

**CALL FOR A PHD STUDENTSHIP**  
**Fellowship Reference IMM/BD/38-2022**

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one PhD studentship under the project "*PolyMuTEs-Polymeric nanoparticles-based multivalent mABs against glioblastoma for T-cell engagement*" (LCF/BQ/PI22/11910009), with the funding support from "la Caixa" Foundation.

**Scientific Areas:** Cancer, Immunology, Nanomedicine.

**Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements:** Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled in a PhD study cycle (in area related to the work plan) can apply.

**Applicants must hold the following requirements:**

- Hold a bachelor's and/or master's degree in biomedicine, biology, biochemistry, pharmacy, or similar areas.

**Preferential criteria:**

- Experience in cell culture, "click chemistry" in polymers, development and formulation of polymeric nanoparticles, molecular biology techniques, and *in vivo* assays.
- Excellent ability to communicate in English.
- The international experience of candidates, not constituting a criterion for selection, will be valued.

**Work Plan and Objectives:** The work will be carried out within the scope of the "la Caixa" project. Specific objectives include: 1) preparation and characterization of multivalent polymeric nanoparticles (PolyMuTEs); 2) to evaluate the ability to cross the BBB by PolyMuTEs, their biocompatibility, and safety in vitro studies; 3) to evaluate T-cell activation and its cytotoxic profile in the destruction of brain tumor cells in vitro; 4) to assess the biodistribution and kinetics profile of PolyMuTEs in healthy mouse and orthotopic glioma model; 5) to evaluate the effectiveness of PolyMuTEs in a mouse model of glioma. Part of the work may be carried out in collaboration with Prof. Helena Florindo from FFUL and Prof. Giuseppe Battaglia from IBEC-Barcelona.

**Legislation and Applicable 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 February 2023, for a period of 12 (twelve) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum of 48 (forty-eight) months, in accordance with the stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project.

**Work place and Scientific orientation:** The research activities will be developed at Lymphocyte Regulation Laboratory under the supervision of Doctor Diana Matias and Doctor Luís Graça.

**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 **1.144,64€**. 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 and/or MSc certificate; - 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:** applications will be evaluated by a jury composed by Dr. Diana Matias (IMM), Dr. Luis Graça (FMUL/IMM) and Dr. Helena Florindo (FFUL).

**Selection methods:** The selection will be based on the scientific merit and research capacity of the candidates and will comprise two phases: **1<sup>st</sup> phase (50%):** CV evaluation (20%), research experience within the project (20%), and motivation letter (10%); **2<sup>nd</sup> phase (50%):** the 3 best-ranked candidates (minimum 40% of the ranking obtained in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase) will be invited for an interview.

**Deadlines and application process:** The call will be open from **14<sup>th</sup> of November until 14<sup>th</sup> of December 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.

**Selection reserve list:** A reserve selection list will be created for a period of 3 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), document proving the required academic degree and the document proving the enrollment in a PhD study cycle through Faculty of Medicine of University of Lisbon

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 November 2022

The Executive Director of iMM  
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota