

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

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Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Fellowship IMM/BI/23-2024

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project “PTDC/MED-FAR/4834/2021 - Does the context matter for drug action? Context dependency of the long-lasting neurobiological and antidepressant actions of psilocybin,” with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal on 28th of May 2024 and also disseminated in iMM website.

The call was opened from 29th of May 2024 until 13th of June 2024 and during which the following applicant applied:

- ✓ Bárbara Castanheira
- ✓ Francisca Silva
- ✓ Jorge Miguel Farinha Ferreira
- ✓ Rosina Sánchez Thomas
- ✓ Vinoth kumar Ganesan

The applicants Bárbara Castanheira, Rosina Sánchez Thomas and Vinoth Kumar Ganesan were excluded because they did not submit all documents required in the job ad.

On the XX of 24th of June, 2024, the jury composed by Ana Sebastião (FMUL/IMM), Sara Xapelli (FMUL/IMM) and Sandra Vaz (FMUL/IMM) met to analyze the application documents (Motivation Letter in English, Detailed CV, MSc certificate, Animal experimentation certificate (FELASA guidelines) and email contact of 1 reference).

Work Plan and Objectives:

- Assessment of the acute and delayed behavioral actions of the psilocybin, on anxiety- and depression-like behaviors, in animal models;
- Assessment of the effects of psilocybin in functional synaptic plasticity, using electrophysiological recordings.

Candidate's Profile:

- MSc degree holder in Neuroscience, Biology, Biochemistry or related areas;
- Animal experimentation course;
- Knowledge of spoken and written English;
- Prior experience in at least 3 of the following competencies:
 - Rodent behavioral testing, with a focus on anxiety- and depression-like behaviors;
 - Experience with animal models of depression;
 - Experience in ex vivo field electrophysiological recordings from hippocampal slices;
 - Experience in the field of neuropharmacology.

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

Necessary Documents for Applications: Motivation Letter in English; - Detailed CV; - MSc certificate; - Animal experimentation certificate (FELASA guidelines); email contact of 1 reference. **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 Method: The admitted applications will be evaluated taking into account the quality, timeliness and relevance of the curriculum of each candidate, as well as the expressed motivation.

The Curriculum (70%), it will be analyzed qualitatively, and in on the light of its relevance for the work plan and objectives and considering research experience. The motivation and interest for the activities to be performed, will be assessed by analysis of the motivation letter (30%).

Curriculum (70%)

The Curriculum Evaluation took in consideration the following criteria:

- MSc degree holder in Neuroscience, Biology, Biochemistry or related areas (20%);
- Prior experience in Rodent behavioral testing, with a focus on anxiety- and depression-like behaviors (10%);
- Experience with animal models of depression (10%);
- Experience in ex vivo field electrophysiological recordings from hippocampal slices (10%);
- Experience in the field of neuropharmacology (20%).

Motivation Letter (30%)

The Motivation Letter took in consideration the following criteria:

- Motivation and interest to perform the proposed activities (20%);
- Written communication in English (10%).

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, 24th of June, 2024

Assinado por: **Ana Maria Ferreira de Sousa Sebastião**
Num. de Identificação: 05059972
Data: 2024.06.24 23:54:14+01'00'

Ana M Sebastião (FMUL/iMM)

Assinado por: **SARA ALVES XAPELLI**
Num. de Identificação: 11691169
Data: 2024.06.24 19:47:20+01'00'

Sara Xapelli (FMUL/iMM)



Assinado por: Sandra Cristina
Henriques Vaz
Identificação: B111275242
Data: 2024-06-24 às 14:36:16

Sandra Vaz (FMUL/iMM)

ANNEX I - EVALUATION: Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/23-2024

Applicant	Curriculum (70%)					Motivation Letter (30%)		Total	Justification
	MSc degree holder in Neuroscience, Biology, Biochemistry or related areas (20%)	Prior experience in Rodent behavioral testing, with a focus on anxiety- and depression-like behaviors (10%)	Experience with animal models of depression (10%)	Experience in ex vivo field electrophysiological recordings from hippocampal slices (10%)	Experience in the field of neuropharmacology (20%)	Motivation and interest to perform the proposed activities (20%)	Written communication in English (10%)		
Francisca Silva	16	2	2	0	10	16	10	56	Candidate with training in molecular neuroscience and high marks in the Master in Molecular Genetics and Biomedicine. No training in electrophysiology. Master thesis with potential impact in cognitive impairment and depression but no hands on training in animal behaviour testing or in animal models of depression. Reveals motivation to the proposed activities. Good english communication.
Jorge Miguel Farinha Ferreira	20	10	8	5	16	20	10	89	candidate with a master in Neurosciences with high marks. Previous publications as 1st author in studies that test animal behaviour, in one of these, using a commercially available animal model of depression. Co-author in a paper that involves electrophysiological testing. Highly motivated to the proposed activities, justifying it. Good english communication.

The members of the Jury

Ana M Sebastião

Sara xapelli

Sandra Vaz

Assinado por: **SARA ALVES XAPELLI**
 Num. de Identificação: 11691169
 Data: 2024.06.24 19:48:41+01'00'



Assinado por: **Ana Maria Ferreira de Sousa Sebastião**
 Num. de Identificação: 05059972
 Data: 2024.06.24 23:57:14+01'00'

Assinado por: Sandra Cristina
 Henriques Vaz
 Identificação: 811275242
 Data: 2024-06-24 as 14:42:30

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/BI/23-2024, aberto ao abrigo do projeto “*PTDC/MED-FAR/4834/2021 - Does the context matter for drug action? Context dependency of the long-lasting neurobiological and antidepressant actions of psilocybin*”, 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, 14 de junho de 2024

Assinado por: **Ana Maria Ferreira de Sousa Sebastião**
Num. de Identificação: 05059972
Data: 2024.06.24 23:55:41+01'00'

Ana M Sebastião [FMUL/IMM]

Assinado por: **SARA ALVES XAPELLI**
Num. de Identificação: 11691169
Data: 2024.06.24 19:48:09+01'00'

Sara Xapelli [FMUL/IMM]

Sandra Vaz [FMUL/IMM]



Assinado por: Sandra Cristina
Henriques Vaz
Identificação: B111275242
Data: 2024-06-24 às 14:40:09