

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

Av. Professor Egas Moniz

Ed. Egas Moniz

1649-028 Lisboa

Phone: +351 217 999 411

Fax: +351 217 999 412

JP.
LFF
A.A

Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Fellowship iMM/BII/30-2022

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opened a call for an Initiation Research Fellowship with the funding support from "La Caixa" Banking Foundation, through the research project **Mechanism and function of epitranscriptomic poly(A) tail modifications in African trypanosomes** (TRYPM6A).

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal on 29th August 2022 and also disseminated in iMM website.

The call was opened from 30th August until 12th September 2022 and during which the following applicant applied:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| ✓ André Neves | ✓ Juliana Miranda Tatara |
| ✓ Antara Haldar | ✓ Margarida Paulo Pedro |
| ✓ Beatriz Sobreira | ✓ Miguel Mira |
| ✓ Christoph Wenzl | ✓ Mudassar Iqbal |
| ✓ Fátima Monteiro | ✓ Samrat Chakraborty |
| ✓ Inês Borges | |

The following applications were not considered since they did not meet the necessary requirements:

- ✓ Mudassar Iqbal

On the 13th of September 2022 the jury composed by Luísa Figueiredo (iMM), Sara Silva Pereira (iMM) and Abdulbasit Amin (iMM) (all PhD's), met to analyze the application documents (- One page motivation Letter written in English; - Detailed CV, including a list of publications, research grants, prizes and technical expertise; - Master certificate; - Name and Contact of two references; - Candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration.) in accordance to the profile and work plan indicated in the job advert.

Work Plan and Goals: *In the last decade, RNA modifications have been identified as key players in regulation of gene expression. By studying an ancient organism (Trypanosoma brucei), we discovered that poly(A) tails can be methylated and modulate messenger RNA stability (Viegas I et al., Nature 2022). The goals of this project are to characterize the evolution of poly(A) modifications, to investigate their biotechnological applications and to report the project's findings in activities of scientific dissemination.*

Candidate's Profile: *Master in Biology or related fields; Preference will be given to candidates with experience in RNA biology; Experience in molecular cell biology techniques, namely, genetic screens, quantitative PCR, molecular cloning and transfection; Organizational and methodological skills; Excellent knowledge of spoken English.*

Necessary Documents for Application: *- One page motivation Letter written in English; - Detailed CV, including a list of publications, research grants, prizes and technical expertise; - Master certificate; - Name and Contact of two references; - Candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration.*

Selection Method: *1st phase - CV and motivation letter (75%); 2nd phase - interview and references (25%). The jury will select for the interview (evaluation: 10%) the candidates who obtained in the first phase the highest ranking, with a minimum of 60%.*

CV and Motivation Letter (75%)

The analysis of the Curriculum Vitae took in consideration:

- Master in Biology or related field (5%);
- Experience in RNA biology (25%);
- Experience in molecular cell biology techniques, namely, genetic screens, quantitative PCR, molecular cloning and transfection (10%);
- Organizational and methodological skills (10%);
- Excellent knowledge of spoken English. (5%).

The analysis of the Motivation Letter took in consideration:

- Interest and motivation for the proposed work plan (15%);
- Written English and communication (5%).

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

INTERVIEW AND REFERENCES (25%)

Following this, the jury decided to invite for an interview the applicant Christoph Wenzl. The interview took place on 14th of September 2022 and it was based in the criteria indicated below:

- Adequacy of the track record of the candidate to the work plan (2%);
- Scientific curiosity and motivation for the proposed activities (2%);
- Ease of communication and autonomy (2%);
- High sense of organization and teamwork (1%);
- Command of the English language (1%);
- Immediate availability (2%);
- References (15%).

