

Internal Reference: ERC201805

Title: The Pancreas Regulome: From causality to prediction of non-coding mutations in human pancreatic diseases.

Group and PI: Vertebrate Development and Regeneration; Jose Bessa

1 (one) Research Fellowship - *Licenciatura* is available in the Vertebrate Development and Regeneration group headed by Dr. José Bessa at the Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology in Porto. The fellowship is funded for 3 months, extensible up to 1 year by an ERC Starting Grant.

Several human pancreatic diseases have been characterized, being the diabetes the most common. Like others, this genetic disease is related to disrupted non-coding cis-regulatory elements (CREs) that culminate in altered gene expression. Although Genome Wide Association Studies support this hypothesis, it's still unclear how mutations on CREs contribute to disease. The translation from the “non-coding code” to phenotype is an exciting and unexplored field that we will approach in this project with the help of the zebrafish as a suitable animal model. We aim to uncover the implications of the disruption of pancreas CREs and how they contribute to diabetes *in vivo*.

We are looking for a Fellow holding a degree (*Licenciatura*) in Biology or related fields. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in transgenesis assays for enhancer activity in zebrafish and *in silico* analysis for TFBS. Good inter-personal relationships in the context of a multidisciplinary research team, creativity, perseverance, and passion for basic science are essential attributes.

Candidate profile:

We are looking for a Fellow holding a degree in Biology or related fields with a final score \geq 14. Candidates must have interest in the field of transcriptional cis-regulation. Creativity, curiosity,

perseverance, dynamism and passion for basic science are essential attributes.

Application procedure:

Interested candidates should submit a) their CV, b) a motivation letter, and c) a Degree certificate via the online application system:

<http://www.ibmc.up.pt/gestaocandidaturas/index.php?codigo=ERC201805>

Applications should be submitted between the 16th and 22nd of October 2018. Starting date of the fellowship is November 1st, 2018.

Selection Committee: José Bessa (PhD), Carla Lopes (PhD), and Elsa Logarinho (PhD).

The fellowships are regulated by current laws relating to the Statute of Science Research Fellows, namely Law 40/2004 of August 18, and the Regulation of Scientific Research Studentships of the IBMC (www.ibmc.up.pt/fellowships.php).

The fellowship monthly amount is 745 Euros. An eventual review of the Research Fellowship amount during the Project may be considered upon request and presentation of evidence of master degree, but it is dependent on financial availability of the Project.