

CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship Reference IMM/BII/27-2023

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one Initiation Research Fellowship for a PhD student under the project ***“Whole-organism vaccines against *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax* malaria with enhanced efficacy and scope”*** with the funding support from La Caixa” Banking Foundation.

Scientific Area(s): Microbiology, Parasitology, Vaccines

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:

- MSc degree holder in Microbiology or related areas.
- Accreditation for animal experimentation (FELASA B or equivalent) (mandatory).
- Experience in malaria research, backed by publications in this field (mandatory).
- Experience in whole-sporozoite vaccination against malaria.
- Proficiency in flow cytometry-based assessment of cellular immunity (mandatory).
- Experience in ELISA and IFAT experimental methods.
- Excellent knowledge of immunofluorescence microscopy and quantitative real-time PCR techniques.
- Excellent command of the English language.
- Excellent presentation skills.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Proactivity, scientific independence and critical thinking skills.
- The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

Work Plan and Objectives: The fellow will be responsible for the evaluation of whole-sporozoite candidates for vaccination against malaria, including their infectivity, molecular characterization and immunogenicity. Among other tasks, the fellow will be involved in the:

- a) Immunofluorescence analysis of heterologously expressed *Plasmodium* antigens.
- b) Immunization of rodents with whole-sporozoite malaria vaccine candidates.
- c) Assessment of cellular and humoral immune responses to vaccination.
- d) Candidate selection for downstream pre-clinical and clinical evaluation.

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.

Expected start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is expected to start in February 2024 for a period of 6 (six) months on an exclusive basis, and may be renewed until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project (predicted to end on 30th of September 2024).

Work place and Scientific supervision: The research activities will be carried out at Plasmodium Infection & Anti-malarial Interventions Lab of iMM, under the supervision of Miguel Prudêncio.

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 8:30AM to 6:00PM at Human Resources Office.

Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of **1.199,64€**. 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 and MSc degree certificate. ***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 Miguel Prudêncio (iMM), Diana Fontinha (iMM) and Helena Nunes-Cabaço (iMM).

Selection methods: **Phase 1:** CV and Motivation Letter (65%); **Phase 2:** Interview (35%). Only the candidates who obtained a score equal or higher than 45% will be selected for an Interview.

Deadlines and application process: **The call will be open from 21st of December 2023 until 5th of January 2024.** 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.

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, 20th of December 2023

The Executive Director of IMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota