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

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

Lisbon, 14th of September 2022



Luísa Figueiredo (IMM)



Sara Silva Pereira (IMM)



Abdulbasit Amin (IMM)

ANEXO I

Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/30-2022

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Applicant	CV (55%)					Motivation Letter (20%)		Total	Justification
	Master in Biology or related field (5%)	Experience in RNA biology (25%)	Experience in molecular cell biology techniques, namely, genetic screens, quantitative PCR, molecular cloning and transfection (10%)	Organizational and methodological skills (10%)	Excellent knowledge of spoken English (5%)	Interest and motivation for the proposed work plan (15%)	Written English and communication (5%)		
André Neves	5	2	5	5	5	2	5	29	Experience not related with RNA biology. The candidate shows some molecular knowledge. Good motivation letter but not shows knowledge about the project.
Anlara Haldar	5	10	5	7	5	10	5	47	The candidate has showed some relevant experience within the research area and in cloning, in cellular and molecular techniques. Excellent motivation letter showing commitment with science and also the project.
Beatriz Sobreira	5	15	10	7	5	7	5	54	The candidate shows experience within RNA field and also in some molecular cell biology techniques. Good motivation letter showing clear commitment to research, but with no reference about lab paper or ideas for the project. But is a good motivation letter.
Christoph Wenzl	5	20	10	7	5	12	5	64	The candidate has extensive experience in the field and is comfortable with a wide range of techniques that will be necessary for the success of the project. Outstanding motivation to do research in the field. Excellent track record in RNA biology and molecular cell techniques.
Fátima Monteiro	5	10	10	7	5	7	5	49	The candidate shows some experience within the research field and also in molecular cell biology techniques. Good motivation letter but not shows knowledge about the project.
Inês Borges	5	2	2	2	1	2	1	15	Experience not related with RNA biology. The candidate shows some molecular knowledge. Missing information about english knowledge in motivation letter and in CV. Motivation letter doesn't show relevant information about the required skills for the project.
Juliana Miranda Tatara	5	2	7	8	5	7	5	39	Experience not related with RNA biology. The candidate shows some relevant molecular cell biology techniques. Good motivation letter but not shows knowledge about the project.
Margarida Paulo Pedro	5	15	10	8	5	7	5	55	The candidate shows experience within RNA field and also in molecular cell biology techniques. Good motivation letter showing clear commitment to research, but lacks reference about lab paper or ideas for the project. But is a good motivation letter.
Miguel Mira	5	5	5	7	5	7	5	39	The candidate has showed some relevant experience within the research area and molecular cell biology. Good motivation letter showing commitment with science but not with the project.
Samrat Chakraborty	5	5	5	7	5	8	5	40	Experience not related with RNA biology. The candidate shows some required molecular cell biology knowledge. Very descriptive motivation letter but not show knowledge about the project.

Fellowship Reference IMM/BII/30-2022

Applicant	CV + Motivation Letter 75%)	Interview (10%)						References (15%)	Total ANNEX II	Justification	Total ANNEX I + ANNEX II	Ranking
		Adequacy of the track record of the candidate to the work plan (2%)	Scientific curiosity and motivation for the proposed activities (2%)	Ease of communication and autonomy (2%)	High sense of organization and teamwork (1%)	Command of the English language (1%)	Immediate availability (2%)					
Christoph Wenzl	64	2	2	2	1	1	2	15	25	Presented an excellent presentation for the lab, showed a deep knowledge of RNA methodologies. Clearly showed to be a motivated self-starter with the right level of commitment for the role. Christoph shows to be the ideal candidate for this position.	39	1

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Declaração de inexistência de conflito de interesses (CDI)

Os membros do júri do Concurso para Atribuição de 1 (um) Bolsa de Iniciação à Investigação, Ref.ª IMM/BII/30-2022, aberto ao abrigo do projeto **Mechanism and function of epitranscriptomic poly(A) tail modifications in African trypanosomes" (TRYPM6A)**., vêm por este meio declarar que não se encontram em situação de conflito de interesses que os impeça de participar no respetivo processo de seleção e atribuição de bolsa.

Declaram também manter a confidencialidade ao longo do processo de avaliação.

Lisboa, 14 de setembro de 2022



Luísa Figueiredo (IMM)



Sara Silva Pereira (IMM)



Abdulbasit Amin (IMM)