

INSTITUTO DE MEDICINA MOLECULAR JOÃO LOBO ANTUNES

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Jury Meeting Minute

Reference of Fellowship IMM/BI/24-2024

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project **“Targeted chronotherapy in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia”**, with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

The ad was published at EURAXESS Portugal Portal on 11th of July 2024 and also disseminated in iMM website. The call was opened from 12th of July 2024 until 25th of July 2024 and during which the following applicant applied:

- ✓ Cláudia Sofia Seixas Pinto
- ✓ Ghazanfar Ali
- ✓ Uldana Dildabayeva

The applicants Ghazanfar Aliwere and Uldana Dildabayeva were excluded because they did not submit all documents required in the job ad.

On the 12th of august of 2024, the jury composed by João Taborda Barata (FMUL/IMM), Rita Fragoso (IMM) and Marta Fernandes (IMM) met to analyze the application documents (Motivation Letter, Detailed CV, MSc certificate, Two reference letter and/or reference contacts and Candidate’s declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration).

Work Plan and Objectives:

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), the most common childhood malignancy, is an aggressive cancer arising from B or T lymphoid progenitors. Although current therapies are highly effective, with 5-year survival rates reaching 80-90%, they associate with substantial short and long-term side effects, and a significant number of cases still relapse and have dismal prognosis. Importantly, therapeutic success in adults lags significantly behind, with only 30-40% of the cases surviving long-term. Thus, the current challenge is to develop novel, more efficient therapeutic strategies that specifically target the leukemic cells and minimize the detrimental side effects associated with conventional therapies. The administration of chemotherapy at defined times in the day (chronotherapy) has shown potential for cancer treatment 4 . Similarly, targeted therapies against signal transduction players, such as BCR/ABL, EGFR or BRAF have shown different degrees of efficacy. However, whether targeted signaling chronotherapies can improve treatment outcome has not been explored. In this project we propose to explore the idea that T-ALL signaling pathways can be targeted in a chronotherapeutic manner, thereby improving efficacy while decreasing the risk of side effects.

The successful candidate will be a highly organized, motivated and pro-active person and will have as main tasks:

- *Maintaining proper lab organization: inventory and reagent database management; ordering and interaction with suppliers;*
- *Molecular biology techniques (DNA and RNA extraction, PCRs, RT-PCR, cloning, Western blot);*
- *Preparation of broad-use lab solutions;*
- *Mouse genotyping (DNA extraction and PCR) and colony management.*

Candidate's Profile:

- Master's degree in biology, biochemistry, biomedical sciences with focus in Oncobiology (highly valued);
- Previous expertise in handling and processing human samples (desirable);
- Previous experience in cell culture (desirable);
- Previous experience in in vivo mouse work and colony management (highly valued);
- Previous experience in molecular biology techniques (DNA and RNA extraction, qPCR, RT-PCR, Western blot) (highly valued);
- High sense of responsibility, organization and method;
- Pro-active personality;
- Ability to work independently but also with team spirit;
- Excellent knowledge of English, spoken and written (highly valued).

Necessary Documents for Applications: Motivation Letter; - Detailed CV; - MSc certificate; - Two reference letters and/or reference contacts; - 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.

Selection Method: Curricular evaluation (50%), Motivation Letter (10%) and Interview (40%). Applicants scoring 40% or higher in the curricular evaluation and motivation letter will be selected for interview. The Curriculum will be analyzed qualitatively, and in what concerns to its content and relevance for the tasks to be performed, with special emphasis on research experience and relevant knowledge in the area of the proposed work plan as described in the candidate profile.

