

**CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**  
**Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/24-2021**

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the Concurso de Projetos de Investigação de Caráter Exploratório (PeX) em Todos os Domínios Científicos within the Exploratory project *EXPL/BIA-BIO/0644/2021* - ***“The Unexpected Role of Red Blood Cell Homeostasis in the Onset of Malarial Anemia”*** with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

**Scientific Area(a):** Biology/Parasitology

**Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements:** Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled in a non-academic degree course (in an area related to the work plan) can apply.

Are considered “Non-academic degree courses” the ones referred in [paragraph e\) of number 3 of article 4 of Decree-Law nr 74/2006, from 24<sup>th</sup> March](#), in its current version, as long as they are developed in association and cooperation between a higher education institution and at least one R&D Unit in accordance with the provisions of paragraph e) of Article 3 of FCT Fellowship Regulation.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- BSc or MSc degree holder in clinical microbiology.
- *Desirable experience in malaria.*

**NOTE:** *In the event the BSc or MSc degree was awarded by a foreigner higher institution, the degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law nr 66/2018, 18<sup>th</sup> August, and all formalities established there must be fulfilled by applications deadline.* For further information about the procedure, please check [here](#).

**Work Plan and Objectives:** This project, by combining state-of-the-art experimental techniques with mathematical modeling, intends to deepen our knowledge of this algorithm in order to formulate a quantitative theoretical framework of RBC homeostasis. The interest of a theory of RBC homeostasis spreads across many scientific disciplines. In particular, it would allow exploring how malaria interferes with normal homeostatic mechanisms, a line of research largely neglected in malaria studies. The rationale for this approach is that RBC loss caused by the parasite should be expected to trigger compensatory mechanisms in the organism. The fellowship recipient will participate in the achievement of the following objectives:

**Objective 1:** Quantifying the effects of erythropoietin on the expression of CD47 in newly formed RBCs and in the erythroid precursors in the bone marrow.

**Objective 2:** Analyze CD47 and RBC lifespan in malaria-infected mice.

**Legislation and Applicable Regulation:** Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law nr 40/2004, from 18<sup>th</sup> August in its current form (altered by Decree Law nr 123/2019, 28<sup>th</sup> August) and current Regulation of Fellowships of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml> (approved by Regulation nr 950/2019, from 16<sup>th</sup> December).

**Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions:** The fellowship contract is predicted to start in January 2022, for a period of 6 (six) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable for an equal period until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project.

**Work place and Scientific orientation:** The research activities will be developed at Biology & Physiology of Malaria Lab of iMM, under the supervision of Cristina Arias.

**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.

**Research Fellows Support Centre:** The research fellows support 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 **1.104,64€** in accordance with the defined in FCT table <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.phtml.pt>. 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; - MSc certificate; - Contacts of 2 references; - Candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its 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.

**Jury evaluation and selection:** Cristina Arias (iMM), Sofia Marques (iMM) and Clemente Fernandez (CIB, Madrid).

**Selection methods:** CV (40%) and Motivation Letter (60%).

**Deadlines and application process:** The call will be open from **13<sup>th</sup> of December until 24<sup>th</sup> of December 2021**. Applications should be submitted, in PDF format, through iMM website, by clicking on the "Apply" button below the position job ad. ***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:** N/A

**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), document proving the required academic degree and the document proving the enrollment in a non-academic degree course (postgrade course).

Applicants with academic degrees obtained abroad will be required to present a certificate of recognition in accordance with the applicable regulation. This document is mandatory only in the contracting phase.

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

**Lisbon, 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2021**

The Executive Director of IMM  
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota