

iMM is recruiting a Senior Bioinformatician under an Employment Contract

Reference IMM/CT/25-2023

The iMM – Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes is a leading Portuguese private non-profit research institute that offers a vibrant scientific environment, aiming to nurture innovative ideas in basic, clinical, and translational Biomedical Research. Created in 2002, iMM Lisboa has established itself as a leading national and internationally competitive biomedical institute. Its strategy has been defined by the promotion of excellence, leveraged by high-quality human resources, increasing expenditure in infrastructures, and knowledge transfer to society.

What iMM seeks: iMM is looking for a Senior Bioinformatician to join the newly created Microbiome in Health and Disease Laboratory coordinated by Dr Ana Santos Almeida, under the Program *HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ACCESS-01-two-stage – HORIZON-CSA (Project number 101060102 – iMM – CARE)*, funded by European Commission.

We are looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow to join our team and lead a large-scale longitudinal study aimed at identifying and validating microbiome biomarkers for risk assessment and early diagnosis of colorectal cancer (CRC). As part of this project, you will be responsible for developing a microbiome-based artificial intelligence (AI) platform to predict patients' risk of CRC and response to cancer therapy. This will involve integrating microbiome data with clinical and lifestyle information. To be successful in this role, you should have experience with microbiome pipelines and shotgun metagenomics analysis, as well as data integration from clinical data, lifestyle factors, and blood genomic biomarkers. You will need to be comfortable working with large datasets and proficient in statistical analysis. In addition to your technical responsibilities, you will also be expected to actively contribute to the intellectual environment of the lab and the institute. This includes preparing and presenting scientific progress in seminars, conferences, and peer-reviewed publications. If you are passionate about using your expertise to make a real difference in the fight against CRC, we encourage you to apply.

Profile of Candidate

- PhD or MD/PhD in bioinformatics, computational biology, computer science, microbiology, microbial ecology, or related disciplines.
- Significant experience (5+ years) in the analysis and interpretation of omics data, including metagenomics, metabolomics, and transcriptomics, in academia or industry.
- Solid knowledge of the human microbiome and bacterial genetics/genomics. Knowledge of human immunology will be a plus.
- Strong proficiency in R, Python, and Unix command-line interfaces.
- Prior experience in machine learning is desirable, as is experience with workflow managers such as Snakemake.
- Demonstrated ability to thrive in a fast-paced, highly interdisciplinary environment.
- Strong writing and oral communication skills in English (Portuguese is not mandatory).
- Flexible mindset focused on solutions.
- Forward-thinking, can-do, pro-active attitude.
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively.
- Strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals.

What iMM offers: iMM will offer outstanding working conditions in this area in Portugal, including a full-time contract, starting predictably in May 2023, and the possibility to work in the interface of research and research support facilities.

Working Conditions: - Unfixed term contract for an estimated period of 36 months. Gross monthly remuneration will be defined based on the merit and experience of the candidate in accordance with the budget defined in the project and iMM Career By Law, plus a meal allowance for each working day in the daily amount of 5,20€. The candidate will be paid Holidays and Christmas allowances. The indicated amount will be subject to the mandatory taxes accordingly to Portuguese Labor Law.

How to apply: Please submit your **1) Motivation Letter, 2) Detailed CV, 3) Contact details of two supervisors who can provide reference letters upon request, and 4) PhD certificate** in PDF format through iMM website by clicking on the “**Apply**” button below the position job ad, **from 20th of March until 20th of April 2023.**

Note: *Candidates who incorrectly formalize their application or do not submit the documents proving the compliance with the requirements indicated in the call will be excluded. The jury has the right to require to any candidate, in case of doubt, to present documents proving their statements.*

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: iMM promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and 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.

Pursuant to Decree-Law nr 29/2001 of 3rd February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication / expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications will be evaluated by Ana Santos Almeida, Marc Veldhoen and Nuno Morais (all PhD’s), in accordance with the following method:

- 1st Phase: Curricular evaluation: 25% and Motivation Letter: 25%;
- 2nd Phase: Interview: 50% (only candidates who score in the 1st phase a minimum of 40% will be selected for an interview).

Results: Both admitted and excluded candidates list and final classification list shall be posted at iMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> and 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.

The present call is exclusively aimed at filling the indicated vacancy and may be terminated until the homologation of the final candidates' ranking list and expires with the respective occupation of the position on offer.

Lisbon, 17th of March 2023

