

**CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**  
**Fellowship Reference IMM/BII/29-2022**

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one Initiation Research fellowship under the project “*Infection of human primary hepatocytes by Plasmodium parasites*” (*Collaboration iMM Lisboa – IBET*) with the funding support from iBET.

**Scientific Area(s):** iMM is looking for a Researcher to carry out activities in the area of Parasitology, under the supervision of Miguel Prudêncio.

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

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- BSc or MSc in Biology, Parasitology or related areas (mandatory);
- Experience in the maintenance of Plasmodium falciparum blood stage cultures (mandatory);
- Knowledge of evaluation of compound activity against blood stage Plasmodium falciparum infection in vitro (highly desirable);
- Experience in the infection of Anopheles mosquitoes with Plasmodium falciparum parasites (mandatory);
- Experience in maintenance of Anopheles mosquito colonies and their infection with Plasmodium parasites (highly desirable);
- Work practice in the area of malaria research (mandatory);
- Accreditation for animal experimentation, according to FELASA’s Category B recommendations (highly desirable);
- Experience in the use of animal models of Plasmodium infection;
- Knowledge of microscopy and flow cytometry techniques (preferred);
- High sense of responsibility, organization, and a methodical approach to work;
- Dynamic and pro-active attitude, team spirit, and ability to think critically;
- Excellent communication skills and ability to interact constructively with different types of personalities and professional ranks;
- Proficiency in spoken and written English.

The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

**NOTE:** *In the event the BSc / MSc 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:**

### **Maintenance of Plasmodium falciparum facility, including:**

- o Ensuring the maintenance of Plasmodium falciparum blood stage cultures;
- o Infection, maintenance and dissection of Anopheles mosquitoes with Plasmodium falciparum;
- o Management and maintenance of the laboratory's Plasmodium falciparum parasite lines;
- o Training other laboratory members and facility users on basic Plasmodium falciparum blood stage culture technics and provide specific experimental assistance when required;
- o Manage access to and keep track of activities performed by other laboratory members in the Plasmodium falciparum facility;

### **Participation in the Anopheles mosquito insectary's activities, including:**

- o Maintenance of the Anopheles mosquito colony;
- o Production and maintenance of Anopheles mosquitoes for infection with Plasmodium parasites;
- o Infection and dissection of Anopheles mosquitoes with rodent malaria Plasmodium parasites;

### **Perform drug and antibody activity assays, including:**

- o Assessment of drug and antibody activity against Plasmodium falciparum blood stages;
- o Standard membrane feeding assays;

### **Laboratory Management activities, including**

- o General management and maintenance of Plasmodium falciparum facility and Anopheles insectary's equipment and stocks.

**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.pt> (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 September 2022, for a period of 6 (six) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable 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 the P. falciparum/insectary facilities of IMM, under the supervision of Miguel Prudêncio.

**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.

**International environment and experience:** Diversity is a fundamental aspect of the essence of IMM, where researchers and non-researchers of different nationalities, backgrounds and areas of study work together, promoting the exchange of experiences and interactions, contributing to the personal and professional development of each person and to the existence of an international, inclusive and stimulating environment.

**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 875,98€ 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; - BSc / MSc certificate (please check the “NOTE” in Fellowship recipients); - Contacts of 2 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:** Dr. Miguel Prudêncio, Dr. Diana Fontinha and Dr. Helena Nunes-Cabaço (iMM).

**Selection methods:** Curriculum Evaluation (50%), Letter of motivation (20%) and Interview (30%).

-1<sup>st</sup> Phase: Curriculum Evaluation: 50% and Letter of motivation: 20%;

-2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Interview: 30%. Only selected candidates who score a minimum of 50% in phase 1 will be interviewed.

**Deadlines and application process:** The call will be open from **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022 until the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022.**

Applications should be submitted through IMM website, by clicking in 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:** After notification, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel’s final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline.

**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 MSc study cycle.

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, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022

The Executive Director of iMM  
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota

