

**Internal Reference:** ERC651603

**Title:** The Pancreas Regubme: 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, eventually 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. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in bioinformatic analysis of data from Assay for Transposase-Accessible Chromatin (ATAC-seq), Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP-seq) and Circularized Chromosome Conformation Capture (4C-seq) combined with high-throughput sequencing. Good interpersonal relationships in the context of a multidisciplinary research team, a good publication track record, 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=ERC651603>

Applications should be submitted between June 22 and June 29, 2016. Expecting starting date of the fellowship is July 1, 2016.

**Selection Committee:**

President: José Bessa, PhD

Vogais: Carla Lopes, PhD, and Renata Carriço, 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](http://www.ibmc.up.pt/fellowships.php)).

The fellowship monthly amount is 980 Euros.