

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

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Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Postdoctoral Research Fellowship IMM/BIPD/18-2021

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (IMM) opened a call for one Postdoctoral Research fellowship with the funding support from JANSSEN – CILAG FARMACÊUTICA, LDA., under the project "**Effect of Brodalumab on neutrophils in psoriasis**".

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal on 10th of September 2021 and also disseminated in IMM website.

The call was opened from 13th of September 2021 until 1st of October 2021 and during which the following applicant applied:

- ✓ Alexander Glez
- ✓ Cláudia Bessa
- ✓ David Botequim
- ✓ Jorge Antunes
- ✓ Maria Teresa Mendes

The following applicants were excluded since they did not send all required documents:

- ✓ Alexander Glez

On the 7th of October, 2021 the jury composed by Paulo Filipe, João Ferreira e Miguel Alpalhão, met to analyze the application documents (Motivation Letter, Detailed CV, PhD degree Certificate, Contact of 2 reference in accordance to the profile and work plan indicated in the job advert.

Work Plan and Goals:

The successful candidate will conduct a workplan intended at elucidating the role of different subpopulations of neutrophils in human psoriasis, a frequent (2-3% prevalence worldwide) IL-17 and IL-23-driven autoimmune disorder affecting the skin. Neutrophils are short-lived myeloid cells that have recently emerged as playing a central role in psoriasis, namely through their participation in IL-17- and IL-23-dependent pathways. Moreover, neutrophils are known to comprise biologically diverse subpopulations with different inflammatory potential whose role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis remains to be clarified. This research aims at testing whether, in patients suffering from plaque-type psoriasis, blockade of the IL-17 pathway with therapeutic antibodies affects blood and skin-infiltrating neutrophils and their functions. Controls are provided by patients not undergoing therapy with biologicals. In neutrophils, the activation of the IL-17 and the IL-23-dependent pathways will be assessed (protein and mRNA level) as well as the production of ROS (reactive oxygen species) and NETs (Neutrophil Extracellular Traps), and respiratory burst. To do so, high-end methodologies for gene expression analysis will be performed at both single cell and cell population levels on laser micro-dissected skin-infiltrating neutrophils (skin biopsies) and flow-sorted blood neutrophils. This study shall provide insight on the response of different subpopulations of neutrophils to IL-17 pathway blockade, and deliver clinically useful correlates of therapeutic response.

Candidate's Profile:

- PhD degree holder in Cell/Molecular Biology, Immunology, Biochemistry or related areas, recently obtained;
- Experience in basic cell and molecular biology technologies;
- Knowledge and experience in immunology (Desirable);

- Fluency in English language.

Necessary Documents for Applications: - Motivation Letter; - Detailed CV; - PhD certificate (please check the "NOTE" in Fellowship recipients); - Contact of 2 references. **The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.**

Selection Method: CV (50%). In a second stage, the selected candidates will be interviewed and scored in the interview performance (50%).

CV (50%)

The analysis of the Curriculum Vitae took in consideration:

- PhD degree holder in Cell/Molecular Biology, Immunology, Biochemistry or related areas (15%);
- Experience in basic cell and molecular biology technologies, Publications (30%);
- Knowledge and experience in immunology (5%).

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

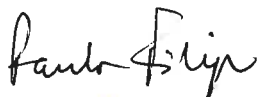
Interview (50%)

Following this, the jury decided to invite for an interview the listed applicant(s). The interview took place on the 14th, 20th and 27th of October 2021 and it was based in the criteria indicated below:

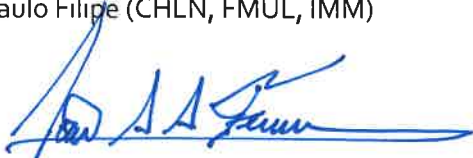
- Adequacy of the track record of the candidate to the workplan (20%);
- Scientific curiosity and motivation for the proposed activities (20%)
- Ease of communication and autonomy (5%)
- High sense of organization and team work (5%)

The analysis and discrimination of the candidates' classification in the interview phase and the total classification in both phases are presented in Annex II.

Lisbon, 9th of November 2021



Paulo Filipe (CHLN, FMUL, IMM)



João Ferreira (FMUL, IMM)



Miguel Alpalhão (IMM)

ANEXO I

Fellowship Reference IMM/BIPD/18-2021

Applicant	Curricular Evaluation (50%)			Total	Justification
	PhD degree holder in Cell/Molecular Biology, Immunology, Biochemistry or related areas (15%)	Experience in basic cell and molecular biology technologies - Publications(30%)	Knowledge and experience in immunology (5%)		
David Botequim	15%	25%	2%	42%	Skills and scientific background very well fit to needs of recipient group; recent original publications
Maria Teresa Mendes	15%	20%	2%	37%	Skills and scientific background well fit to needs of recipient group; recent original publications
Jorge Antunes	15%	17%	2%	34%	Skills and scientific background fit to needs of recipient group; recent original publications
Cláudia Bessa	15%	17%	2%	34%	Skills and scientific background fit to needs of recipient group

Paulo Manuel Cal D'Água

João António A. Ferreira

Miguel Duarte Betas 16/16

ANEXO II

Fellowship Reference IMM/BIPD/18-2021

Applicant	Interview (50%)				Total Annex II	Justification	Total Annex I + Total Annex II
	Adequacy of the track record of the candidate to the work plan (20%)	Scientific curiosity and motivation for the proposed activities (20%)	Ease of communication and autonomy (5%)	High sense of organization and teamwork (5%)			
David Botequim	18%	20%	5%	5%	48%	Good, adequate track record; highly motivated for proposed project; excellent knowledge of the proposed project and research interests of the group;	90%
Maria Teresa Mendes	17%	17%	5%	5%	44%	Highly motivated candidate, with a good, adequate track record;	81%
Jorge Antunes	17%	17%	5%	4%	43%	A candidate who is motivated to pursue the proposed research; good, adequate track record;	77%
Cláudia Bessa	17%	16%	5%	4%	42%	A candidate who is motivated to pursue the proposed research; good, adequate track record.	76%

Paulo Manuel de Almeida

João António A. Ferreira

Thiaguinho Duarte Botes Alves