

**Faculty of Pharmacy Research and Development Association
Call for the award of a Research Grant (Bolsa de Investigação)**

Notice No. BI/8/FARM-ID/2022

Under the Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, IP, Regulation No. 950/2019, published in *Diário da República*, 2nd Series, No. 241, of December 16, 2019, of the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Lisbon, Dispatch No. 6238/2020, of 12 June, published in *Diário da República*, 2nd Series, no. 113, of 12 June 2020, and of the Statute of the Research Fellowship (EBI), Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August, published in the *Diário da República*, 1st Series, no. 164, of 28 August 2019, it is made known that a call for the award of **1 (one) Research Grant** within the scope of the project **EXPL/MED-NEU/1033/2021**, titled “Role of obesity in multiple sclerosis: oligodendrocyte-related miRNAs as new targets to induce remyelination”, funded by Foundation for Science and Technology, IP, is open under the following conditions:

- I. **Scientific Area:** Health Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Neurosciences, Neurobiology, or related areas.
- II. **Admission Requirements:**
 - Master's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology, Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Molecular Genetics and Biomedicine, or related areas;
 - Being enrolled in a non-degree course (*)

(*) At the application stage if the candidates do not have in their possession the document proving enrolment in a non-degree course it may be replaced by a declaration of honour commitment.

Proof of registration by submitting the supporting documents shall be submitted until contract signature, under penalty of annulment of the applicant's assessment by error on the named assumptions, and consequent exclusion from this call.

Preferred Requirements:

- Have skills for the development of the project, namely effective experience in biology/neurosciences, in particular organotypic cultures and experimental models for the study of neurodegenerative disease;
- Course on animal experimentation;
- Interest and experience of at least 1 year in the field of cell and molecular biology;
- Demonstrate motivation for interdisciplinary scientific research;
- Computer skills;
- Proficiency in the English language;
- Immediate availability to integrate the project.

- III. **Research Grant Duration:** The research will have a duration **10 months non-renewable, starting in September 2022**, on an exclusivity regime, in accordance with the terms of the Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, IP.

- IV. Work plan:** The goal of this project is to clarify, in an animal model of multiple sclerosis (EAE), the role of obesity in MS onset and progression by studying how oligodendrocyte-related microRNA deregulation impacts on OL dysfunction and inability to myelinate/remyelinate. Then, it will be evaluated, in organotypic cultures of demyelination, the potential of the modulation of OL-related microRNAs, found to be deregulated in obesity-associated MS, as new therapeutic approach.
- V. Workplace and Scientific Guidance:** The work will be carried out in CNS, Blood and Peripheral Inflammation from the Research Institute for Medicines (iMed.Ulisboa), at the premises of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, under the scientific guidance of Andreia Pereira Barateiro Macedo, Junior Investigator, at the Faculty of Pharmacy of Universidade de Lisboa.
- VI. Monthly maintenance stipend:** The monthly maintenance stipend (grant) corresponds to **1.144,64€**, according to the table of values directly attributed by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>). Payment will be made via bank transfer.
- In addition to the monthly maintenance stipend the grant holder will also be awarded with the value correspondent to the payment of the first step of Seguro Social Voluntário (voluntary payment of Social Security), in case he/she chooses to be included in this regime.
- VII. Formalization of applications:** Applications must be sent in non-editable format (PDF), to the address concursos@farm-id.pt, containing the identification of the above mentioned notice. Applications in paper format will not be accepted.
- VIII. Application deadline:** The deadline for applications is from **11 to 22 July 2022 (10 working days)**.
- IX. Evaluation and rating criteria**

Candidate's Merit: It is aimed at evaluating compliance with the formal requirements of the opening notice, but also at weighting the suitability of the scientific area of training and/or specialization, training and professional experience, with a weighting of 100%.

