

Centro de Química de Évora (CQE)

Research Scholarship (*Bolseiro de Investigação*) on the Screening of Potential Compounds for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases

16th SEPTEMBER 2013

A Research scholarship (*Bolsa de Investigação*) is available for a highly motivated individual with a proven track record in the evaluation of **potential compounds for the treatment of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease** to work as a key team member on the project: INMOLFARM - Molecular Innovation and Drug Discovery) (ALENT-57-2011-20). The selected candidate will have the opportunity to work with an interdisciplinary multinational team that will look at an innovative synthetic route to key potential pharmaceutical compounds for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. This project is co-financed by FEDER through the "Sistema de Apoio a Entidades do Sistema Científico e Tecnológico Nacional (SAESCTN)". This project will be undertaken in the department of chemistry at the University of Evora.

Scientific Area: Biochemistry, Biological screening, enzymology

Academic Requirements: A first degree (*licenciatura*) or a Masters degree - which is recognized both in Portugal and internationally - in: biotechnology biochemistry, or pharmacology.

Specific Entry Requirements: The candidate should have significant (documented) experience working on the screening of identified biological targets for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, like for example, AChE, BuChE, and MAO-B, etc. Some experience/knowledge of medicinal chemistry and organic chemistry, molecular modeling, including STD (saturation transfer difference) NMR would be very welcome. The candidate should be a highly motivated, organized individual, with the ability to be able to work autonomously in the laboratory, but at the same time being a good team-player and with a track-record in accomplishing deadlines.

Work Plan:

The aim of this project is to develop a cutting edge innovative catalytic chemical process into a state of the art process for the discovery of biologically active compounds that will have potential for the treatment of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. This team member will be

expected to develop rapid screening protocols for the assessment of libraries of novel molecules for the inhibition of some key targets for the treatment of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease like, acetylcholinesterases, secretases, tau-protein and MAO-B. The metabolic activity and the toxicology of the most active compounds will also be evaluated. The most promising molecules will be assessed in cellular and/or animal models. This team member will be expected to work as an integral member of the team involved in this project, and expected to liaise with the medicinal chemistry/organic synthesis, molecular modeling and NMR teams (working on STD screening efforts) for the efficient and successful advancement of the project. This student ideally will enroll in an appropriate PhD program at the University of Evora.

Legislation and applicable regulations: This scholarship will be carried on the basis of a signed contract between the University of Évora and the scholarship recipient, under the terms of the Research Scholarship Regulations of the University of Évora, (*Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação da Universidade de Évora*) (*Ordem de Serviço* n°1/2011), the Scientific Research Grant Holder Statute (*Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação Científica*) (Decree-Law n°40/2004 of the 18 of August) and according to the Regulations and legislation for advanced training and qualifications for human resources of the *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (FCT).

Work location: This project will be carried out at the *Centro de Química de Évora* at the University of Évora, Portugal, under the supervision of Prof. Anthony Burke, Prof. Rosário Martins and Prof. Ana Teresa Caldeira.

Grant Duration: Till the end of June 2015, with the expected starting date of Oct. 2014.

Stipend value: 745 \in per month (tax free). This stipend will be paid monthly by cheque or bank transfer.

Selection Method: The evaluation/selection criteria are: i) Academic/Scientific record 50%(a. CV, 50%; b. Previous experience in the context of this project, 35%; c, letter of motivation, 15%. If deemed necessary by the jury the top ranked candidates might be called for interview.

Selection Committee

Prof. Anthony Burke (president), Prof. Maria do Rosário Martins, Prof. Ana Teresa Caldeira, and Prof. Paulo Jorge Mendes (reserve member), all from Dept of Chemistry, University of Évora.

Advertisement/Notification of the results: The final result of the assessment will be made public through a ranking list which will be exhibited in a visible public place in the Chemistry Department/CQE of the University of Évora, the candidates will be notified by email.

Call opening and closing dates: The call will be opened from the 16th to the 30th of September 2014 and the results will be published as soon as possible thereafter.

Applications will be formalized, mandatorily, by sending a letter of motivation, which will be accompanied by the following relevant documents: a very detailed *Curriculum Vitae* (which includes, candidates address, telephone number and email address and the same contacts for the

named referees), a motivation letter, two letters of recommendation (most recent possible), photocopy or scanned copy of identity card/passport and degree certificates, university grade cards/transcripts and any other documents that are considered relevant for the selection process.

These documents must be emailed (before the closing date) to:

Prof. Anthony Burke Chemistry Department and Centro de Química de Évora, Universidade de Évora, Rua Romão Ramalho, 59 7000 Évora, PORTUGAL. e-mail: ajb@uevora.pt





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