

## Notice

### Expression of Interest for the Position of Invited Auxiliary Researchers

It is hereby announced that an international call is open for a period of 40 working days from the first working day immediately following the publication of this notice for the submission of expressions of interest for 1 position of PhD researcher equivalent to the category of invited auxiliary researcher, for the scientific areas of Life Sciences and Health Sciences, including molecular/cell/animal biology, biochemistry and genetics, at the University of Coimbra, under a fixed-term public employment contract, within the scope of the Multidisciplinary Institute of Ageing – MIA-Portugal, co-financed by the Horizon 2020 Teaming program of the European Union, reference No 857524, and by the Coordination Commission for the Center Region (CCDRC; Ref: CENTRO-45-2020-75), under the following conditions:

#### **I – Reference, workplace and monthly remuneration**

**I.1** Reference of the expression of interest: MIA-AR-2024-01

**I.2** Workplace: University of Coimbra – Multidisciplinary Institute of Ageing (MIA-Portugal) and Graduate School of Medicine of Kyoto University.

**I.3** Activities to be performed: The post holders will develop research activities within the scope of Marco Candeias' Lab, a newly established group at the Multidisciplinary Institute of Ageing at the University of Coimbra. The projects will centre around the physiological roles of the p53 gene and its RNA and protein products, with particular focus on the processes that affect tissue and cell maintenance, regeneration, transformation and ageing.

Many pathologies from dementia to heart failure, degenerative diseases, cancer and even the natural ageing process, all result from a loss of cell function in specialized tissues. p53 has been associated with all these conditions, but the mechanisms are unclear. In our lab we have observed that different cell types show unique and characteristic p53 product profiles and that manipulating them alters cell behaviour and fate. By investigating the presence, regulation and role of p53 (in all its forms) in different cells, tissues and organs, we want to gain insight on how p53 manages each different cell type. We hope to understand the exact role of the different p53 products and their regulation in specific cells and tissues in order to help protect these cells (and subsequently the organism) from disease, degeneration, transformation and ageing.

Preferred requirements: The following qualifications are relevant for the projects (candidates should possess at least one of them): experience in methods of cell biology, ideally including culture and manipulation of primary, stem, iPS cells and/or organoids; experience in methods of molecular biology, including DNA, RNA and protein methods; experience in live and confocal microscopy, preferentially of 3D/organoid cultures, single (protein, RNA) molecules and/or molecular activities and interactions.



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Candidates must have defended their PhD thesis before the start of the contract, be fluent in English (oral and written), and show flexibility to do research in both Portugal (MIA-Portugal, Coimbra) and Japan (associated laboratory in Kyoto University, Kyoto). Travel expenses between Portugal and Japan (about once a year) will be covered by MIA-Portugal.

Productivity, independence, motivation and teamwork are key for success in this position.

**I.4** Gross monthly remuneration: €3.427,59, corresponding to level 54 of the single remuneration table, approved by Ordinance No. 1553-C/2008, of December 31, combined with Decree-Law No. 10-B/2020, of March 20, which updated the remuneration base and the value of the monthly base remunerations of Public Administration.

**I.5** Maximum duration: from 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2027.

## **II – Admission Requirements**

**II.1.** Not being prohibited or restricted from exercising the public functions that they propose to perform; possessing the physical and mental health essential for the exercise of the functions and having fulfilled the mandatory vaccination laws, under the terms of article 17 of the LTFP.

**II.2.** Being, by the application deadline, the holder of a PhD degree in the area or one of the scientific areas for which the call is open, or in a related area that, complemented with the scientific path, shows the capacity to work centrally in one of the scientific areas of the expression of interest.

**II.3.** Being a speaker of the Portuguese or English language.

## **III – Submission of Applications**

**III.1.** Instructions for the expression of interest: interested parties must send their application to the following email address: [secretaria.mia@uc.pt](mailto:secretaria.mia@uc.pt), with reference to the code of the expression of interest in the email subject.

The deadline is 30 September 2024.

