CALL FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP CONTRACT
Fellowship Reference GIMM-BIPD-39-2026

The GIMM – Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine is a pioneering Portuguese private research foundation with an ambitious vision for fundamental scientific exploration and its profound impact on global health and well-being. Founded in 2023, GIMM is the result of the merge of two leading research institutes: Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) and Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC) and dedicates to unraveling the fundamental mysteries of life and aims to be at the forefront of transdisciplinary research.

What GIMM seeks: At this moment, GIMM is looking for a Postdoctoral Research Fellow to join the Bacterial Signalling Laboratory coordinated by Dr. Karina Xavier, funded by GIMM Core Funding.

Work Plan and Objectives:
The post-doctoral fellow will be working on our project entitled "***Hormone-like Bacterial Signaling Molecules as Mediators of Gut-Brain Dialogues"*,** which aims to investigate the role of quorum sensing molecules produced by gut microbes in animal behavior. The selected candidate will culture key members of the gut microbiota, measure the signals produced by these bacteria, and conduct animal experiments involving colonizing the mouse gut with specific bacteria to test the impact of these signal molecules on animal social behavior.

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements (indicate mandatory and preferential requirements): Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s).

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

Mandatory:

- PhD degree holder in Biology, or related areas;
- Accreditation for animal experimentation;
- Experience in Microbiology and Bacterial Genetics;
- Experience with culturing and manipulation of anaerobic bacteria;
- Experience working with germ-free and gnotobiology mouse models.

Desirable:

- Experience in bacterial transcriptomics and proteomics.

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Legislation and Applicable Regulation: Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação (Lei n.º 40/2004, de 18 de Agosto, republished in attachment to Decreto-Lei n.º 202/2012, de 27 de Agosto, changed by Decretos-Leis n.º 123/2019, 28 de Agosto e nº 65/2024, 1 de outubro) and current Regulation of Fellowships of GIMM.

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in December 2026, for a period of 12 months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project.

Application documents:

- **Cover Letter** explaining the candidate's interest in the position, listing their past academic achievements and highlighting how their experience and expertise relate to the proposed project;
- **Declaration of Honor** indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration;
- **Detailed Curriculum Vitae**;
- **Doctorate Degree Certificate**.

Application process: The call will be open from 2026-11-19 until 2026-12-02. Applications must be submitted by email to **positions@gimm.pt** with the **subject "Application GIMM-BI-39-2026.**
Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the rejection of the application.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: GIMM promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and 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 1901,00€. 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.

Pursuant to Decree-Law nr 29/2001 of 3rd February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication / expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications will be evaluated by Karina Xavier (President of the Jury), Julie Ribot, Isabel Gordo (all PhD's), in accordance with the following method:

First phase:

- **CV and previous experience (50%);**
- **Motivation/Cover letter (30%).**

Second phase

Interview (20%) (for candidates who achieve a **minimum score of 75%** in the first phase)

i. After evaluation of all admitted applications, the jury will write a meeting minute with all process of recruitment, evaluation and selection including an ordered short list of approved candidates (alphabetic order) and their respective classification.
ii. The final decision of the jury shall be validated by the Head of the Institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

Results: 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.
The present call is exclusively aimed at filling the indicated vacancy and may be terminated until the homologation of the final candidates' ranking list and expires with the respective occupation of the position on offer.

Oeiras, 19th of October 2026

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