

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

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Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Fellowship IMM/BIPD/22-2022

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for a Postdoctoral research fellowship with the funding support from “La Caixa” Banking Foundation under the project **Whole-organism vaccines against *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* malaria with enhanced efficacy and scope**”.

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal <http://www.eracareers.pt/> on 11th July 2022 and also disseminated in iMM website.

The call was opened from 12th July 2022 until 25th July 2022, during which the following applicants applied:

- ✓ Akriti Srivastava
- ✓ Parisa Mousavi

On the 26th July 2022 the jury composed by Miguel Prudêncio (iMM), Helena Cabaço (iMM) e Luísa Figueiredo (iMM) (all PhD's), met to analyze the application documents - 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 Objectives: *The fellow will be responsible for the pre-clinical evaluation of genetically modified Plasmodium berghei-based candidates for whole-sporozoite vaccination against malaria. The activities to be developed are:*

- *In vitro* (hepatoma cells and primary hepatocytes) and *in vivo* (rodent models, including humanized mice) infections with transgenic *P. berghei* parasites;
- Immunofluorescence microscopy analyses of infected cells and liver sections;
- Immunization of rodent models of *Plasmodium* infection and sample (blood, organs and cells) collections;
- Analyses of immune responses by ELISA, IFAT and multi-parameter flow cytometry;
- Functional assays of inhibition of hepatic, blood and mosquito infection by *Plasmodium*;
- among others

Candidate's Profile:

- PhD in Biology or related areas (obtained less than 3 (three) years);
- Research experience in malaria vaccination;
- Personal license for working with Laboratory Animals equivalent to FELASA (Federation for Laboratory Animal Science Associations) Category B (mandatory);
- Experience in expression of *Plasmodium falciparum* antigens;
- Experience in protocols of mouse immunization with malaria vaccine candidates;
- Experience in *in vitro* and *in vivo* infections with malaria parasites;
- Experience in cell culture of human cells;
- Expertise in flow cytometry, quantitative PCR and immunofluorescence microscopy;
- Knowledge of immunology and experience in immunological assays;
- Excellent knowledge of spoken and written English;
- Excellent communication skills, team spirit, and ability to work in a group;
- Excellent organizational skills and ability to keep detailed records of experiments;
- Critical mind and pro-activity;
- Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams.

Necessary Documents for Applications: *Motivation Letter written in English; - Detailed CV; - PhD certificate; - Name and Contact of two references (email and telephone).*

Selection Method: 1st phase: CV (50%) and motivation letter (25%); 2nd phase: Interview (25%). The jury will select for the interview the candidates who obtained in the first phase the highest score, with a minimum of 50%.

CV (50%)

The analysis of the Curriculum Vitae took in consideration:

- PhD in Biology or related areas (obtained less than 3 (three) years ago) (5%);
- Research experience in malaria vaccination (10%);
- Personal license for working with Laboratory Animals equivalent to FELASA (Federation for Laboratory Animal Science Associations) Category B (mandatory) (5%);
- Experience in expression of Plasmodium falciparum antigens (5%);
- Experience in protocols of mouse immunization with malaria vaccine candidates (5%);
- Experience in in vitro and in vivo infections with malaria parasites (5%);
- Experience in cell culture of human cells (5%);
- Expertise in flow cytometry, quantitative PCR and immunofluorescence microscopy (5%);
- Knowledge of immunology and experience in immunological assays (5%).

Motivation Letter (25%)

The analysis of the Motivation letter took in consideration:

- Motivation and interest for the activities to be performed (10%);
- Applicant's prior experiences/expertise/relevant knowledge and the work plan (10%);
- Command of the English language (5%)

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

INTERVIEW (25%)

Following this, the jury decided to invite for an interview the applicants that obtained at least 50% in the First Phase. The applicant is identified below.

- ✓ Akriti Srivastava


The interview took place on 27th July 2022 and it was based in the criteria indicated below:


- Communication skills (6%);
- Commitment and independent thinking (6.5%);
- Interest in the project (5%);
- Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams (7.5%).

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

At this stage, the selected candidate is the one with the highest score.

Lisbon, 28 July 2022


Miguel Prudêncio (IMM)


Helena Cabaço


Luísa Figueiredo (IMM)

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ANEXO I

Fellowship Reference IMM/BIPD/22-2022

Applicant	CV (50%)										Motivation Letter (25%)			Total	Justification
	PhD in Biology or related areas (obtained less than 3 (three) years) (5%)	Research in malaria vaccination (10%)	Personal license for working with Laboratory Animals equivalent to FELASA (Federation for Laboratory Animal Science Associations) Category B (mandatory) (5%)	Experience in expression of Plasmodium falciparum antigens (5%)	Experience in immunization with malaria vaccine candidates (5%)	Experience in vitro and in vivo infections with malaria parasites (5%)	Experience in cell culture of human cells (5%)	Expertise in flow cytometry, quantitative PCR and immunofluorescence microscopy (5%)	Knowledge of immunology and experience in immunological assays (5%)	Motivation and interest for the activities to be performed (10%)	Applicant's prior experiences/ expertise/relevant knowledge and the work plan (10%)	Command of the English language (5%)			
Akriti Srivastava	5	8.5	5	5	5	5	3	4-5	5	10	9	5	70	The applicant presented proof of experience and expertise in project-related tasks and methodologies, as well as in the scientific area of the project. She further displayed great enthusiasm for the position and holds appropriate background knowledge to pursue the project's goals.	
Parisa Mousavi	0	0	2.5	0	0	0	3-5	4	4	7.5	5	5	31.5	The applicant indicates that she obtained her PhD in 2013, which exceeds the 3-year limit for this call. She presents no experience in malaria or Plasmodium infection models. Her background in parasitology is only moderately relevant for the position in question.	

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Applicant	CV + Motivation Letter (75%)	Interview (25%)				Total ANNEX II	Justification	Total ANNEX I + ANNEX II	Ranking
		Communication skills (6%)	Commitment and independent thinking (6.5%)	Interest in the project (5%)	Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams (7.5%)				
Akriti Srivastava	70	6	6	5	6.5	23.5	The candidate communicates fluently and enthusiastically, and displayed very high interest in the project. Her past experience demonstrates not only her adequacy to the project's scientific goals but also her ability to work in a multidisciplinary team, as required for this position.	93.5	

HMC
YF