Documents must be sent exclusively in portable document format (pdf), except for the documents mentioned in points III.2.3 to III.2.5, which may be submitted in other digital formats.

**III.2.** Documents to be submitted:

**III.2.1** Curriculum Vitae (CV), duly dated and signed, highlighting the scientific productivity of the last five years, comprising education, previous positions and all types of research activity including but not limited to Master, PhD, internship and post-doctoral projects, methods used, skills acquired, publications, preprints and unpublished data of relevance, any funding and rewards acquired as well as public presentations, participation in editorial, evaluation or review committees, etc.



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The Curriculum Vitae must also justify any periods of suspension of professional activity for socially protected reasons, namely, parental leave, prolonged serious illness, and other situations of unavailability for work legally protected, in which case the candidate must indicate the desired evaluation period and attach a supporting document of the stated grounds.

The Curriculum Vitae must contain a preamble listing, if applicable, the candidate's contractual history over the last five years (or the extended period to which they are entitled) and respective periods, identifying the category held, the nature of the bond, and the respective scientific area, explicitly detailing the current employment bond and the institution where they are working at the time of application. It must also include a substantiated synopsis, demonstrating that the candidate has suitable expertise for the area or scientific areas for which the call is open.

**III.2.2** Motivation letter (ML) stating the candidate's motivations to join this project and why and how their profile, area(s) of expertise and skills are adequate for the position in question. The Letter must also contain the contact information for two references (R) where at least one should be a previous research supervisor.

**III.2.3** Critical Review (CR), where the candidate writes a critical review or opinion about a scientific article of choice (review or original research) from the field of molecular mechanisms of ageing (in English, maximum 1,500 words, text only, no figures).

**III.2.4** Copy of degree certificates.

**III.2.5** Separate copies (one PDF file per work) of the 5 works that the candidate considers best represent their most significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the area or areas for which the call is open, accompanied by a synopsis highlighting their contribution, impact, and relevance of the results of each study for the advancement of knowledge.

**III.2.6** Any other elements that the applicant considers relevant.

**III.3.** All documents of the expression of interest indicated in point **III.2.** must be presented in Portuguese or English.

**III.4.** Applications that are not properly instructed or submitted after the stipulated deadline in the notice will not be accepted.

## **IV – Evaluation methods and criteria**

**IV.1.** Selection methods: Evaluation of the scientific and curricular path [CV (65%)] + Motivation letter [ML (15%)] + Critical Review [CR (5%)] + Two references [R (5%)] + Interview [I (10%)].

**IV.2.** All candidates meeting the requirements of the expression of interest are subject to evaluation of the scientific and curricular path to be conducted according to the criteria and weightings defined in IV.3 and IV.4. However, only the top 3 candidates resulting from the scientific and curricular path evaluation will be admitted to the interview and ranked therein.

**IV.3.** The curricular evaluation will be carried out according to the weighting and criteria listed below.



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**IV.3.1** Scientific production considers the relevance, quality, timeliness, and international recognition of scientific production with an emphasis on the works indicated by the candidates as representative of their most significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge.

**IV.3.2** In the Motivation Letter, the reasons the candidate is interested in the position and MIA-Portugal, and how well the candidate connects their background, skills, and aspirations to the specific position are considered.

**IV.3.3** In the reference letters, the objectivity of the peer assessment of the candidate's overall scientific path, as well as their motivation, work capacity, and ethics in science and interaction with colleagues, and the potential to develop a successful career and significantly contribute to MIA-Portugal's mission, are considered.

**IV.3.4** In the Critical Review, the depth of analysis and demonstration of critical thinking, the relevance to the position in question such as the use of relevant examples, data, or literature, and how well ideas are communicated are considered.

**IV.3.5** In the interview, the clarity of the scientific path and scientific questions and hypotheses, the clarity in answering the jury's questions, the understanding of MIA-Portugal's mission and commitment to that mission, motivation, and potential to develop a successful scientific career at MIA-Portugal are considered.

