

**CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**  
**Fellowship Reference GIMM/BII/20-2026**

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project ***“Social homeostasis, cancer and aging in zebrafish: An organismal disease model for the social determinants of health”*** with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. / MCTES through national funds.

**Scientific Area(s):** Behavioural Neurobiology

**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 MSc (in area related to the work plan) can apply, provided that they comply with the applicable legal requirements to remain in the national territory, where applicable.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- Hold a Bachelor’s degree in Biological Sciences, Biology, or related fields.
- Be enrolled in a Master’s programme in Biological Sciences, Life Sciences, or related fields, including but not limited to Neurobiology, Physiology, Behavioural Biology, Zoology, Biomedicine, or other relevant areas.

Preferred qualifications:

- Proven experience in basic laboratory techniques, including pipetting, sample preparation, centrifugation, gel electrophoresis, and PCR;
- Training or proven experience in research with model organisms, preferably fish;
- Interest and/or proven experience in translational research and/or cancer research.

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

**Work Plan and Objectives:**

- Postmortem microdissections in fish models with melanoma and healthy controls to isolate peripheral tissue: heart, gills, muscle, skin, liver, intestine, kidneys, and tumor sites, as well as two distinct brain regions (telencephalon and diencephalon), followed by immediate freezing at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- DNA extraction from the collected tissues using the HotSHOT protocol and RNA extraction using the TRIzol method.
- Immunoassays (ELISA) to quantify cortisol levels in whole-body samples or blood to assess stress physiology.
- Real-time qPCR for neuromodulators, neuroplasticity markers, and corticosteroid receptors (brain); inflammation, cancer, and DNA damage markers (peripheral tissue); and relative telomere length using SYBR Green in triplicate against a single-copy c-fos reference gene (all tissues) and assessment/quantification of the long non-coding RNA TERRA.

**Legislation and Applicable Regulation:** Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law nr 40/2004, from 18<sup>th</sup> August in its current form (altered by Decree Law nr 123/2019, 28<sup>th</sup> August) and current Regulation of Fellowships of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia [Regulamento Bolsas FCT 2025](#) (Approved on December 10, 2025, by the Board of Directors of FCT, I.P.; effective as of December 25, 2025).

**Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions:** The fellowship contract is predicted to start in September 2026, for a period of 8 (eight) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project (expected to end on August 14, 2027).

**Work place and Scientific orientation:** The research activities will be developed at Integrative Behavioral Biology Lab of GIMM, under the supervision of Rui Oliveira.

**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, sexual orientation, 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 **701.12€** in accordance with the defined in FCT table (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>). 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 (max. 1 page); - Detailed resume (max. 2 pages); - Bachelor's degree certificate in Biological Sciences or a related field; - Proof of enrollment in a master's program; - 1 Reference Letter; ***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:** Applications will be reviewed by a jury consisting of Dr. Rui Oliveira (GIMM), Dr. Kyriacos Kareklas (GIMM), and Dr. Magda Teles (GIMM).

**Selection methods:** In the first selection round, applicants will be evaluated based on their Curriculum (50%), Motivation Letter (30%), and Reference Letter (10%). Candidates who obtain a score above 65% in this first round will be shortlisted and invited for an interview, which will represent 10% of the final evaluation. Only candidates with a final evaluation equal to or above 80% will be considered for the position.

**Deadlines and application process:** The call will be open from July 2, 2026, until July 15, 2026.

Applications should be submitted to People & Culture Unit, through the email [positions@gimm.pt](mailto:positions@gimm.pt), with the reference “GIMM/BII/20-2026” in the subject line. ***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 MSc degree. Applicants with academic degrees obtained abroad will be required to present a certificate of recognition in accordance with the applicable regulation. This document is mandatory only in the contracting phase. For each Fellowship period an Activity Report must be prepared by the fellow as well as the Report by the supervisor.

Oeiras, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

The Executive Committee of GIMM  
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota