

SENIOR TECHNICIAN VACANCY

Internal Reference: SENIOR_TECH/ERACHAIRNCBIO/IBMC/3011/2021

The IBMC/i3S opens a call for the recruitment of a Senior Research Technician as part of the NCBIO project: UNLOCKING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN NEUROBIOLOGY AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS AT IBMC/i3S, funded by the European Commission, under the topic WIDESPREAD-06-2020 - ERA Chairs.

1. Project summary:

Astrocytes are the major non-neuronal cell type in the mammalian brain and are known to interact with neurons and control synaptic transmission – a concept known as the ‘tripartite synapse’. Recent work from our lab (Batiuk et al., Nat Commun, 2020; Bayraktar et al., Nat Neurosci, 2020) suggests that excitatory and inhibitory tripartite synapse formation and function are differentially regulated. Understanding differences in synapse assembly and function are crucial to our understanding of information flow in the CNS and the causes of human diseases associated with hyperexcitability, such as epilepsy, schizophrenia and fragile X.

We are looking to recruit a world-class team to study aspects of inhibitory synapse formation and function, using a variety of cutting-edge techniques, ranging from proteomics through advanced genetics to electrophysiology. Work will be conducted at i3s, one of Portugal’s top science institutes, in the newly created ERANET Chair group headed by Dr. Matthew Holt.

Main tasks to be developed:

- Implementation of advanced molecular biology and protein biochemistry techniques, such as gene design and cloning, Western blot, immunohistochemistry, RNA isolation, RT-qPCR, transcriptomics, CRISPR-Cas9 systems, biotin-based proximity ligation techniques and immunoprecipitation.
- Maintenance of cell lines and preparation of primary neuronal and glial cultures, including manipulation using standard transfection techniques or viral vector approaches.
- Genetic manipulation of mice (stereotaxic injection of viral vectors and/or *in utero* electroporation) and follow up histology.
- Organization and management of day-to-day lab activities.

2. 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.
- Labor Law No. 7/2009.
- Regulatory Decree 11-A/2017.

3. The selection jury has the following composition:

Chairman: Matthew Holt
Mónica Sousa
João Relvas

4. Workplace: IBMC/i3S, Rua Alfredo Allen, 208, Porto, Portugal.

5. Salary: The position is equivalent to that of a Junior Researcher and carries a monthly starting wage of 2.134,73 Euros, in line with national guidelines.

6. General and specific requirements for the position are:

Mandatory:

- Possess a Ph.D. in molecular biology, biochemistry or cell biology.
- Have worked extensively with mice and have experience with colony management.
- Familiar with the day-to-day functioning of a research lab in an academic environment, with prior experience in lab organization and management.

Preferred:

- Highly motivated and comfortable with responsibility, including issues surrounding health and safety and animal ethics.
- Can work independently but also as a team player, happy to share experience/expertise with new researchers (Ph.D. students, junior technicians etc).
- Must be fluent in both written and spoken Portuguese and English.

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. The selection will be made through the evaluation of the following criteria:

- Detailed CV (80%) – Scientific background and experience in relevant lab techniques (30%), previous work experience (incl. lab management activities) (30%), experience with mentoring junior lab staff (10%) and evidence of relevant professional publications (including oral and poster presentations) (10%).
- Motivation letter (10%): covering interest and motivation in the area of research advertised.

8. Candidates achieving a score of 80% or more on initial review will be short-listed for interview (10%) and/or a seminar.

9. The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. 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.

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

11. Application:

Applications should be written in English and include:

- a) Motivation letter.
- b) CV (including detailed list of techniques with the candidate is familiar and details of previous lab management experience).
- c) Names and contact details for three professional referees
- d) PhD certificate

All documents should be provided in PDF format using the following web link:

https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/SENIOR_TECHERACHAIRNCBIOIBMC30112021

Applications will be accepted from 1st December 2021 to 28th February 2022.

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.

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

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

The expected start date of the contract is April 2021.

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

15. 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.

16. In the event that two candidates of equal scientific merit apply, applicants with 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.