**IV.4.** The final classification (CF) of the candidates will be duly substantiated and expressed on a scale of 0 to 20 points, with valuation up to hundredths, applying the following formula:

$$CF = (CV \times 65\%) + (ML \times 15\%) + (R \times 5\%) + (CR \times 5\%) + (I \times 10\%)$$

## **V - Selection process**

### **V.1.** First meeting:

**V.1.1.** The jury first deliberates on the admission and exclusion of candidates to the merit evaluation process, according to the requirements of points II and III.

**V.1.2.** After the admission and exclusion of candidates, the jury begins the phased application of the selection methods as indicated in IV.

**V.1.3.** The ranking of the candidates results from the numerical ranking of the classification assigned to each candidate.

**V.1.4.** Notification of excluded candidates and those admitted to the interview is made by email, as provided for in point VI of this notice.

### **V.2.** Second meeting:

**V.2.1.** The jury conducts the interview with up to 3 of the candidates admitted to this method. Each candidate's interview lasts a maximum of one hour, and may, at the President of the Jury's discretion, be extended by an additional half-hour. Only the candidate's merit will be considered, and the previous experience in the scientific area(s) for which the call is open will be valued. It is the President of the Jury's responsibility to conduct the interview,



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without prejudice to the intervention of the other jury members in the interaction with the candidate. The interview will be conducted in English.

**V.2.2.** Failure to attend the interview at the scheduled time and place is grounds for exclusion from the merit evaluation. Candidates who have been granted permission to conduct the interview by teleconference and who are not available at the scheduled time for any reason are also considered excluded for non-attendance.

**V.2.3.** After the interviews and their respective evaluations, the jury establishes the final classification and ranks the candidates, applying the formula provided in point **IV.4** of the notice.

**V.2.4.** The notification of the final decision to the candidates contains the list with the proposed ranking of the approved candidates, as well as the list of excluded candidates, and is carried out under the terms provided in point **VI** of this notice.

**V.3.** Candidates may express their views on the jury's decision within 5 working days after notification of the ranking by email, under the terms provided in article 121 of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA).

**V.4.** Third meeting:

**V.4.1.** If any candidate exercises their right to express their views, the jury holds a third meeting to consider the arguments presented, and the jury's decisions are notified to the candidates under the terms of point **VI** of this notice.

**V.5.** The candidate list process may be consulted by appointment, requested via email sent to the electronic address [secretaria.mia@uc.pt](mailto:secretaria.mia@uc.pt).

## **VI. Candidate Notification**

**VI.1.** Candidates are notified by email of the following actions: the list of candidates admitted and excluded from the evaluation process; the time and identification of candidates selected for the interview, as well as, among these, the identification of candidates granted permission by the Jury President to conduct the interview by teleconference; the final decision of the selection process; decisions related to any arguments presented by the candidates; and the final result of the expression of interest.

**VI.2.** If, at any stage of the selection process of the expression of interest, any of the notification dates cannot be met, candidates will be notified by email of the date changes.

## **VII – Jury of the Selection Process**

Doctor Marco Candeias, Principal Investigator at MIA-Portugal and Graduate School of Medicine of Kyoto University

Professor Manuel António da Silva Santos, Scientific Director of MIA-Portugal

Doctor Luísa Romão, Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge

Doctor Rieko Ohki, National Cancer Center Research Institute, Japan



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The expression of interest for the position of Invited Auxiliary Researcher was published in English on Euraxess, the pan-European Researcher's Mobility Portal, on the MIA-Portugal portal and on the JREC-IN Portal.

In compliance with subparagraph h) of article 9 of the Constitution, the Public Administration, as an employer, actively promotes a policy of equal opportunities between men and women in access to employment and career progression, scrupulously ensuring that no form of discrimination occurs.

Under Decree-Law No. 29/2001, of February 3, candidates with disabilities have preference in the event of a tie, which prevails over any other legal preference.

The University of Coimbra clarifies, for the purposes of the provision in paragraph 5 of article 6 of Decree-Law No. 57/2016, of August 29, that it does not assume any commitment to consider it strategically advantageous to open any competitive procedure for the scientific research career or for the higher education teaching career.



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