Curricular Evaluation (50%)

The Curriculum Evaluation took in consideration the following criteria:

- Master's degree in biology, biochemistry, biomedical sciences with focus in Oncobiology. (12%)
- Previous expertise in handling and processing human samples. (8%)
- Previous experience in cell culture of cancer cell lines and primary cancer cells. (6%)
- Previous experience in in vivo mouse work and colony management. (6%)
- Previous experience in molecular biology techniques (DNA and RNA extraction, qPCR, RT-PCR, Western blot. (6%)
- High sense of responsibility, organization and method. Pro-active personality.
- Excellent knowledge of English. (6%)

Motivation Letter (10%)

The Motivation Letter took in consideration the following criteria:

- Motivation and adequacy for the activities to be performed (7%)
- Command of the English language (3%)

Interview (40%)

The Interview took in consideration the following criteria:

- Experience in molecular biology techniques (DNA and RNA extraction, PCRs, RT-PCR, cloning, Western blot). (15%)
- Ability for maintaining proper lab organization and mouse colony management. (15%)
- Highly organized, motivated and pro-active person. (10%)

The analysis and discrimination of the admitted candidate's classification in two phases of this process – Curricular Evaluation + Motivation Letter and Interview – are presented in Annex I and Annex II, respectively.

At this stage, despite the fact that the sole candidate scored the minimum classification for an interview, the jury decided not to fill the position

Lisbon, 12th of august of 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'João Taborda Barata', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

João Taborda Barata (FMUL/iMM)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ana Rita Fragoso', written in a cursive style.

Rita Fragoso (iMM)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marta Fernandes', written in a cursive style.

Marta Fernandes (iMM)

ANNEX I - EVALUATION: Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/24-2024

Applicant	Curricular Evaluation (50%)						Motivation Letter (10%)			Total	Justification
	Master's degree in biology, biochemistry, biomedical sciences with focus in Oncobiology. (12%)	Previous expertise in handling and processing human samples. (8%)	Previous experience in cell culture of cancer cell lines and primary cancer cells. (6%)	Previous experience in in vivo mouse work and colony management. (6%)	Previous experience in molecular biology techniques (DNA and RNA extraction, qPCR, RT-PCR, Western blot. (6%)	High sense of responsibility, organization and method. Pro-active personality. Ability to work independently but also with team spirit. (6%)	Excellent knowledge of English. (6%)	Motivation and adequacy for the activities to be performed (7%)	Command of the English language (3%)		
Cláudia Sofia Seixas Pinto	8	3	2	2	4	5	6	7	3	40	Regarding curricular evaluation, the applicant finished the master's degree on Medical Bioscience. The applicant master's does not focus in Oncobiology. In the CV, the applicant mention experience in neuronal primary cell culture, but not in culture of cancer cell lines or primary cancer cells or in the processing of human samples. The applicant has no experience in vivo mouse work or colony management, both described to be highly valued in the call. The applicant makes reference to previous experience in RNA extraction, cDNA synthesis and RT-PCR, but not in performing Western Blot. The motivation letter showed that the candidate has good command of the english language.


João Taborda Barata (FMUL/IMM)


Rita Fragoso (iMM)


Marta Fernandes (iMM)

ANNEX II - EVALUATION: Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/24-2024

Applicant	ANNEX I	Interview (40%)			Total Annex II	Justification	Total ANNEX I + ANNEX II	Ranking
		Experience in molecular biology techniques (DNA and RNA extraction, PCRs, RT-PCR, cloning, Western blot). (15%)	Ability for maintaining proper lab organization and mouse colony management. (15%)	Highly organized, motivated and proactive person. (10%)				
Cláudia Sofia Seixas Pinto	40	7	5	7	19	The applicant only has 3 months of laboratory experience and no previous experience in western blot and in vivo work.	59	1


João Taborda Barata (FMUL/iMM)


Rita Fragoso (iMM)


Marta Fernandes (iMM)

Declaração de inexistência de conflito de interesses (CDI)

Os membros do júri do Concurso para Atribuição de 1 (uma) Bolsa de Investigação, Ref.^a IMM/BI/24-2024, aberto ao abrigo do projeto “*Targeted chronotheapy in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia*”, vêm por este meio declarar que não se encontram em situação de conflito de interesses que os impeça de participar no respetivo processo de seleção e atribuição de bolsa.

Declaram também manter a confidencialidade ao longo do processo de avaliação.

Lisboa, 12 de agosto de 2024



João Taborda Barata [FMUL/iMM]



Rita Fragoso [iMM]



Marta Fernandes [iMM]