CALL FOR A POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER HIRING UNDER ARTICLE 19 FROM DECREE-LAW NR 57/2016, ALTERED BY LAW NR 57/2017, OF 19TH JULY

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for the hiring of a Postdoctoral Researcher corresponding to the initial level according to the Applicable Regulation under an Unfixed-term contract, under Sistema de Apoio à Investigação Científica e Tecnológica (SAICT) – Call nr 02/SAICT/2017 - Projeto de Investigação Científica e Desenvolvimento Tecnológico (IC&DT), funded by Investment and Structural European Funds (FEEI) - Programa Operacional Regional de Lisboa and National Funds (FCT-MEC) under the research project LISBOA-01-0145-FEDER-031588 “Decoding the interplay between CK2, PI3K and the circadian molecular clock to better understand the biology of, and maximize targeted treatment responses in, T-cell Leukemia” (CIRCA-TO-TREAT-LEUKEMIA).

Reference IMM/CT/21-2018

Regulation

- Decree-Law nr 57/2016, from 29th August, altered by Law nr 57/2017, from 19th July, that approves a Doctoral Hiring regime to stimulate Scientific and Technological Employment in all knowledge areas (RJEC).
- Portuguese Labor Law, approved by Law nr 7/2009, from 12th February in its current writing.
- Regulatory Decree Nr 11-A / 2017, of 29th December.

Brief project description: Research over the last years has identified the main regulators of the circadian molecular clock (CMC), a mechanism that ensures the rhythmic regulation (usually in approximately a 24h period) of genes involved in different cellular processes. In this research project, we intend to assess whether signaling pathways pivotal for T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (T-ALL) pathophysiology, such as the PI3K-Akt-mTOR axis and its regulators CK2 and PTEN, might display rhythmic fluctuations in their activity patterns in leukemia cells. The two main goals are: 1) to characterize the possible leukemia-associated circadian fluctuations in the CK2-PTEN-PI3K-Akt-mTOR signaling axis in vitro and in vivo, as well as their functional consequences, and 2) to use these results to devise a targeted chronotherapeutic protocol that maximizes the efficacy of CK2 and PI3K signaling inhibitors in the context of T-ALL.

1. Work Plan Activities

1) Characterize the interactions between the circadian molecular clock, CK2, PTEN and PI3K-Akt-mTOR signaling pathway in vitro and also in primary T-ALL patient samples.
2) Assess whether PI3K-Akt-mTOR pathway circadian oscillations occur in vivo and determine their impact on T-ALL progression.
3) Determine the most effective targeted chronotherapeutic protocols for optimal inhibition of CK2 and PI3K-Akt pathway in T-ALL and consequent leukemia eradication.

2. Members of the Jury: According to article nr 13 from RJEC, the jury is composed by Professors João Barata (President of the Jury and Responsible for the Project), Bruno Cardoso and Luísa Figueiredo (all PhD’s).

3. Start Date and workplace: The contract is expected to start in December 2018 and will remain only for the necessary execution period of the work plan; the activities will be developed in iMM installations and/or other necessary locations to their execution.

4. Monthly remuneration: Gross monthly Remuneration is 2.128,34€, in accordance with subsection a), section 1, article 15 from Law nr 57/2017, 19th July, and with the remuneration position at initial level predicted in article 2 of Regulatory Decree nr 11-A/2017, of 29th December, corresponding to level 33 at Tabela Remuneratória Única, approved by Order nr 1553-C/2008, 31st December.

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

- PhD in biomedical sciences or any related area;
- Strong experience in cellular and molecular biology, including cloning, transfection and transduction, gene expression modulation by siRNA, shRNA and/or CrispR/Cas9 (mandatory);
- Experience with mammalian cell culture (mandatory);
- Experience in chrono-biology techniques (highly valued);
- Experience in hemato-oncology (desirable);
- Course and/or License to work with laboratory animals (desirable);
- Proven experience with cancer in vivo models (highly valued);
- High quality publication track record, with first authorship publications in high quality peer-reviewed scientific journals (highly valued);
- Experience with bioinformatics (valued as a complement to the other listed qualities)
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English;
- Good communication and presentation skills;
- Availability to work abroad in collaborating laboratories for long periods if necessary (mandatory).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In the event the PhD degree was awarded by a foreigner higher institution, the degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law nr 341/2007, 12th October, and all formalities established there must be fulfilled by applications deadline.

6. **Application process:** The call is open from 8th October until 19th November 2018 (30 working days), and the application documents (indicated below) should be sent, in PDF format, to Human Resources Office through the email imm.hr@medicina.ulisboa.pt, indicating the Reference of the position (mandatory):
   a) Motivation Letter in English explaining why the interest in the project and why the candidate would be an asset to it;
   b) Detailed CV;
   c) PhD Certificate;
   d) Two reference letters (optional but desirable).

   **Note:** The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of application.

6.1. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

6.2. *iMM promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, therefore 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.*

6.3. 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 honor, 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.

7. **Evaluation criteria:** 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 (a) and their adequacy to the proposed work plan.

   Initial screen (Phase 1): Motivation letter (25%), based on the demonstration of logical thinking, drive, independence and ambition, and the previous experience necessary for successfully conducting the project; and CV evaluation (65%), based on the overall track record of the candidate, most notably the quality of published first/last author articles, respective impact factor and scientific field of relevance for the project, clear demonstration of previous experience in methodologies required to the project, and general adequacy of the CV to the project as described in the candidate profile. The top candidates, with a classification in the first phase equal to or higher than 80% will be interviewed (Phase 2 – 10%) in order to evaluate communication and social skills, spoken English, grasp of the project, commitment and independent thinking.

7.1. 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 and final decision of the jury.

7.2. 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.

8. **Results:** Both admitted and excluded candidate list and final classification list shall be posted at Av. Prof. Egas Moniz, Ed. Egas Moniz, 1649-028 Lisboa, at iMM website and all candidates will be notified by email.
9. **Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline:** Pursuant to article 121 of the Administrative Procedure Code, after being notified, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. The panel’s final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline.

*Lisbon, 4th October 2018*