

**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/45-2021

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/MEC-HEM/5281/2020 – “RESPECT (REcipient-SPECific Treg): Recipient-specific regulatory T cells: in vitro generation and expansion for subsequent clinical translation in Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT)”*.

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 RESPECT (REcipient-SPECific Treg) project aims to select and expand recipient-specific Treg for subsequent clinical translation, focusing on the suppression of GVHD responses whilst preserving the GVL effect.

The Post-doctoral researcher to be hired in the project will be responsible for the scientific tasks of the project as follows:

Task 1: establish protocols for the generation and expansion of recipient-specific Treg in an HLA-matched setting, as it occurs in real-life allo-HSCT. This will involve the detection and the expand donor Treg that recognize the recipient's mHA, which is challenging since mHA-specific Treg are rare and most of the mHA are still unknown.

Task 2: reproduce in vitro the immunologic milieu of human allo-HSCT, using cells from actual allo-HSCT donor/recipient pairs and investigate the ability of each recipient-specific Treg clone to suppress effector responses against normal patient cells, but not against leukemic cells.

Task 3: Perform a thorough characterization of the functional mechanisms of recipient-specific Treg beyond the standard suppression assays.

Alongside the benchwork responsibilities, the post-doctoral fellow will also be required to:

- Supervise MSc and PhD students in lab.
- Prepare scientific reports.
- Prepare presentations at national and international meetings.
- Prepare manuscripts resulting from the work undertaken under the scope of the project.

2. **Members of the Jury:** According to article nr 13 from RJEC, the jury is composed by Professors João Forjaz de Lacerda (President of the Jury and Responsible for the Project), Bruno Silva Santos and Miguel Prudêncio (all PhD's).
3. **Start Date and workplace:** The contract will start no later than October 1st 2021 taking into consideration the project deadlines, 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:
 - **Mandatory requirements:**
 - PhD in Biological sciences, preferably in Immunology;
 - Strong motivation to embark on an ambitious project on the field of transplantation immunology;
 - Proven expertise in Flow Cytometry and Cell Culture;
 - Ability to work autonomously;
 - Strong organizational skills.

- Favorably considered expertise (not mandatory):
 - Cellular Immunology, LDA, MLR and Suppression assays;
 - Previous work on Treg biology.

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 10th May 2021 until 22nd June 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):
- Motivation Letter in English;
 - PhD Certificate (Check the "**IMPORTANT NOTE**" indicated in the "Profile of Candidate");
 - Detailed CV;
 - 2 References contacts.

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 (80%) and Motivation Letter (10%) - 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 (20%); 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 (5%), command of the English language (5%).

Second stage: The jury will select for the interview (evaluation: 10%) the number of candidates, up to 7, who obtained in the first phase a minimum rating of 60%. In the event of a tie, the decision will be responsibility of the chairman 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, 7th May 2021