- **Adequacy of the Scientific Training Area (AACF):** Candidates will be ranked based on his/her academic background and scientific area of specialization, with a maximum weighting of 20%;
 - Performance as a student of the Master in Cellular and Molecular Biology, Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Molecular Genetics and Biomedicine, or related areas (**PAM**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Scientific area of specialization (Health Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Neurosciences, Neurobiology, or related areas) (**ACE**) – 0 to 20 values.
- **Training and Experience (FE):** Candidates will be ranked based on scientific technical skills relevant to the work plan, with a maximum weighting of 50%

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- Experience in animal experimentations (course on animal experimentation) (**CEXPA**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Experience in organotypic cultures of demyelination (**EXCOD**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Evaluation of animal samples (central nervous system) and organotypic cultures: processing of samples (**AVANCO**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Immunohistochemistry and image analysis (**IAI**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Gene expression evaluation by RealTime-PCR (**AVEG**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Evaluation of protein expression by Western blot (**AVEP**) – 0 to 20 values.
- **Specific competencies for the proposed work plan (CEPTP):** Candidates will be ranked based on his/her motivation for interdisciplinary scientific research in the project area, mastery of English and computer skills, with a maximum weighting of 30%
 - Research interest (dissect the role of obesity in the development of multiple sclerosis, namely in the dysregulation of microRNAs associated to the development of oligodendrocytes) (**IV**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Knowledge on the use of software for data analysis (**DOMPIAD**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Proficiency in the English language (**DOMING**) – 0 to 20 values.

Final Classification: The score obtained in the final classification results from the sum of the points obtained in the Candidate's Merit, an individual form being out for each candidate.

X. Instruction of Application:

- a) Form containing the candidate's identification (*available on the FARM-ID's website*);
- b) Curriculum Vitae containing the information necessary for the evaluation of the application;
- c) Certificate of Master's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biology, Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Molecular Genetics and Biomedicine, or related areas;
- d) Proof of enrolment in a non-degree course, or declaration of honour commitment (*available on the FARM-ID's website*);
- e) Declaration on honour that there is no professional activity or service provision that violates the duty of exclusive dedication (*available on the FARM-ID's website*);
- f) Certificate of the course on animal experimentation;
- g) Letter of Motivation – the candidate should indicate his/her experience and adaptation to the proposed work plan, namely regarding the preferential factors and the interest of the grant for his/her future perspectives, as well as the immediate possibility of joining the project;
- h) Other supporting documents considered relevant.

All the documents necessary for the correct application are available on the institutional website through the *link*: <https://www.ff.ulisboa.pt/faculdade/recursos-humanos/reclutamento/bolsadeinvestigacao-expl-med-neu-1033-2021>.

The documents that instruct the application must be submitted in Portuguese or English language.

No document that should have been submitted in the application phase can be submitted after the deadline set in the opening notice. Failure to comply with the deadline set for the submission

of the application, as well as the lack or late submission of documents referred to in this point will determine the exclusion from the competition.

XI. Composition of the Jury: The Jury responsible for the selection will be constituted by:

President – Andreia Pereira Barateiro Macedo, Junior Investigator, FFUL;

1st Member of the Jury – Adelaide Maria Afonso Fernandes Borralho, Assistant Professor, FFUL;

2nd Member of the Jury – Ainhoa Alberro, Post-doctoral Researcher, Biodonostia Health Research Institute, San Sebastian, Spain;

1st Alternate Member of the Jury – Ana Rita Mendonça Vaz Botelho, Assistant Professor, FFUL;

2nd Alternate Member of the Jury - Rui Fernando Marques da Silva, Assistant Professor, FFUL.

XII. Form of notification of results: All candidates will be notified of the final results of the evaluation by email, and will have 10 working days after the aforementioned notification to say something, in accordance with the terms of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

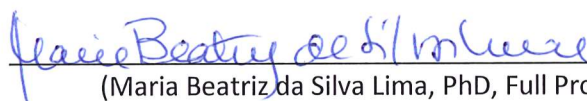
After this notification, and in case there are no claims, the results will become final. In case of claims, and after the allegation is analysed and accepted or rejected, the results will become final after 10 business days.

After the final decision is made, a complaint/appeal can be filed to the Director of the FARM-ID – Faculty of Pharmacy Research and Development Association, Maria Beatriz da Silva Lima, PhD, Full Professor, within 10 working days from the date of notification.

XIII. Applicable legislation and regulations: Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT, IP), Regulation no. 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd Series, no. 241, of December 16, 2019, of the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Lisbon, Order no. 6238/2020, of 12 June, published in the Diário da República, 2nd Series, no. 113, of 12 June 2020, and of the Research Fellowship Statute (EBI), Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August, published in Diário da República, 1st Series, no. 164, of 28 August 2019.

Faculty of Pharmacy Research and Development Association, 8th July 2022.

The Director,



(Maria Beatriz da Silva Lima, PhD, Full Professor)