

CALL FOR A POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER HIRING UNDER ARTICLE 19 FROM DECREE-LAW NR 57/2016, OF 29th AUGUST, ALTERED BY LAW NR 57/2017, OF 19th JULY

Reference IMM/CT/27-2021

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for the hiring of a Postdoctoral Researcher correspondent to the initial level according to the Applicable Regulation, under an **Unfixed-term Contract**, with the funding support from National Funds (FCT) under the project **PTDC/MED-IMU/2295/2020 – “Role of a Novel Player in T cell Activation”**.

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.
- Decree-Law nr 10-B/2020, from 20th March.

1. **Work Plan Activities:** The project entails the phenotyping of a novel conditional knockout mouse with a abrogated T cell signalling cascade, followed by investigating the molecular mechanism and its physiological relevance. The objectives to substantiate the hypothesis are 1) to assess the role of the protein in lymphocytes, 2) to discover the molecular mechanism in which it operates and identify its binding partners, and 3) to show the physiological relevance of the protein and its therapeutic potential. Briefly, we will address these objectives with the following work plans and methods:

WP1: The primary aim is to show that the knocked out gene is causal for the observed phenotype and to provide insights in the cellular role of it. The gene has been floxed and different Cre-drivers will be used. Experiments involve Western blots, qPCR, retroviral rescue experiments and cell composition and activation analysis during different stages of T cell development including the use of adoptive transfers and bone marrow chimeric mice, by flow cytometry.

WP2: will provide molecular insights of the protein requirement in T cell activation. Endogenous protein will be detected by antibody in cellular compartments, pull down and quantitative Mass spec (collaboration) will be performed. Identified candidates will be validated.

WP3: focus on the physiological relevance of the protein in T cell-mediated immune protection and its therapeutic potential. We will use infection and disease models, to probe T cell activation and memory formation, e.g. with help of acquired tetramers. We will interrogate T cell-specific primary and secondary responses (cell numbers, antigen-specific memory formation, (re)activation, pathogen burden, mouse health). We have OT-1 and OT-2 retroviruses to generate TCR retrogenic mice with Ova-specific T cells.

2. **Members of the Jury:** According to article nr 13 from RJEC, the jury is composed by Professor Marc Veldhoen (President of the Jury and Responsible for the Project), Silvia Ariotti and Cristina Ferreira (all PhD's).
3. **Start Date and workplace:** The contract is expected to start in June 2021 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 **2.134,73€**, 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, correspondent to level 33 at Tabela Remuneratória Única, approved by Order nr 1553-C/2008, 31st December and updated by Decree-Law nr 10B/2020, from 20th March.
5. **Profile of Candidate:** Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that hold the following requirements can apply:
 - PhD in Immunology, Biochemistry or related field;
 - Experience with cell culture advantageous;
 - Experience with biochemistry techniques such as Western blot, Immunoprecipitations (Essential);
 - Experience with flow cytometry (Advantageous requirement);
 - Experience with microscopy and immunohistochemistry (Advantageous requirement);
 - Good command of written and spoken English language (Essential);
 - Willingness to work with laboratory mice (Essential);
 - Experience working with laboratory mice (Advantageous requirement);

- Meticulous, observant and organized, willingness to be flexible;

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 66/2018, 18th August, and all formalities established there must be fulfilled by applications deadline.*

6. **Application process:** The call is open from **29th March until 10th May 2021** (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;
- b) Detailed CV;
- c) PhD Certificate (Check the **"IMPORTANT NOTE"** indicated in the "Profile of Candidate");
- d) Two or three reference contacts;
- e) Other documents that applicant may consider to be relevant to prove the scientific course.

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, wherefore 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 honour, 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.

First phase: Curriculum Analysis (75%) and Motivation Letter (15%) - Based on the Curriculum, it will be analyzed qualitatively, and in what concerns to its content and relevance for the tasks to be performed, namely: executed and/or published scientific work, with special emphasis on areas related to the work plan (15%); research experience and relevant knowledge in the area of the proposed work plan as described in the candidate profile (60%). Based on the letter of motivation will be evaluated the motivation and interest for the activities to be performed (10%), command of the English language (5%).

Second stage: The jury will select for the interview (evaluation: 10%) the 5 candidates who obtained in the first phase the highest ranking, with a minimum of 50%, or the number of candidates, up to 5, who obtained in the first phase a minimum rating of 50%. In the event of a tie, the decision will be responsibility of the chairperson of the jury.

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 (alphabetic order) and their respective classification.

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 candidates list and final classification list shall be posted at iMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> and all admitted candidates will be notified by email.

9. **Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline:** Pursuant to article 121 of the Administrative Procedure Code, after notified, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline.

Lisbon, 26th March 2021