

Faculty of Pharmacy Research and Development Association
Call for the award of 1 (one) Research Grant for Masters enrolled in a non-degree seeking
course

Notice No. BICNCG/7/FARM-ID/2023

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 for Masters enrolled in a non-degree seeking course within the scope of the project **2022.07746.PTDC**, titled: “*ArmCART: Estimulação da resposta inata e memória celular para aumentar a eficácia das células CAR-T*”, funded by Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT) is open under the following conditions:

- I. **Scientific Area:** Molecular Biology, or related areas
- II. **Admission Requirements:**
 - Integrated Master's degree or Master's degree in Biopharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Biological Engineering, or related areas;
 - Be enrolled in a non-degree seeking course at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon*

*During the application stage, if the candidates do not have in their possession the document proving that they are enrolled in a non-degree seeking course, this document may be replaced by a declaration of honour. The proof of the enrolment through the presentation of the certificate must be carried out until the hiring, under penalty of annulment of the candidate's assessment due to error on the assumptions of fact, and consequent exclusion from this call.

Preferred Requirements:

- Experience in immunoassays and flow cytometry;
- Experience in cell culture;
- Experience in molecular biology;

III. **Research Grant Duration:** The research will have a duration of 6 months, eventually renewable up to a maximum of 12 months, starting in June 2023, 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 objective of this work is to increase inducible TCF-1 expression in conjunction with innate immunity to promote CAR-T cell activity and self-renewal, while producing more differentiated cells in the tumour microenvironment to activate long-lived and more active CAR-Ts in solid tumours. To achieve this goal, we will construct a genetic circuit to conditionally activate CAR-T cells in breast tissue to avoid non-specific CAR-T stimulation in cardiac tissue. We will use SynNotch receptors with customizable input/output function to activate a synthetic biology gene circuit to express anti-HER2 CAR-T and anti-Nucleolin CAR-T. At

the end of this project, we will answer the question of whether the combination of innate immunity and effective cell renewal by inducible CAR-T will provide a durable effect of adoptive therapy in breast cancer.

V. **Workplace and Scientific Guidance:** The work will be carried out in the Laboratory of Molecular Microbiology and Biotechnology, in the premises of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, under the scientific supervision of Professor João Manuel Braz Gonçalves, from the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon.

VI. **Monthly maintenance stipend:** The monthly maintenance stipend (grant) corresponds to € 1.199,64€, according to the table of values directly attributed by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_2023.pdf). 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 May 31st to June 15th 2023 (10 working days).

IX. **Evaluation and rating criteria:**

Candidate's Merit: Aims to assess compliance with the formal requirements requested in the opening notice, but also to consider the suitability of the scientific area of training and/or specialization, training and professional experience, with a maximum weighting of 100%.

- **Adequacy of the Scientific Training Area (AACF):** Candidates will be ranked on the basis of theoretical and practical knowledge in biological and immunological technologies with a maximum weighting of 30 %.
- **Training and Experience (FE):** Candidates will be ranked on the basis of laboratory experience in immunoassays, cytometry and cell biology with a maximum weighting of 30%.
- **Specific competencies for the proposed work plan (CEPTP):** Candidates will be ranked on the basis of laboratory experience in immunology and flow cytometry with a maximum weighting of 40%.

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) Proof of obtaining a Integrated Master's degree or Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences or related areas;
- d) Proof of enrolment in non-degree seeking course at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, or substitution by presenting a declaration of honour;
- e) Declaration on honour stating that there is no professional activity that violates the exclusivity regime (available on the FARM-ID's website);
- f) Letter of motivation indicating their experience and adaptation to the proposed work plan, namely the preferential factors and interest of the grant for their future perspectives, as well as the immediate possibility of joining the project;
- g) 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/recrutamento/anuncio-para-atribuicao-de-1-uma-bolsa-de-investigacao-para-mestres-inscritos-num-curso-nao-conferente-de-grau-academico-aviso-n-o-bicnccg-7-farm-id-2023>

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 – João Manuel Braz Gonçalves, Full Professor, FFUL;
 - 1st Member of the Jury – Adelaide Maria Afonso Fernandes Borralho, Assistant Professor, FFUL;
 - 2nd Member of the Jury – Rui Eduardo Mota Castro, Assistant Professor, FFUL;
 - 1st Alternate Member of the Jury – Madalena Maria Vilela Pimentel, Associate Professor with Habilitation, FFUL;
 - 2nd Alternate Member of the Jury - Jorge Manuel Barreto Vitor, 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

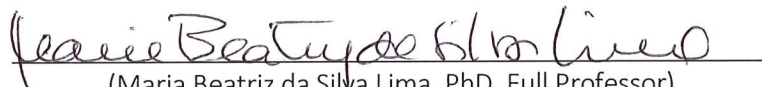


Associação da Faculdade de Farmácia
para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento

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, republished by Order no. 8061/2022, 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, May 30th 2023.

The Director,


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