

Post-doctoral Fellowship (m/f)

Project title: “The role of microenvironment in acute myeloid leukemia”

supported by a grant from the National Blood Foundation in the following conditions:

Internal Reference: PR411902

Candidate profile:

We are looking for a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow with a PhD degree in hematology, immunology, stem cell biology or related fields, and less than three years of post-doctoral experience. The candidate must have full autonomy with animal work, flow cytometry, confocal microscopy and in molecular and cellular biology techniques. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in imaging and background in hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) or leukemia biology.

Knowledge of English language, both spoken and written, and good interpersonal qualities in the context of a multidisciplinary research team are also essential attributes.

Background and work plan:

The project focuses on the interplay between acute myeloid leukemia (AML) cells and the bone marrow microenvironment. We have recently shown that HSC-supportive bone marrow vascular niches are selectively remodeled by AML (Duarte D et al. Cell Stem Cell. 2018). The successful applicant will aim to identify key determinants of this remodeling to improve HSC engraftment, promote cell competition and eliminate AML cells, ultimately leading to improved disease outcomes. The candidate will perform *in vivo* work with leukemia mouse models, transfection and transduction, flow cytometry, immunofluorescence, confocal microscopy and gene expression analysis. Patient samples collected at IPO-Porto/Porto Comprehensive Cancer Centre will also be analyzed and used in xenotransplantation assays. The project has a strong focus on *in vivo* experimental work and imaging. The candidate is expected to work independently, to plan their own experiments and to think critically about data.

The work will be developed at the *Basic and Clinical Research in Iron Biology* group of i3S under the supervision of Delfim Duarte.

Application procedure:

Applications should include CV with 2 references (contacts), the degree's certificate and a motivation letter and should be submitted between 25th July 2019 and 15th September 2019 on the IBMC webpage:

<http://www.ibmc.up.pt/gestaocandidaturas/index.php?codigo=PR411902>

Legislation and applicable laws: The fellowship is 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 approved by FCT.

Evaluation of applications:

The candidates will be evaluated initially based on the written documentation: CV (70%) and motivation letter (30%). The top 3 most qualified candidates will be selected for a personal interview and the final score will be based on CV (50%) and interview (50%).

Jury:

President: Delfim Duarte (MD, PhD);

Ordinary members: Graça Porto (MD, PhD), Tiago Duarte (PhD)

Grant conditions:

The fellowship is due to start in October 1st 2019. The grant will be awarded for 8 months and is renewable for up to 22 months. The monthly amount of the fellowship is 1509.80 € (net and tax free) paid by bank transfer.