

**NOTICE FOR THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER RESEARCH PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONS OF R&D**

**Research Grant (Non-degree-granting Student)**

Applications are open for 1 Research Grant within the scope of the project NKboost: Development of a platform for the production of CAR-modified NK cells and their extracellular vesicles, PTDC/EQU-EQU/3708/2021, funded by national funds through FCT, under the following conditions:

**Scientific Area:** Stem Cell Engineering

**Admission Requirements:** Candidates must hold a Master's degree in the field of Biological Engineering/Biomedical/Biotechnology. Preference will be given to candidates with an Integrated Master's degree in Biological Engineering/Biomedical/Biotechnology with (i) a weighted average grade for the 1st and 2nd cycles equal to or higher than 17; (ii) experience in the expansion/characterization of human cells, and (iii) experience in genetic engineering of hematopoietic cells. The candidate must be enrolled, at the time of the contract, in a non-degree-granting course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.

**Work Plan:** Comparison between transfection/transduction methods for the genetic engineering of NK cells to express ANTI-CD19 CARs.

**Legislation and Regulations:** Statute of Scientific Research Fellow, approved by Law nr. 40/2004, of August 18, as worded by Decree-Law nr. 123/2019, of August 28; FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, available on <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2019.pdf> and <https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>.

**Workplace:** The work will be developed at the Stem Cell Engineering Research Group of iBB - Instituto de Bioengenharia e Biociências at Instituto Superior Técnico under the scientific supervision of Doutora Ana Fernandes-Platzgummer.

**Duration:** The grant will have a duration of 7 months, with an expected start in June 2024. The grant agreement may be eventually renewed up to the maximum of 12 months, including the duration of the initial contract.

**Monthly maintenance allowance:** According to the values for Research Fellowships awarded by FCT in Portugal ([https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM\\_atualizacao-2024.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_atualizacao-2024.pdf)), the amount of the monthly maintenance allowance is € 1259.64, being the payment method an option of the Fellow by Wire Transfer/Check.

**Selection methods:** The selection methods will be the following: *Curriculum evaluation (50%), experience in the specific research field (30%) and motivation letter (20%). The pre-selected applicants may be interviewed to clarify the CV. The candidates will be scored in a grade of 1 to 20 for each of the selected criteria.*

**Composition of the selection Jury:** Doutora Ana Fernandes-Platzgummer, Professora Cláudia Lobato da Silva e Professor Gabriel Monteiro.

**Announcement/ notification of the results:** The final evaluation results will be communicated to all applicants by email.

**Deadlines and procedures for prior hearing, complaint, and appeal:** After the communication of the provisional list of assessment results, candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, express their views in a prior hearing of interested parties, in accordance with articles 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code. The final decision will be made after the analysis of the statements presented in the prior hearing of interested

parties. A complaint to the competition jury or an appeal to the President of IST-ID can be filed within 15 working days from the respective notification regarding the final decision.

**Application deadline and formalization:** The call is open from April 29 until May 13, 2024.

It is mandatory to formalize applications with the submission of the following documents: i) B1 Form – Fellowship application (<http://drh.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/bolseiros/formularios/>); ii) *Curriculum Vitae*; iii) academic degree certificate; and iv) motivation letter.

Applications must be submitted to the emails: ana.fernandes@tecnico.ulisboa.pt and claudia\_lobato@tecnico.ulisboa.pt