IBMC
INSTITUTO DE BIOLOGIA MOLECULAR E CELULAR
INSTITUTE FOR MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A JUNIOR RESEARCHER UNDER DECREE-LAW 57/2016

Reference: IBMC_IJ_NCBio_2109_2026

IBMC – Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, is opening a call to one, PhD holder, for a Junior Researcher position, in an unfixed term work contract, to carry out research functions within the project "NCBio: Unlocking Excellence in Research and Innovation in Neurobiology and Neurological Disorders", reference 951923, financed by European Commission under the topic WIDESPREAD-06-2020 - ERA Chairs, at the IBMC Institute, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Neurosciences - gene therapy.

2. Project summary and workplan: Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS) is an untreatable neurodegenerative condition. While the exact aetiology of PPMS is unknown, research suggests that it likely results from a dysregulated autoimmune response targeting the myelin coat on neurons, which is essential for their function. Progressive neuronal demyelination leads to irreversible neuronal dysfunction and degeneration. In patients, this manifests as progressive motor impairment, spasticity, pain, and, in severe cases, paralysis.

In previous work (Yshii et al., Nat Immunol, 2022), our lab has shown that CNS-localized treatment with interleukin-2 (IL-2) ameliorates symptoms in mouse models of MS. In this project, we now aim to establish the mechanisms of IL-2 protection.

Work will be conducted at IBMC/i3s, one of Portugal's top science institutes, in the ERA Chair group of Dr. Matthew Holt.

3. Admission requirements

Mandatory:

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HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
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1. PhD degree in Life and Health Sciences, Neuroscience, Biomedical Sciences, or a related scientific field.
2. Established scientific track record in neuroscience/neurobiology, particularly in areas related to myelin biology, remyelination, neurodegeneration, and/ or neurological disorders.
3. Subject-matter expertise in experimental models of CNS demyelination and remyelination, including demonstrated experience with *in vivo* models of demyelination and remyelination and the associated experimental and analytical approaches.
4. Solid hands-on expertise in molecular and cellular biology, including techniques for the characterization of molecular mechanisms underlying myelin damage and repair
5. Advanced expertise in MRI, microscopy and imaging, including confocal and/or electron microscopy and quantitative image analysis for the characterization of myelin, axonal integrity, and cellular responses.
6. Training in Laboratory Animal Science or possession of the corresponding license issued by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary (DGAV) for the relevant functions (A+B+D or A+D), in accordance with Decree-Law No. 113/2013.
7. Fluency in written and spoken English, with demonstrated ability to communicate scientific results through peer-reviewed publications, scientific presentations, and collaborative research activities.
8. Excellent teamwork and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work effectively in multidisciplinary and collaborative research environments.

If the degree has been awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the provisions of the Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of august 16th, and must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, which approves the regime legal recognition of academic degrees and diplomas in Higher Education, arising from foreign higher education institutions, and paragraph e)

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of paragraph 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law No. 60/2018, of August 3, all of which the formalities must be fulfilled there until the time of signing the contract.

Desirable:

Preference will be given to candidates with solid experience and knowledge in:

a) Desired expertise in gene therapy and viral vector technologies, particularly AAV-based approaches, demonstrated through relevant research experience, scientific achievements, and/or recognized contributions to the field, including experience in AAV design, production, characterization, delivery, and/or evaluation of AAV-mediated gene expression in experimental models.
b) Demonstrated experience in research project development, including participation in and/or coordination of national or international research projects. Demonstrated ability to establish and maintain scientific collaborations, preferably across multidisciplinary research fields involving neuroscience, imaging, and/or regenerative medicine.
c) Experience in supervision and mentoring.

4. Workplace: Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular IBMC /Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde – i3S, under the group Synapse Biology and scientific supervision of Dr. Matthew Holt.

5. Start and duration of the contract: An unfixed term work contract will be signed, under the regime of exclusivity, according to legal terms (articles nº. 140º, nº 1 and nº.2, h); and article nº. 148º, nº. 4 – Labour Code).

The estimated start date of the contract is 15 of October of 2026 and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 11.5 months, and cannot in any case extend beyond the project's end date.

6. Professional category and monthly remuneration: The gross monthly salary corresponds to 3019.58€ (Level 44), according to the Consolidated Table of

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Allowances (TRU), subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions, whose application in intended for PhD holders with reduced post-doctoral experience or without a post-doctoral scientific curriculum. Plus payment of meal allowance, holiday pay, and Christmas bonus.

7. Legislation and other applicable regulations: Decree-Law no. 57/2016 of August, 29th, which approved Legal Framework for Scientific Employment (RJEC), updated by the Law no. 57/2017 of July 19th. Portuguese Labour Code, approved by Law 7/2009 of February 12, and the respective updates.

8. Jury composition:

President: Dr. Matthew Holt

Members: Dr. Olga Sin; Dr. Giulia Favetta

Substitute: Dr. Liliana Dias

9. Evaluation criteria: The evaluation of the CV of the candidates will focus on the adequacy of previous work experience within the scope of the call (point 3). The Selection will be based on:

a) Curricular evaluation (70%)

-Research experience relevant for the work plan, as defined in the requirement for admission (40%);

-Scientific and technological production and impact (15%);

-Participation in research projects (15%).

b) Motivation letter indicating interest and motivation for the area in which the application fits (20%).

c) The evaluation panel may invite the most highly ranked candidates (up to 3) for an interview. In this case, the interview will weigh 10% and the final classification system will be expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will receive a maximum score of 90%.

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10. Publication/Notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be publicized through an ordered list by final mark obtained, published on the IBMC website, and notified by e-mail. After notification, as provided in the Administrative Procedure Code, by the preliminary hearing, candidates have 10 working days to comment and, within that period, a complaint may be submitted by email to: rh@ibmc.up.pt.

This call is intended exclusively to fill the indicated position on offer and may be cancelled before the final ranking list of candidates is ratified by the Director. Accordingly, the position will no longer be available.

11. Application deadline and form of presentation of applications: The call is open from September 23rd to October 6th, 2026. Applications must be submitted electronically at:
https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/5a977bf16a9493323c2a527de613db7b

The required documents for the application are:

a) Copy of certificate or diploma of PhD in Life and Health Sciences, Neuroscience, Biomedical Sciences, or a related scientific field.
b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae including contact details for 2 professional referees.
c) Motivation letter.
d) Certificate of Course completed in Laboratory Animal Sciences OR respective License issued by DGAV, in accordance with Decree Law 113/2013.
e) Other documentation considered as relevant by the candidate.

12. Non-discrimination and equal access policy: IBMC actively 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

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capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

Pursuant to Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 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.

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