

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP - Master (m/f)

Internal Reference: PR651601

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

1 (one) Master degree Fellowship is available in the group of José Bessa at the Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology in Porto. The fellowship is funded for 6 months, extensible up to 3 years 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 Master degree in Biology or related fields with experience and full autonomy working in zebrafish handling and husbandry, zebrafish microinjection, use of morpholinos, Crispr-Cas9 mutagenesis, whole mount *in situ* hybridization and immunohistochemistry in zebrafish embryos. Preference will be given to candidates with these characteristics. English language, both spoken and written, good inter-personal relationships in the context of a multidisciplinary research team, creativity, perseverance, and passion for basic science are essential attributes.

Interested candidates should submit their CV, a motivation letter, and the contact information of two referees via the online application system:
<http://www.ibmc.up.pt/gestaocandidaturas/index.php?codigo=PR651601>

Applications should be submitted between May 21 and May 29, 2016. Starting date of the fellowship is June 1, 2016.

Selection Committee:

President: José Bessa, PhD

Vogais: Carla Lopes, PhD, and Renata Freitas, 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 980 Euros.