento (IMM)

Inês Fernandes Bento

Ângelo Ferreira Chora (IMM)

Declaração de inexistência de conflito de interesses (CDI)

Os membros do júri do Concurso para Atribuição de 1 (uma) Bolsa de Investigação, Ref.ª IMM/BII/17-2024, aberto ao abrigo do projeto *"Plasmodium liver stage schizogony: high replication and genetic diversity",* vêm por este meio declarar que não se encontram em situação de conflito de interesses que os impeça de participar no respetivo processo de seleção e atribuição de bolsa.

Declaram também manter a confidencialidade ao longo do processo de avaliação.

Lisboa, 11 de Abril de 2024

Maria M. Mota

Maria Manuel Mota [FMUL/IMM]

Inês Fernandes Bento

Inês Fernandes Bento (IMM)

Ângelo Ferreira Chora (IMM)