

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL SELECTION TENDER
PROCEDURE FOR DOCTORATE HIRING OF DECREE-LAW NO. 57/2016 OF 29 AUGUST,
amended by 57/2017 Law of 19 July.**

Internal Reference: RESEARCHER/NORTE2020_PROJ2020/IBMC/1709/2021

1. The meeting of the Board of Directors of IBMC deliberated the opening of an international selection tender for 1 vacancy of doctorate to perform duties of scientific research in the scientific area(s) of Health Sciences, under a work contract with non-fixed term under the Portuguese labour Law in order to perform duties, as researcher within the project with the reference NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-072535 and the title “Assessing SARS-CoV-2 co-infections, seasonality and infectiveness along the COVID-19 pandemic while implementing faster diagnosis” at IBMC, financed by FEDER - Fundo Europeu de Desenvolvimento Regional funds through the Operacional Regional Programme – NORTE2020.

2. Project summary:

The project is part of the need to adopt extraordinary and urgent measures to respond to the situation caused by SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19. The goal is not only to support the reorientation of the i3s to perform diagnostic tests faster and more reliable, but also to accelerate the development of new diagnostic protocols and research on SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19. We want to: A- Implement a faster diagnosis without losing sensitivity and reliability, investing in automation, saliva testing and protocol optimization, avoiding the extraction of viral RNA; B- Evaluate co-infections with SARS-CoV-2 and basal microbiota in the upper respiratory tract during the pandemic period, which may contribute to the seasonality of this virus; C- Determine, through infection assays in lung cells and monocytes, whether the infectivity and aggressiveness of the SARS-CoV-2 strains varied throughout the pandemic.

Tasks:

- Screen 600 nasopharyngeal samples from our biobank to assess potential co-infections with SARS-CoV-2, identify biomarkers and inform the design of a specific detection tool based on RT-qPCR.
- Assess in cultured cells the infectivity/aggressiveness of circulating SARS-CoV-2 strains (properly sequenced) throughout the pandemic.

3. Applicable Legislation

- Decree-Law no. 57/2016 of 29 August, amended by Law 57/2017 of 19 July, which approved the doctorate hiring regime destined to stimulate scientific and technological employment for all knowledge areas (RJEC),
- Portuguese labor law
- Regulatory Decree Nr 11-A / 2017, of 29th December
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4. Pursuant to article 13 of RJEC, the tender selection panel shall be formed by:

President: Didier Cabanes;

Other members: Luisa Pereira; Sandra Sousa

5. Workplace shall be at Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular IBMC /Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde – i3S, Rua Alfredo Allen, 208, Porto. Under the scientific supervision of Didier Cabanes

6. Monthly remuneration: Gross monthly Remuneration is 2134.73€, in accordance with subsection a), section 1, article 15 from Law nr 57/2017, 19th July, and with the remuneration position at initial level predicted in article 2 of Regulatory Decree nr 11-A/2017, of 29th December, correspondent to level 33 at Tabela Remuneratória Única, approved by Order nr 1553-C/2008, 31st December, with the category Junior Researcher.

7. Any national, foreign and stateless candidate(s) who hold a doctorate degree in Health Sciences and a scientific and professional curriculum whose profile is suited for the activity to be performed can submit their applications. In the event the doctorate degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, said degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16 August, and all formalities established therein must be complied with at the application deadline.

8. The tender admission requirements are:

a. Author of at least 5 original articles published in the field of the molecular study of pathogens responsible for infectious diseases. Indicate in the CV (underlined) the 5 most relevant publications.

b. Experience in the area of infectious diseases, in molecular biology (in particular extensive experience in RT-qPCR applied to the study of human pathogens), and in cell culture (especially in the infection of cell cultures by human pathogens).

c. Experience in research with human pathogens in biosafety level 2 or 3 (P2/P3) environment.

d. Oral presentation and posters of scientific results at international conferences in related fields.

e. Fluent in written and spoken English.

f. Immediate availability to start functions on the project.

The competences detailed in criteria b., c., d. and e. must be clearly demonstrated in publications or indicated in the motivation letter;

9. Pursuant to article 5 of RJEC, selection is to be made based on candidate scientific and curricular career evaluation.

10. Scientific and curricular career evaluation focuses on relevance, quality and up-to-dateness:

a) of scientific, technological, cultural or artistic production in the last ten years, deemed most relevant by the candidate;

b) of research activities, applied or based on practical work, developed in the last ten years, deemed most impactful by the candidate;

c) of knowledge extension and dissemination activities developed in the last ten years, namely under the scope of the promotion of culture and scientific practices, deemed most relevant by the candidate.

11. The ten-year period mentioned above can be extended by the panel, if requested by the candidate, whenever the suspension of scientific activities is reasoned by socially protected

grounds like paternity leave, long-term serious illness, and other legal situations of unavailability to work.

12. Evaluation criteria are the following:

Appraisal of candidates' CVs, namely of scientific merit and research capacity, will be made according to the following criteria:

a) Detailed CV:

- List of scientific publications and their impact factor (40%)
- Research experience relevant to the area of the project (20%)
- Experience in techniques relevant to the area of the project (20%)

b) Motivation letter:

Scientific maturity, interest and motivation for the research area where the profile to be hired fit, and level of the English language and written communication (20%)

13. Candidate final classification system shall be given based on a scale 0-100.

14. The panel shall deliberate by means of roll-call vote justified under adopted and disclosed selection criteria, with no abstentions allowed.

15. Minutes of panel meetings shall be executed and shall include a summary of all occurrences of said meeting, as well as of all votes casted by the members and respective reasoning, and shall be provided to candidates whenever required.

16. After selection criteria application, the panel shall prepare a sorted list of approved candidates and respective classification.

17. Panel's final decision shall be validated by the leader of the institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

18. Application formalization:

18.1. Applications shall include all supported documents encompassed by section 7 and 8 for tender admission, namely:

- a) Certificate or diploma copy;
- b) Curriculum vitae, detailed and structured pursuant to sections 10 and 12;
- c) Other documentation relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area;
- d) motivation letter (in English – mandatory)

18.2. Candidates shall submit their application filling in the required information and supporting documentation, in a digital form, in PDF format, from the 22nd September to 6th October 2021 link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/RESEARCHNORTE2020PROJ2020IBMC17092021>

19. All candidates who formalize their applications in an improper way or fail to prove the requirements imposed by this tender are excluded from admission. In case of doubt, the panel

is entitled to request any candidate to present further documentation supporting their statements.

20. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

21. Both admitted and excluded candidate list and final classification list shall be published in the website of the Institute and the candidates are notified by email.

After publication, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from the application deadline, published at IBMC website.

The expected starting date is 1st November 2021

22. This tender is exclusively destined to fill this specify vacancy and can be terminated at any time until approval of final candidate list, expiring with the respective occupation of said vacancy.

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

24. The panel has approved this announcement in meeting held on 17/09/2021.

25. 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.