

CALL FOR A POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship Reference IMM/BIPD/18-2021

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens 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”**.

Scientific Area(s): Molecular and Cellular Biology, Immunology, Dermatology

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements: Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) can apply.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- 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.

Work Plan and Objectives: 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.

Law and Regulation: **Law and Regulation:** Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação (Lei n.º 40/2004, de 18 de Agosto, republished in attachment to Decreto-Lei n.º 202/2012, de 27 de Agosto, changed by **Decreto-Lei n.º 123/2019, 28 de Agosto**), current Regulation of Fellowships of iMM and iMM Career By-Law and Assessment regulations.

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in November 2021, for a period of 12 (twelve) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project (predicted to end on 31/10/2024).

Work place and Scientific orientation: The research activities will be developed at Dermatology, Skin Biology and Pathology Lab (PFilipe Lab, iMM, Lisbon) under the supervision of Professor Paulo Filipe.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: iMM undertakes to ensure compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and equality and to that extent, provides that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due in particular ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

Fellow Monitoring Centre: The monitoring centre works on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00AM to 6:30PM at Human Resources Office.

Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of **1755€** in accordance with the applicable regulation. The amount will be paid by wire transfer at the end of each month. The fellow will also benefit from a personal accident insurance to execute the proposed research activities as well as the right to Social Security through Voluntary Social Insurance regimen, if wanted, under the terms of Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social, and the contributions costs will be supported by the research project.

Application documents: - Motivation Letter; - Detailed CV; PhD certificate; - Contacts of two references.

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.

Jury evaluation and selection: Paulo Filipe (CHLN/FMUL/IMM), João Ferreira (FMUL/IMM) and Miguel Alpalhão (IMM).

Selection methods: Curricular evaluation (50%), Interview (50%).

Deadlines and application process: The call will be open from **13th September until 1st October 2021.**

Applications should be addressed to Human resources through the email imm-hr@medicina.ulisboa.pt, by indicating the reference of the fellowship. ***The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.***

Notification of results: The evaluation results will be announced within 90 days after the termination of the applications submission deadline, by writing and publishing a jury meeting minute at iMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> with all process of recruitment, evaluation and selection including a list of all excluded and admitted candidates and for these last ones, their classification. All admitted candidates will be notified by email.

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.

Selection reserve list: A reserve selection list will be created for a period of 2 months.

Fellowship contracting: The Fellowship is granted through the signature of a [contract](#) between iMM and the selected fellow and after the fellow send the following mandatory documents: copy of identification

document (in case of non-European citizens is mandatory the work visa / valid resident permit) and document proving the required academic degree.

For each Fellowship period an [Activity Report](#) must be prepared by the fellow as well as the [Report](#) by the supervisor.

Lisbon, 10 September 2021

The Executive Director of IMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota



Logo of the funder (when applicable)