

**Reference IMM/CT/72-2023**

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for the hiring of a **Computational Medicinal Chemist**, under an **Unifixed-term contract**, with the funding support by Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência (PRR), under the project Centros de Tecnologia e Inovação (CTI).

**What iMM seeks**

iMM is seeking a dynamic and experienced Computational Medicinal Chemist with a strong background in the biotech/pharma industry. The successful candidate will employ the expertise in computational chemistry, molecular modeling, and state-of-the-art AI technologies for *de novo* drug design to propel our drug discovery and translational research efforts.

**Regulation**

- Decree-Law nr 57/2016, from 29<sup>th</sup> August, altered by Law nr 57/2017, from 19<sup>th</sup> July, that approves a Doctoral Hiring regime to stimulate Scientific and Technological Employment in all knowledge areas (RJEC).
- Portuguese Labor Law, approved by Law nr 7/2009, from 12<sup>th</sup> February in its current writing.
- Regulatory Decree Nr 11-A / 2017, of 29<sup>th</sup> December.
- Decree-Law nr 26-B/2023, from 18<sup>th</sup> April.

**1. Work Plan Activities**

- Leverage computational and molecular modeling methodologies to design, refine, and evaluate potential therapeutic compounds.
- Work with interdisciplinary teams, including biologists, bioinformaticians, chemists and clinicians, to identify and validate promising leads and drug candidates.
- Implement appropriate algorithms and software for molecular simulation, docking, virtual screening, AI-driven *de novo* drug design, and predict drug-target interactions.
- Analyze and decipher intricate datasets to offer insights into structure-activity relationships (SAR) and make predictions about pharmacokinetic and toxicological properties of compounds.
- Offer computational expertise to steer drug discovery efforts and guide preclinical testing.
- Pursue an active role in pertinent national, EU, and global networks and initiatives on computational chemistry and drug discovery.
- Contribute to grant writing, publications, and presentations in the realms of computational chemistry and drug discovery.
- Stay abreast of the latest advancements in computational medicinal chemistry, especially using emerging digital technologies.

**2. Profile of Candidate:** Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that hold the following requirements can apply:

- PhD in Computational Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, or a related discipline.
- Proven experience as a computational medicinal chemist in the biotech/pharma industry is preferred, but experience in academic-led drug discovery centers will also be considered.
- Successful track record in leveraging computational methodologies to fuel drug discovery projects.
- Deep knowledge of drug discovery software suites and a good understanding of AI technologies for *de novo* drug design.
- Knowledge in Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship techniques (QSAR) will be positively considered.
- Aptitude to thrive in a multidisciplinary, collaborative research environment.
- Proven leadership and management skills, with the ability to inspire and guide a team.
- Proficiency in English, spoken and written.
- Forward thinking, can-do, pro-active attitude.

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

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *In the event the PhD degree 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.*

3. **Members of the Jury:** According to article nr 13 from RJEC, the jury is composed by Professor Gonalo Bernardes (President of the Jury), Professor Francisco Enguita and Dr. Daniel Silva (all PhD's).
4. **Start Date and workplace:** The contract is expected to start in November 2023 and will remain only for the necessary execution period of the work plan; the activities will be developed in iMM installations and/or other necessary locations to their execution.
5. **Monthly remuneration:** Gross monthly remuneration will be defined taking into consideration the background and experience of the candidate, in accordance with the funding budget, as well as Holidays and Christmas allowances subject to the current mandatory taxes according to Portuguese Labor Law. A meal allowance will also be paid in the amount of 6€ per each working day.
6. **Application process:** The call is open from **06<sup>th</sup> September until 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023** (30 working days), and the application documents (indicated below) should be submitted, in PDF format, through iMM website by clicking in the “Apply” button below the position job ad:
  - a) Motivation Letter in English;
  - b) Detailed CV;
  - c) PhD Certificate;
  - d) Other documents that applicant may consider to be relevant to support the application.

**Note:** *The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of application.*

6.1. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

7. **Evaluation criteria:** The admitted applications will be evaluated taking into account the quality, timeliness and relevance of the profile and curriculum of each candidate and their adequacy to the proposed work plan, in accordance with the following method:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Phase:** Curricular evaluation: 35% and Motivation Letter: 15%

Based on the Curriculum, it will be analyzed qualitatively, and in what concerns to its content and relevance for the tasks to be performed, namely: qualifications relevant to the position (5%), experience and results in similar positions (25%) and leadership skills and team management (5%). The candidate's application for the position (15%) will be evaluated through the letter of motivation.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Phase:** Interview: 50%

- 7.1. The final decision of the jury shall be validated by the Head of the Institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

8. **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.

9. **Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline:** Pursuant to article 121 of the Administrative Procedure Code, after notified, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 30 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, 05<sup>th</sup> of September of 2023**