

ASSISTANT RESEARCHER VACANCY

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

The IBMC/i3S opens an international call for the recruitment of an Assistant Researcher working in the field of cell biology of synaptic transmission. Candidates should meet the criteria of "Established Researchers (R3)" established in the European Framework for Research Careers. The appointment will be made 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.

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 Assistant Professor and carries a monthly wage of 3.201,40 Euros, in line with national guidelines.

6. General requirements for the position are:

- Must hold a Ph.D. degree and have at least 3-5 years of post-doctoral experience working in the field of synaptic transmission. Experience and interest in astrocyte biology are essential.



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- Must have an established track record as demonstrated with high impact publications and conference presentations.
- Skilled in advanced molecular biology and protein biochemistry techniques (gene design and cloning, Western blot, immunohistochemistry, RNA isolation, RT-qPCR, transcriptomics, CRISPR-Cas9 systems, BiOD, Split TurboID, immunoprecipitation, data analysis tools).
- Skilled in mouse work (*in utero* electroporation, mouse brain sectioning (vibratome and cryostat), stereotaxic injections, perfusion, preparation of acute brain slices and immunohistochemistry).
- Experience in tissue culture techniques: establishment and maintenance of cell lines, preparation of primary cortical neuronal and astrocyte cultures from mice, genetic manipulation (transfection/transduction).
- Knowledge of fluorescence microscopy (including live-imaging and confocal methodologies).
- Good communication and presentation skills, with proven ability to write and prepare research papers and grants.
- A team player with the ability to organize and lead/direct a research team, including students and technicians.
- Fluent in written and spoken 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:

- Track record of significant achievements (publications and invited presentations) in the field of neural cell biology and synaptic transmission (25%).
- Experience with relevant scientific techniques (25%).
- Track-record in securing and managing funding (15%).
- Experience in leading research teams and commitment to professional development of mentees (15%).
- Experience in outreach activities (5%).
- Letter of motivation (5%).

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.



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH



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11. Application:

Applications should be written in English and include:

- a) Motivation Letter.
- b) CV (including, where appropriate, two key papers).
- c) Names and contact details for three scientific referees.
- d) Phd certificate

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

https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/ASSISTANT_RESEARCHER_RACHAIRNCBIOIBMC30112021

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 2022.

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. n^o 29/2001). To be considered, disabilities (including type and respective degree of impairment) should be declared upon initial application.