

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

**Reference IMM/CT/33-2021**

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 **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 project “**PTDC/BTM-TEC/28534/2017 - “The role of long non-coding RNAs on the molecular circuitry and metabolic adaptation of breast cancer”** (RNAMETCANCER).

**Regulation**

- Decree-Law nr 57/2016, from 29<sup>th</sup> August, altered by Law nr 57/2017, from 19<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> February in its current writing.
- Regulatory Decree Nr 11-A / 2017, of 29<sup>th</sup> December.
- Decree-Law nr 10-B/2020, from 20<sup>th</sup> March.

1. **Work Plan Activities:** Despite improvements in cancer therapies, metastatic solid cancers remain largely incurable. The discovery of ER+ and HER2+ as therapeutic targets in breast cancer (BC) has enabled treatment success with blocking therapies. On the other hand, metastatic triple-negative BC (ER-/PR-/HER2-) is an aggressive subtype of BC marked by poor survival. No therapy exists and therefore patients have an unmet medical need. Finding alternative strategies are a requirement in cancer treatment and patient welfare. Accumulating knowledge indicate a prominent role for long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) in cancer cell survival, growth and metastatic potential. lncRNAs are a heterogeneous group of non-coding transcripts that regulate gene expression through diverse mechanisms. Our preliminary results demonstrate that lncRNAs can be manipulated with biomedical applications. These findings have raised the likelihood that lncRNAs represent an unexploited reservoir of potential therapeutic targets for BC.

**Work Plan Activities**

- 1) During activity 1 we will explore how down-regulation of different lncRNAs would affect the properties of different breast cancer and control cell (MCF10a - non-tumorigenic; MCF7 - Luminal A ER+/PR+, MDA-231 and MDA-436 - Triple negative [mesenchymal and epithelial features, respectively]) in different in vivo and in vitro assays.
  - 2) In activity 2 we will explore the metabolic adaptation of cancer cells after down-regulation of different lncRNAs candidates in different breast cancer models.
  - 3) During task 3 we will describe through strand-specific genome-wide screenings and proteomic strategies how lncRNAs oscillate in cellular models resembling different stages of breast cancer or patient derived xenograph models of human breast cancer.
2. **Members of the Jury:** According to article nr 13 from RJEC, the jury is composed by Professors Bruno Bernardes de Jesus (President of the Jury and Responsible for the Project), Simão Rocha and Sandrina Nóbrega Pereira (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 29<sup>th</sup> December, correspondent to level 33 at Tabela Remuneratória Única, approved by Order nr 1553-C/2008, 31<sup>st</sup> December and updated by Decree-Law nr 10B/2020, from 20<sup>th</sup> March.
  5. **Profile of Candidate:** Any National, foreign and 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 and transfection;

- Experience with mammalian cell culture (mandatory),
- Experience with bioinformatics tools (mandatory)
- High quality publication track record, with first authorship publications in high quality peer-reviewed scientific journals (highly valued, h-index > 10);
- Scientific Experience abroad (highly valued)
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English;
- Good communication and presentation skills;

**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, 18<sup>th</sup> August, and all formalities established there must be fulfilled by applications deadline.*

6. **Application process:** The call is open from 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 until 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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) 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** Initial screen (**Phase 1: CV evaluation (75%) and Motivation Letter (15%)**) - Based on the **CV**, it will be analyzed the overall track record of the candidate, most notably the quality of published first/last author articles, and respective impact factor (30%), clear demonstration of previous experience in methodologies required to the Project as described in the candidate profile (45%). In what concerns to the **Motivation letter**, it will be analyzed based on the demonstration of logical thinking, drive, independence and ambition (10%), and the previous experience necessary for successfully conducting the Project (5%). **Phase 2: Interview (10%)** - The top candidates, with a classification in the first phase equal to or higher than 80% will be interviewed in order to evaluate communication and social skills (5%), spoken English (2%), commitment and independent thinking (3%).

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 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 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, 8th April 2021**