

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

Reference: IBMC_IJ_ImmunoHub_0202_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 “Projetando o ImmunoHUB: uma estratégia complementar e multidisciplinar para alavancar e sustentar o impacto da ERA Chair em Imunologia no IBMC-i3S”, reference NORTE2030-FEDER-01777300, financed by FEDER through the NORTE2030 Program, at the IBMC Institute, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Molecular Biology

2. Project Summary and Workplan:

Stabilize multiplexed CRISPR(i) systems customized for *Synechocystis* through the rational design of sgRNA arrays. This will include: (i) re-design sgRNAs without repetitive sequences (low-homology sgRNA scaffolds) and (ii) assess the stability of these new sgRNA scaffolds in multiplex arrays.

To re-design low-homology sgRNA scaffolds, different promoters and terminators known to be functional in *Synechocystis*, will be used together with nonrepetitive sgRNA handles and interspacers. A spacer targeting *Synechocystis*' *glgC* gene will be included for characterization. The redesigned sgRNAs will be synthesized and introduced into a *Synechocystis* strain constitutively expressing dCas9, and their functionality will be assessed using a nitrogen depletion assay. RT-qPCR will be used to validate *glgC* repression. The new scaffolds will be ranked by their repression efficiency. New multiplex CRISPRi arrays will be assembled to target two, three, or four genes. A random 50 base pair interspacer sequence will be inserted between each scaffold to further heterogenize the array sequence. Replicative plasmids containing the multiplex arrays will be assembled and introduced into the *Synechocystis* strain expressing dCas9. The growth of the engineered strains will be monitored (OD and chlorophyll content), and the plasmid stability will be evaluated over time by PCR/sequencing, and RT-qPCRs will be used to assess repression levels in a multiplexed setting.

3. Admission Requirements:

Mandatory:

1. PhD degree in Biology or related areas, and a scientific and professional curriculum whose profile is suited for the activity to be performed can submit their applications;

2. Have at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal, preferably in the fields of Molecular Microbiology;
3. Solid experience in Molecular Biology and Cyanobacteria;
4. Ability to communicate proficiently in English (spoken and written);
5. Good team work and interpersonal skills.

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) 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.

Preferential: Preference will be given to candidates with solid experience and knowledge in Molecular Biology of cyanobacteria, namely generation of mutants and transcriptional analysis using RT-qPCR.

4. Workplace: Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular IBMC /Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde – i3S, under the group Bioengineering and Synthetic Microbiology and scientific supervision of Paula Tamagnini/Catarina Pacheco/Filipe Pinto.

5. Start and Duration of the contract: An uncertain term work contract will be signed, under the regime of exclusivity, according to legal terms (articles n.º. 140º, n.º 1 and n.º.2, h); and article n.º. 148º, n.º. 4 – Labour Code).

The estimated start date of the contract is March 2026 and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 5 months, eventually extendable, and cannot in any case extend beyond the project's end date.

6. Professional category and monthly remuneration: The gross monthly salary corresponds to 2.351,53€ (level 33) according to the Consolidated Table of Allowances

(TRU), subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions, whose application is intended for PhD holders reduced post-doctoral experience or without a post-doctoral scientific curriculum. Food, holidays and Christmas apart.

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. 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 (90%):
 - Research experience relevant for the work plan, as defined in the requirements for admission (70%);
 - scientific and technological production and impact (10%);
 - Participation in research projects (10%);
- b) Motivation Letter in English indicating interest and motivation for the area in which the application fits (10%);
- c) The evaluation panel may invite the most highly ranked candidates (up to 3) for an interview. In this case the final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. In this case, the curricular evaluation will weight 80% for all candidates and the interview will weight 10%.

The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will receive a maximum score of 90%.

The jury deliberates by means of a reasoned vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed.

Minutes of the jury meetings will be drawn up, which should contain a summary of what took place, as well as the votes cast by each member and their respective reasons, and will be made available to candidates upon request.

Once the selection criteria have been applied, the jury will draw up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ranked by the respective classification after the curricular evaluation.

9. Jury Composition:

President: Paula Tamagnini;

Members: Catarina Pacheco; Filipe Pinto;

Substitutes: Luís Gales.

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 competition is open from 4 to 18 February 2026. Applications must be submitted electronically at: <https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/913613b2721176399bfe034d08389ff>

The required documents for the application are:

- Certificate of Qualifications;
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- Motivation letter in English, outlining past research activities and their relevance to the position;
- Other documents, considered as relevant by the candidate;

Candidates who incorrectly formalize their application or who fail to meet the requirements of this competition will be excluded from admission to the competition.

The selection board has the right to ask any candidate, in case of doubt, to produce documentary evidence of their statements.

False statements made by candidates will be sanctioned in accordance with the law.

12. Non-discrimination and equal access policy: IBMC actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. No applicant shall be privileged, benefited, prejudiced, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the basis of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership. Within the framework of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, IBMC adopts the Open, Transparent and Merit-based (OTM-R) principles for the recruitment of researchers, with the aim of conducting fair and transparent recruitment processes, bringing equal opportunities to all candidates.

Under the terms of Decree-Law 29/2001, of February 3, the candidate with a disability is given preference in equal ranking, which takes precedence over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare under oath their degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication/expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned decree.