

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

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Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Fellowship IMM/BPD/79-2019

The Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opened a call for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, with the funding support from "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, under the project "**Next-generation CAR-DOT cells for allogeneic adoptive cancer immunotherapy**" (HR18-00069 - ALLO\_CAR\_DOT).

The ad was published at EraCareers Portal [www.era Careers.pt](http://www.era Careers.pt) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and also disseminated in iMM website.

The call was opened from **18<sup>th</sup> November until 29<sup>th</sup> November 2019** and during which the following applicants applied:

- ✓ DZIRI Raoudha
- ✓ Julie Ribot
- ✓ Karine Serre

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, 2019 the jury composed by Professors Bruno Silva-Santos, Luís Graça and Marc Veldhoen (all PhD's), met to analyze the application documents (Motivation Letter; CV with publication list and detailed experience in the relevant areas; PhD degree Certificate) in accordance to the profile and work plan indicated in the job advert.

**Work Plan and Goals**

**1. Dissect the molecular mechanisms of AML cell recognition by DOT cells (see Almeida et al. Clin Cancer Res 2016; Di Lorenzo et al. Cancer Immunol Res 2019):**

1a. Screening, in panel of AML cell lines and primary samples, the expression of all known ligands for NK cell receptors using quantitative real-time PCR (RT-qPCR), and validation at the protein level by Western blotting or FACS.

1b. Test functional relevance of candidate ligands via CRISPR/ Cas9 silencing strategies. Mutated AML cell lines will be compared to control lines for their capacity to elicit DOT cell cytotoxicity.

**2. Establish the pre-clinical proof-of-concept for DOT cells (native or CAR- transduced) in AML:**

2a. In vitro testing:

- Cytotoxicity against AML cell lines and primary AML samples, and assessment of perforin/ granzyme expression and degranulation (CD107a);

- Secretion of IL-2, TNF and IFN-gamma upon co-incubation with AML cell lines and primary AML samples;

2b. In vivo testing in xenograft models of AML: (i) biodistribution and persistence; (ii) efficacy; (iii) side effects.

**Candidate's Profile**

- PhD in Immunology

- More than 5 years post-doctoral experience

- Specific research experience in T cell biology

- At least 2 corresponding authorships in peer-reviewed original articles

- At least 10 publications in journals with IF > 5

**Necessary Documents for Applications:** - Motivation Letter; - CV with publication list and detailed experience in the relevant areas (see candidate's profile); - PhD certificate.

**Selection Method:** CV (80%): Publications (50%) and Relevant experience (30%). Motivation letter (20%).

All admitted applications were analyzed according to the following selection method, which was also indicated in the job advert:

- Curriculum Vitae (80%)
  - Publications (50%);

- Relevant Experience (30%);
- Motivation Letter (20%).

#### **CV (80%)**

The analysis of the Curriculum Vitae took in consideration:

- **Publications (50%)**
  - i. Number of corresponding authorships (at least 2) in peer-reviewed original articles (20%)
  - ii. Number of publications (at least 10) in journals with IF > 5 (30%)
  
- **Experience (30%)**
  - i. Number of years (more than 5) of post-doctoral experience (10%)
  - ii. Specific research experience in T cell biology (20%)

#### **Motivation Letter (20%)**

The analysis of the motivation letter took in consideration:

- Interest for the proposed workplan (15%)
- Written communication (5%)

The analysis and discrimination of each candidate classification is presented in the table of Annex I.

Following this, the jury decided that **Julie Ribot** obtained the best classification and fulfilled the necessary requirements for this position.

**Lisbon, 7<sup>th</sup> of January 2020**



Bruno Silva Santos



Luís Graça



Marc Veldhoen

ANEXO I

Referência da Bolsa IMM/BPD/79-2019

Candidato	Curriculum Vitae (80%)				Motivation Letter (20%)		Total	Justification
	Publications (50%)		Experience (30%)		Interest for the proposed workplan (15%)	Written communication (5%)		
	Number of corresponding authorships (at least 2) in peer-reviewed original articles (20%)	Number of publications (at least 10) in journals with IF > 5 (30%)	Number of years (more than 5) of post-doctoral experience (10%)	Specific research experience in T cell biology (20%)				
DZIRI Raoudha	0	5	3	0	2	5	15	lack of seniority and specific expertise in T cell biology
Julie Ribot	15	30	10	20	15	5	95	Outstanding candidate with all the required qualities
Karine Serre	20	30	10	15	12	5	92	Outstanding candidate but limited experience with human cells

*Braunfink*

*Widger*

*Widger*

