

## JUNIOR RESEARCHER VACANCY

The IBMC/i3S opens a tender procedure for the selection of **1 Junior Researcher, working in the field of Host-microbe interactions**. Candidates should meet the criteria of "Established Researchers (R2)" established in the European Framework for Research Careers. The appointment will be made as part of the ImmunoHub project: An Immunological Hub of Excellence in Porto tailored to fulfil the ERA Priorities at IBMC/i3S, funded by the European Commission under the topic WIDESPREAD-2020-06 - ERA Chairs.

**1. INTERNAL REFERENCE:** JUNIOR\_RESEARCHER/ERACHAIRImmunoHub/IBMC/0501/2024

### 2. PROJECT SUMMARY:

The Immune Sensing and Signaling Dynamics group, led by Dr. Pedro Moura Alves, is seeking an **exceptional and motivated postdoctoral scientist with experience in studying host-microbe interactions** to undertake a project focused on the **role of the Aryl Hydrocarbon Receptor (AHR) as an innate immune sensor of the cellular microenvironment during the course of infection**.

Dr. Moura-Alves recently demonstrated that the AHR acts as a dynamic and key host sensor of bacterial communication and infection dynamics (*Moura-Alves, P. et al Nature 2014; Moura-Alves, P. et al Science 2019*). While continuing to further dissect and evaluate how the AHR is involved in monitoring host-microbe interactions and regulating immune responses, the laboratory is expanding the studies to explore this dynamic crosstalk in greater detail, monitoring the continuous and coexisting adaptive processes in host and microbes simultaneously. This project aims to **study the importance of the AHR in sensing and shaping immune responses that are appropriate to the infection stage and the related impact on bacterial and phage adaptation strategies during the course of infection**. By uncovering the mechanisms that allow hosts, bacteria and phages to spy on each other, this work will open up new possibilities for the development of novel therapies to control infection and infection-associated diseases.

More information about the position, the projects and the main research objectives can be found [here](#). For more details, please contact Dr. Pedro Moura Alves (pmouraalves@i3s.up.pt).

**3. WORKPLACE:** IBMC/i3S, Rua Alfredo Allen, 208, Porto, Portugal.

### 4. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

Decree no. 57/2016, amended by Law 57/2017, pertaining to the hiring of candidates with doctoral degrees in the areas of science and technology.

Labour Law No. 7/2009.

Regulatory Decree 11-A/2017.

**5. CONTRACTUAL TERMS:** The position is equivalent to that of a Junior Researcher and carries a monthly wage of 2.228,11 Euros, in line with national guidelines.

**6. SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AND GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**Mandatory Admission Criteria**

- PhD degree in Immunology, Infection Biology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology or related discipline (Degree must be obtained before starting the position).
- Previous laboratory research in Host-Microbe Interactions, Innate Immunity and Microbiology (experience with mammalian cells, bacteria and phage).
- The candidate must have measurable experience in microscopy, including fluorescence microscopy and scanning electron microscopy.
- Experience in working under BSL3 conditions.
- The candidate must have scientific publications on a topic related to the project.
- The candidate must have supervising experience.
- Fluent (writing and speaking) in English.

**Essential Selection Criteria (90%)**

- Previous laboratory and research experience related to the project (minimum score of 80 out of 100, otherwise will be not considered) (35%).
- Previous experience in bacterial infections using different *in vitro* and *in vivo* models (minimum score of 80 out of 100, otherwise will be not considered) (20%).
- Strong track record for career stage, including first-author publications in internationally recognized peer-reviewed journals (10%).
- Experience in cloning and RNAi (minimum score of 80 out of 100, otherwise will be not considered) (10%).
- Participation and communication in scientific meetings (e.g., oral and poster communications) (5%).
- Ability to prioritize tasks and keep track of multiple ongoing projects (meet deadlines and milestones) (5%).
- The ability to work independently and as part of a team (2.5%).
- Proactive and organized, with excellent attention to detail and problem-solving skills (2.5%).

**Note:** If the doctorate degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16th, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled.

## 7. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS AND DEADLINE:

Applicants should send (written in English):

- PhD certificate
- Curriculum vitae
- Motivation letter (2 A4 pages maximum), including detailed information on how the candidate meets the mentioned criteria.
- Contact details of minimum 2 referees (referees will be contacted, if needed, only after the interview process)
- Other documentation relevant that the candidate might find relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area

Candidates shall submit their application filing the required information and supporting documentation, in a digital form, in PDF format, from the **8<sup>th</sup> of January to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2024** (inclusively), using the following web link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/383313e7bedfd8f9bdbeca8a0318f6>

Candidates who fail to submit all the required documents will be excluded from the process. In case of doubt, the jury reserves the right to request supporting documents, relevant to the application, from the candidate in question.

This call is specific to the advertised vacancy and can be terminated at any time before approval of the final candidate list.

## 8. SELECTION JURY:

Pedro Moura Alves (Chairman)

Tânia Lima

Palmira Barreira-Silva

## 9. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR INTERVIEW SELECTION:

- **Fulfil all the mandatory admission criteria**
- **Scientific background and experience** in the areas listed above on **essential criteria** (90%)
- **Motivation letter** (10%)- Interest and motivation for the area where the hiring profile fits in and availability to start the contract.

#### 10. SELECTION CRITERIA:

After analysis of the curriculum vitae and motivation letter, candidates are ranked, considering the admission requirements. Candidates achieving a score of 85% or more on the initial review will be short-listed for interview.

The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100, where the evaluation criteria for interview selection account for 90% and the interview accounts for 10%. Each member of the jury will rank candidates based on the selection criteria and a consensus list will be drawn up of candidate rankings. Minutes of the proceedings, including the individual rankings of jury members, will be recorded and made available to candidates when requested.

If two candidates of equal scientific merit apply, applicants with a proven disability will be given preference (D.L. nº 29/2001). To be considered, disabilities (including type and respective degree of impairment) should be declared upon initial application.

#### 11. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY:

Candidates will be assessed using an open, transparent and merit-based recruitment process, based on the guidelines laid down in the European Charter for Researchers. The recruitment process will adhere to current data protection legislation.

The IBMC/i3S actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty resulting from ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic status, education, origin or social status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or race origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and union membership.

#### 12. FINAL DECISION:

The final decision of the jury will be ratified by the managing director of the institute, prior to the final appointment.

The **list of candidates and their final rankings** will be published on the institute website ([www.ibmc.up.pt](http://www.ibmc.up.pt)) under 'Open Positions'. Candidates will also be notified of the outcome by email.

After the **publication of the results**, candidates have 10 working days to respond. The final rankings will be published 90 days after the expiry of the application deadline on the institute website ([www.ibmc.up.pt](http://www.ibmc.up.pt)) under 'Open Positions'.

This call is specific to the advertised vacancy and can be terminated at any time before approval of the final candidate list.

**13. EXPECTED START DATE:** The expected start date of the contract is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.