Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opened a call for one research fellowship with the funding support from “La Caixa” Banking Foundation under the project “IL7R_LungCan”.

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal on 27th of September 2021 and also disseminated in iMM website. The call was opened from 28th of September 2021 until 12th of October 2021 and during which the following applicant applied:

- Ana Costa
- Beatriz Neves
- Dalila Mexieiro
- Hanane El Hafa
- Joana Alves
- Patrícia Ferreira
- Rita Marques
- Rubén Porras
- Shakiba Gholami
- Tatiana Araújo

The applicants Ana Costa, Hanane El Hafa and Patrícia Ferreira were excluded since they did not send all required documents.

On the 03rd of November 2021 the jury composed by João Taborda Barata, Rita Cascão e Rita Fragoso (all PhD’s), met to analyze the application documents (Motivation Letter, Detailed CV, BSc degree Certificate, Two reference letters and/or reference contacts and Candidate’s declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, their typology and duration) in accordance to the profile and work plan indicated in the job advert.

**Work Plan and Goals:** Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the major lung cancer subtype, accounting for 85% of all cases. Immunotherapy based on PD-1 axis blockade transformed the therapeutic landscape of advanced NSCLC in recent years. However, resistance can emerge and constitutes a significant challenge. Another clinical hurdle stems from >50% primary tumors metastasizing. Interleukin (IL)-7 and its receptor (IL-7R) are critical for T-cell development, survival of naïve T-cells, and generation and maintenance of memory T-cells, being essential for efficient immune anti-tumor responses. However, they can be subverted to promote cancer progression: IL-7 accelerates leukemia development and IL7R is a bona fide lymphoid oncogene. There is also evidence that IL-7R can be aberrantly expressed in solid tumors and contribute to tumor expansion and resistance to therapy. In this project, we propose to: 1) Dissect the role of IL-7/IL-7R in NSCLC development and metastasis; 2) Confirm whether IL-7R is a biomarker of resistance to anti-PD-1 axis therapy and explore the mechanisms by which IL-7R may mediate resistance to immune checkpoint inhibition; 3) Develop novel antibody-based approaches to target IL-7R expression specifically in tumor cells, decrease tumor burden and prevent resistance to immunotherapy. The successful candidate will be a highly organized, sociable, pro-active person who will be involved in the management of this multi-institutional project (which involves also CNIO and Hospital 12 de Octubre in Madrid, Spain), maintaining proper lab organization; inventory and reagent database management; ordering and interaction with suppliers; secretariat support to the PI; preparation of specific broad-use lab solutions; mouse genotyping (DNA extraction and PCR) and some experimental mouse work *in vivo*.

**Candidate’s Profile:**
- Bachelor in the field of Health or Life Sciences;
- Experience with *in vivo* mouse work will be highly valued
• High organization skills and work capacity are essential.

**Necessary Documents for Applications:** Motivation Letter with a short description of your previous research experience with relevance to the project, your main scientific achievements, and why you believe you have the profile and qualities to become our lab manager; - Detailed CV; - BSc certificate; - Two reference letters and/or reference contacts; - Candidate’s declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, their typology and duration. **The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.**

In case the applicant does not have yet the required degree certificate, a declaration of honor stating the conclusion of the necessary qualifications for the purposes of this process will be accepted and must be sent by the end date of the call.

**Selection Method:** Curricular evaluation (60%), Motivation Letter (40%).

**Curricular Evaluation (60%)**
The analysis of the Curriculum Vitae took in consideration:
- Bachelor in the field of Health or Life Sciences (20%);
- Experience with *in vivo* mouse work (40%).

**Motivation Letter (40%)**
The analysis of the Motivation Letter took in consideration:
- Expertise and interest for the field and activities to be performed (5%);
- Written communication (5%);
- Interest in working as lab manager and PI assistant (30%).

The analysis and discrimination of the admitted candidate’s classification is presented in Annex I.

✓ Unanimously, the jury decided that the candidate Tatiana Araújo fulfilled the necessary requirements for this position.

Lisbon, 09th of November 2021

[Signature]

João Taborda Barata (FMUL/ IMM)

[Signature]
Rita Cascão (IMM)

[Signature]
Rita Fragoso (IMM)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Curriculum Evaluation (60%)</th>
<th>Motivation Letter (40%)</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tatiana Araújo</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rita Marques</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dalila Mexieiro</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatriz Neves</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shakiba Gholami</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubén Porras</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shana Souza</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ataif Parra</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Shana Souza

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Ataif Parra

Degree in Marine Biology and Biotechnology (Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa), final mark 15. The candidate has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Rubén Porras

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Shakiba Gholami

Degree in Marine Biology and Biotechnology (Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa), final mark 15. The candidate has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Beatriz Neves

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Dalila Mexieiro

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Rita Marques

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Tatiana Araújo

Degree in Biomedical Sciences (Universidade de Braga), final mark 15. The applicant has limited experience in working with experimental animals, especially in vivo mouse models of cancer. The motivation letter is very general and reveals lack of interest/expertise specifically for the IL7/lung cancer field. This position needs a person with interest also in working as a PI's assistant, and the candidate does not demonstrate interest for this part of the position requirement.

Rita Francisco