

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

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Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Fellowship IMM/BIPD/14-2021

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opened a call for a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship with the funding support from European Commission, through the research project "**Exploring the hidden life of African trypanosomes: parasite fat tropism and implications for disease**" (ERC- FATTRYP - GA771714 - H2020).

The ad was published at EraCareers Portal [www.eracareers.pt](http://www.eracareers.pt) on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and also disseminated in iMM website. The call was opened from 22<sup>nd</sup> June until 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and during which the following applicant applied:

- ✓ Asma Ressaissi
- ✓ Elena Antón
- ✓ Martha Catalina Alvarez
- ✓ Raquel Peixoto
- ✓ Raúl Caballero

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2021 the jury composed by Luísa Figueiredo, Sandra Trindade and Fabien Guegan (all PhD's), met to analyze the application documents (- 1-page motivation Letter written in English; - Detailed CV, including a list of publications, research grants, prizes and technical expertise; - PhD Certificate; - Name and Contact of two references) in accordance to the profile and work plan indicated in the job advert.

**Work Plan and Goals:** *Trypanosoma brucei* parasite has a complex life cycle adapting rapidly to changes in different host environments (nutrient availability, temperature, host defenses, etc.) for survival and function. Recently, Luisa Figueiredo lab has shown that adipose tissue is a major reservoir of *Trypanosoma brucei* parasites in a mouse model of African trypanosomiasis. This discovery raises several questions notably to understand why *T. brucei* parasite accumulates in adipose tissue and if adipose tissue environment is beneficial for the parasite survival and transmission. In this project, the postdoctoral research fellow will characterize the parasite-host interaction of tissue colonization during an infection by *T. brucei* parasites.

**Candidate's Profile**

- PhD holder in Biology or similar field (degree obtained for less than 3 years);
- Preference to candidates with previous experience in African Trypanosomes;
- Excellent knowledge in computational biology, specifically in genomics and transcriptomics;
- Experience in cell culture and in vitro cell assays;
- Excellent knowledge in English, spoken and written;
- International experience (congresses, courses, etc.);
- Available to start immediately.

**Necessary Documents for Applications:** - 1-page motivation Letter written in English; - Detailed CV, including a list of publications, research grants, prizes and technical expertise; - PhD Certificate; - Name and Contact of two references. **The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.**

**Selection Method:** CV and motivation letter (75%); and interview and references (25%)



### **CV (50%)**

The analysis of the Curriculum Vitae took in consideration:

- PhD Degree in Biology or similar field (5%);
- Experience in African Trypanosomes (15%);
- Knowledge in computational biology, specifically in genomics and transcriptomics (20%);
- Experience in cell culture and in vitro cell assays (5%);
- International experience (5%).

### **Motivation Letter (25%)**

The analysis of the Motivation Letter took in consideration:

- Interest and motivation for the proposed work plan (20%);
- Written English and communication (5%).

The analysis and discrimination of the admitted candidates classification in the First phase is presented in Annex I.

### **INTERVIEW AND REFEEENCES (25%)**

✓ Following this, the jury decided to invite for an interview the applicant Martha Catalina Alvarez. The interview took place on 19th July 2021 and it was based in the criteria indicated below:

- a) Adequacy of the track record of the candidate to the work plan (5%);
- b) Scientific curiosity and motivation for the proposed activities (5%);
- c) Ease of communication and autonomy (3%)
- d) High sense of organization and teamwork (2%);
- e) Command of the English language (3%);
- f) References (5%);
- g) Immediate availability (2%).

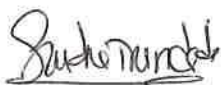
The analysis and discrimination of the candidate's classification in the Second phase and total classification is presented in Annex II.

Unanimously, the jury decided that the candidate Martha Catalina Alvarez fulfilled the necessary requirements for this position.

**Lisbon, 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2021**



Luisa Figueiredo



Sandra Trindade



Fabien Guegan



ANEXO I

Fellowship Reference IMM/BIPD/14-2021

Applicant	CV (50%)						Motivation Letter (25%)		Total	Justification
	PhD Degree in Biology or similar field (5%)	Experience in African Trypanosomes (15%)	Knowledge in computational biology, specifically in genomics and transcriptomics (20%)	Experience in cell culture and in vitro cell assays (5%)	International experience (5%)	Interest and motivation for the proposed work plan (20%)	Written English and communication (5%)			
Asma Ressaissi	5	0	2	5	3	10	5	30	Experience not related with trypanosome parasites. Good motivation letter but not shows knowledge about the project.	
Elena Antón	5	10	2	5	3	5	5	35	The candidate has showed some relevant experience within the research area and in culture, transfection and cloning, in cellular and molecular techniques and in citometry and quantitative methods. Good motivation letter showing clear commitment to research, but with no reference about lab papers or ideas for the project. But is a good motivation letter.	
Martha Catalina Alvarez	5	10	17	5	5	18	5	65	The candidate has demonstrated the ability to manipulate trypanosomes and therefore possesses many skills that will benefit the project. Outstanding motivation to continue research in trypanosomes. Excellent track record in genomics and transcriptomics.	
Raquel Peixoto	5	5	3	5	3	8	5	34	The candidate has showed some relevant experience within the research area and molecular biology. Good motivation letter showing commitment with science but not with the project.	
Raúl Caballero	5	10	2	5	5	8	5	40	The candidate has experience in methodologies that would be applicable to the project, but lacks expertise about big data analysis. No reference about lab papers or ideas for the project on the motivation letter.	

FMG  
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LTF



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Applicant	CV + Motivation Letter (75%)	Interview + References (25%)							Total ANNEX I + ANNEX II	Justification	Total ANNEX I + ANNEX II
		Adequacy of the track record of the candidate to the work plan (5%)	Scientific curiosity and motivation for the proposed activities (5%)	Ease of communication and autonomy (3%)	High sense of organization and teamwork (2%)	Command of the English language (3%)	References (5%)	Immediacy availability (2%)			
Martha Catalina Alvarez	65	4	4	3	2	3	5	2	23	88	Presented an excellent presentation for the lab, showed a deep knowledge of Trypanosoma biology and data analysis. Clearly showed to be a motivated self-starter with the right level of commitment for the role. Catalina shows to be the ideal candidate for this position.

FMB Suda LF

