

**IBMC - Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular**

**Postdoctoral fellowship (f/m)**

**Internal Code:** Norte2020NEURO28

**Project:** NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000008, “Porto Neurosciences and Neurologic Disease Research Initiative at i3S”

**Title:** Comparative effectiveness of opioid therapy for the long term management of chronic pain – A prospective cohort study in the multidisciplinary chronic pain clinics of the Porto Metropolitan Area

IBMC/i3S is opening **1 (one) Postdoctoral Fellowship** to join its Research Program on the Epidemiology of Chronic Pain

We are looking for a Fellow holding a PhD in Psychology with less than three years of Post-Doctoral experience, but with experience and full autonomy in applying structured and validated questionnaires for health data collection, validating questionnaires, and health data storage and analysis. Previous experience with chronic pain patients is mandatory. English language, both spoken and written, and good inter-personal relationships in the context of a multidisciplinary research team are essential attributes. Preference will be given to candidates with these characteristics.

**Group and PI:** Pain Group, José M. Castro-Lopes

**Work Plan:**

Based on formal sample size calculations, a consecutive sample of 1,000 CP patients, 18 years or older, will be recruited at their first consultation in five multidisciplinary chronic pain clinics from public hospitals of the Porto Metropolitan.

Recruitment and initial assessment will be performed in a face-to-face interview with a trained interviewer and a clinical assessment by the attending physician. Follow up contacts will be done by telephone at one week and 3, 6, 12, 18 and 24 months.

Patients’ and pain characteristics and outcomes will be assessed using several validated questionnaires. Direct and indirect costs will be estimated using a structured questionnaire assessing health services utilisation and work productivity losses.

Primary outcome measures will be the seven dimensions of the S-TOPS questionnaire. Secondary outcomes will include pain intensity, opioid therapy adherence and withdrawals, opioid misuse measures, adverse drug reactions and opioid cost-effectiveness.

Statistical analysis will include appropriate descriptive and inferential techniques and statistical modelling methods. Incidence and predictors of withdrawal or discontinuation of opioid therapy will also be estimated. The effectiveness of opioids will be studied by using the repeated measures of effectiveness obtained longitudinally along the follow up period.

The specific objective of this Postdoctoral Fellowship is the identification of the factors related with therapeutic compliance in the context of long term opioid therapy.

The work will be developed at the Department of Experimental Biology of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto.

The Postdoctoral Fellowship will be for 12 months, renewable up to 30 months, and it is expected to start in November 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

The fellowship amount is 1495 euros, paid by bank transfer, preferentially.  
(<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>)

Fellowships are regulated by current laws relating to the Statute of Science Research Fellows, namely Law 40/2004 of August 18, amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012 of 27 August and the Regulation of Scientific Research Studentships of IBMC approved by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia  
(<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf>)

Selection Committee:

José M. Castro-Lopes, MD, PhD

Luís Azevedo, MD, PhD

Daniel Pozza, PhD

Applications are open from October 1st to October 15, 2016.

To apply for the Postdoctoral Fellowship interested candidates must hold a PhD degree and submit the following documents a) Complete CV; b) Letter of Motivation; and c) Referee Letter, *via* the online application system:

<http://www.ibmc.up.pt/gestao candidaturas/index.php?codigo=Norte2020NEURO28>

The ranking list of candidates will be published at IBMC website, and the selected candidate will be notified by email.