

CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Reference IMM/BII/11-2023

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project “*Effect of mRNA therapeutics on ciliary function in primary ciliary dyskinesia zebrafish models*”, with the funding support from ETHRIS.

Scientific Area(s): Ciliary mRNA therapies

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

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- MSc degree holder in Biology;
- Be enrolled in a doctoral program in the area of Biology;
- More than 5 years of experience with the zebrafish animal model;
- Experience in motile cilia biology
- Experience in molecular biology, fluorescence microscopy and high speed videomicroscopy

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

Work Plan and Objectives:

The proposed project aims to investigate the dose-response relationship of CCDC40-human mRNA formulated in LF92 (ETH42) in the existing model of *ccdc40*^{-/-} zebrafish mutants generated in the laboratory of Susana Lopes.

Additionally, knock-out models of zebrafish *Ccdc39*, *Dnah5*, *Ccno* and *Dnah11* will be created (or imported) and the therapeutic efficacy and dose-response relationships of human therapeutic mRNAs encoding CCDC39, DNAH5, CCNO and DNAH11 will be comprehensively characterized.

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 May 2023, for a period of 16 months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project (scheduled to end in September 2024).

Work place and Scientific orientation: The research activities will be developed at de RNA and Genetic Regulation, under the supervision of Doctor Susana Lopes.

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 6:00 at Human Resources Office.

Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of 2.134,73€. 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; - MSc certificate; - Contacts of 2 references; - Candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration. ***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: Professors Maria Carmo-Fonseca (FMUL /iMM), Leonor Saúde (iMM) and Susana Lopes, NMS / iMM.

Selection methods: Curriculum evaluation (50%) and Interview (50%). Only candidates who have obtained a rating equal to or greater than 40% in the 1st phase will be selected for an interview.

Deadlines and application process: The call will be open from **27th of April until 11st of May 2023.**

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 selection reserve list will be constituted for a period of 2 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](#). For each Fellowship period an [Activity Report](#) must be prepared by the fellow as well as the [Report](#) by the supervisor.

Lisbon, 26th of April of 2023

The Executive Director of iMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota

