

CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship Reference GIMM/BI/50-2025

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project *“Pyrazinones as novel Quorum Sensing signals mediating interspecies signaling in the gut Microbiota”* with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC), (PIDDAC) (REF: LISBOA2030-FEDER-00759400; FCT: 2023.16983.ICDT; SGO2030: 16426).

Scientific Area(s) : Biology, Biochemistry, Molecular Microbiology and related fields

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements (*indicate mandatory and preferential requirements*): Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled in a PhD degree course (in area related to the work plan - PhD in Molecular Biosciences) can apply.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- MSc and BSc degree holder in Biology, or related areas;
- Previous experience working with Microbiology and Molecular Biology.
- Preference will be given to candidates with previous experience working with rodents and with anaerobic bacterial culturing.

The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

Work Plan and Objectives:

The main objective of this project is to investigate how Bacteroides respond to pyrazinone quorum sensing signals in the context of different diets. The selected candidate will be responsible for providing technical support to all the mice experiments executed under the context of the project and to execute in vitro culturing experiments to analyse phenotypes resgulated by pyrazinone dependent quorum sensing signaling in Bacteroides.

Legislation and Applicable Regulation: Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law nr 40/2004, from 18th August in its current form (altered by Decree Law nr 123/2019, 28th August) and current Regulation of Fellowships of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia [Regulamento Bolsas FCT 2019.pdf](#) (approved by Regulation nr 950/2019, from 16th December).

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in **October 2025**, for a period of 12 (twelve) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project.

Work place and Scientific orientation: The research activities will be developed at the Bacterial Signalling Laboratory of GIMM, under the supervision of Doctor Karina Xavier.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: GIMM undertakes to ensure compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and equality and to that extent, provides that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due in particular ancestry, age, gender, sexualorientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

International environment and experience: Diversity is a fundamental aspect of the essence of GIMM, where researchers and non-researchers of different nationalities, backgrounds and areas of study work together, promoting the exchange of experiences and interactions, contributing to the personal and professional development of each person and to the existence of an international, inclusive and stimulating environment.

Research Fellows Support Centre: The Research Fellows Support Centre works everyday from 09:00AM to 11:00AM at People & Culture Unit Office.

Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of **€1.309,64** in accordance with the defined in FCT table. The amount will be paid by wire transfer at the end of each month. The fellow will also benefit from a personal accident insurance to execute the proposed research activities as well as the right to Social Security through Voluntary Social Insurance regimen, if wanted, under the terms of Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social, and the contributions costs will be supported by the research project.

Application documents: - Motivation Letter; - Detailed CV; Master certificate; - Contacts of two references; - Candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration.

The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.

In case the applicant does not have yet the required degree certificate, a declaration of honor stating the conclusion of the necessary qualifications for the purposes of this process will be accepted and must be sent by the end date of the call.

Jury evaluation and selection: Doctors Karina Xavier (GIMM), Tanja Dapa (Universidad Pablo de Olavide) and Sarela Garcia Santa-Maria (ITQB-Nova).

Selection methods: Candidates will be evaluated on a scale from 0 to 10 based on the following categories:

- Motivation letter (40%);
- CV (including previous experience) (40%);
- Interview (20%).

Candidates with a score above 75%, will be selected for interview.

Deadlines and application process: The call will be open **from September 24th 2025 to October 07th 2025.**

Applications should be submitted to People & Culture Unit, through the email positions@gimm.pt.

The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.

Notification of results: Within 90 days after the termination of the applications submission deadline, both admitted and excluded candidates list and final classification list shall be communicated to all admitted candidates through email.

Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline: After notification, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline.

Fellowship contracting: The Fellowship is granted through the signature of a contract between GIMM and the selected fellow and after the fellow send the following mandatory documents: copy of identification document (in case of non-European citizens is mandatory the work visa / valid resident permit), document proving the required academic degree and the document proving the enrollment in a PhD study cycle. For each Fellowship period an Activity Report must be prepared by the fellow as well as the Report by the supervisor.

Oeiras, September 23rd, 2025

The Executive Committee of GIMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota

