Fixed-Term Employment Contract
Reference IMM/CT/25-2019

We are seeking for one outstanding postdoctoral researcher to join VeCare funded by the European Research Council (ERC) in the group of Claudio Franco at Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM João Lobo Antunes) in Lisbon, Portugal.

Work Place: The work will be developed at CFRANCO Lab of iMM João Lobo Antunes under the supervision of Claudio Franco, PhD.

Project: *VeCare: Selective retention of VEGF for cancer and retinopathies therapeutics* (ERC proof of concept GA 825508).

Scientific Area: Cell and Molecular Biology, Vascular Biology, Cancer Biology, Vascular Disease.

Project Summary: Angiogenesis is the mechanism of blood vessel formation from pre-existing ones and is vital for nutrient and oxygen delivery to all cells in the organism. However, dysregulation of angiogenesis is detrimental for the organism. Excessive or abnormal angiogenesis is a hallmark of cancer and various retinopathies and favours tumour growth and metastasis, and vision loss, respectively. Excessive or abnormal angiogenesis is fuelled by hypoxia-driven expression of high levels of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), the main pro-angiogenic molecule that stimulates the formation of new blood vessels. **Although VEGF-centric anti-angiogenic therapies do exist, their efficacy is limited by their specificity and numerous side effects, hampering greatly their potential clinical benefits. Therefore, there is an urgent need for improved anti-VEGF therapeutic strategies**.

The aim of this proof of concept project is to identify a novel class of anti-VEGF drugs. We designed an innovative and unique screening method to identify an unexplored mechanism to inhibit VEGF function in vivo, which has the prospect of reduced toxicity and, thus, enhanced clinical efficacy. This project will enable the creation of a start-up company to commercialize the newly identified class of drugs for subsequent clinical development to curb cancer and retinopathies. We aim at improving patient survival and well-being, and reducing the economic burden associated with these diseases.

This project is funded by the European Research Council and will be performed in collaboration with Franck Perez (Institut Curie, Paris).

Activities: The candidate will be involved in the analysis of high-content screenings and the validation of the anti-angiogenic potential of lead compounds in cultured cells and in mouse models of cancer and retinopathies.

Experience, Knowledge, Skills
- PhD in the field of Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology or Cancer Biology (not restricted to).
- Enthusiasm for science, scientific rigor, critical thinking, proactivity and resilience.
- Good teamwork and interpersonal skills.
- Excellent communication and writing skills.
- Excellent command of the English language.
- Prior experience in at least one of these research fields: - drug discovery research; - vascular biology; - cancer biology.
- Prior experience with at least one of the following techniques: - mammalian cell culture; - pharmacokinetics assays; - angiogenic and tumor assays; - work with mouse models (FELASA accreditation).

Predicted Starting Date: September 2019

Working Conditions: Gross monthly Remuneration is 2.128,34€, subject to the mandatory taxes according to the Portuguese Labor. The selected candidate will also receive a meal allowance in the amount of 4,77€/ per working day and other allowances under the contract (Holiday and Christmas allowances) also subject to the legal mandatory taxes. **Duration of 12 months.**

How to apply and Selection Process: The call is **NOW** open and will end on **30th July 2019. Applications for the above opening should include:** - Motivation letter; - Detailed CV; - Letter and Contact information of two references; - PhD certificate. *The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.*

Applications should be sent to: imm-hr@medicina.ulisboa.pt with the Reference IMM/CT/25-2019.

If no suitable candidate is found, the deadline will be extended.

Selection process

- **Pre-selection**: Will be based on CV, motivation letter and research experience.
- **Interviews**: Short-listed candidates will be interviewed.
- **Job offer**: Will be sent to the successful candidate after the interview.

Communication of Results: The results will be published at https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/en/job-opportunities/results/ and posted at the entrance lobby of the Institute.

Lisbon, 3rd July 2019