

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
FUNDAÇÃO PARA A CIÊNCIA E A TECNOLOGIA
FOR
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW SUPPORT

Where the National Institutes of Health of the United States of America (NIH) and the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) [of Portugal] are hereinafter referred to as the “Participants.”

The Participants share an interest in fostering collaborative biomedical and behavioral health research in mutual areas of excellence and a common goal in educating and training the next generation of research scientists. To these ends the Participants intend to cooperate in a collaborative training program called the NIH-FCT Fellow Program (hereinafter referred to as the “Program”). Trainees supported under the Program would be appointed as Supplemental Visiting Fellows in the NIH Intramural Research Program and would be given the Program-specific title of NIH-FCT Supplemental Visiting Fellows (hereinafter referred to as “FCT Fellows”).

I. OBJECTIVES

The Program has the following four objectives:

- A. To establish a long-term career path for Portuguese research scientists of exceptional scientific ability;
- B. To build long-term collaborations in science between the NIH and institutions of scientific excellence and higher learning in Portugal;
- C. To promote and ensure the selection of the best Portuguese trainees to receive outstanding scientific mentorship at NIH; and
- D. To help ensure support for the FCT Fellows’ return to Portugal after completion of their training at NIH to pursue independent research careers and continued long-term scientific collaborations with their NIH mentors.

II. STRUCTURE

The Program consists of two phases:

Phase I: Up to three years of postdoctoral/career development training at the NIH; and

Phase II: Up to three years of research at a university or research institute in Portugal.

The intended responsibilities of the Participants are described in sections III.A and III.B.

III. INTENTIONS

A. NIH intends to take the following actions:

1. Appoint the FCT Fellows as Supplemental Visiting Fellows, and supplement their FCT investigation grants in accordance with NIH Manual Chapter 2300-320-03 - NIH Intramural Visiting Fellow Program (<http://oma.od.nih.gov/manualchapters/person/2300-320-3/>).
2. As with other Supplemental Visiting Fellows, the host NIH Institute or Center will provide the health insurance coverage provided to all postdoctoral fellows and required for all Visiting Fellows.
3. Assist with advertising the Program and FCT's Call for Applications within the NIH Intramural Research Program and to NIH senior scientists.
4. Provide assistance in obtaining appropriate work-authorized U.S. immigration status.
5. Provide each FCT Fellow with research space and access to library, computer, and related scientific resources, consistent with the terms provided under the NIH Visiting Fellow Program.
6. Work through the Office of Intramural Training & Education and Institute/Center Training Offices to make FCT Fellows aware of the many scientific, professional, and career development opportunities at NIH.
7. Ensure that FCT Fellows and NIH mentors are made aware of NIH guidelines regarding oversight and progress review of all Visiting Fellows.
8. Encourage continued collaboration with the FCT Fellow upon re-entry home through activities such as engagement in periodic communications and joint publication of research findings.

B. FCT intends to take the following actions:

1. Publicize this Program and its opportunities through announcements in journals, media, and public Web sites, as appropriate.
2. Develop and advertise a Call for Applications, establish timelines for receipt of applications (preferably electronic) and review dates, and location for receipt, pursuant to the application procedures in the attached Appendix.
3. Establish screening and review procedures for applications with the intent of ensuring

that only exceptional candidates, based on scientific merit, are recommended for acceptance into the Program. A panel of highly qualified scientists, identified by the FCT, will select the candidates to be recommended to NIH for acceptance into the Program.

4. Provide, for up to three consecutive years, an annual investigation grant to support the FCT Fellows as described in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Renewal of this MOU will be contingent on a joint NIH and FCT review of the Program. Factors to be considered will include but not be limited to the objectives described in this MOU.
5. Provide travel funds for one trip per year to Portugal for each FCT Fellow during the NIH phase (Phase I) of his or her Fellowship upon approval of a Plan of Activities to be submitted to FCT at least 30 days prior to the trip. FCT-supported travel during Phase I of Fellowship should also be discussed in the Fellow's Research Plan submitted at the time of application.
6. Establish a Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Portugal for each returning FCT Fellow who successfully concludes his or her investigation grant, which will not exceed three years. It is intended that the Post-Doctoral fellowship includes a financial grant from FCT.
7. Recognize the added value that a successful FCT Fellow brings to the national scientific and technology institutions, particularly when a FCT Fellow is applying for permanent research and/or faculty positions at Portuguese institutions through programs supported by FCT.

IV. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

- A. Activities under this Program may commence upon signature by Participants and are intended to continue for a period of five years. Either Participant may cease activities described in this MOU at any time but should endeavor to give six months' written notice to the other Participant. The Program and/or the terms of this MOU may be modified by mutual consent of the Participants. Participants intend to resolve any difference of opinion regarding this Program through mutual consultation.
- B. All activities under this MOU are intended to be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of the countries of the Participants and are contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. This MOU is not an international agreement and does not create rights or obligations under international law.
- C. If the MOU is terminated and Program activities are cancelled, neither NIH nor FCT is to be liable to the other for any monetary or other losses that the other may incur. The provisions of the then-current MOU/Program are intended to continue to apply to activities begun prior to the date of termination. It is intended that, subject to the availability of funds, all FCT Fellows who are at NIH under the Program are expected to be permitted to complete the Fellowship with support of both FCT and NIH should the Program be cancelled.

Signed at Lisbon, on the 18 of December 2013.

Dr. Michael Gottesman



Director
Office of Intramural Research
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human
Services

Prof. Miguel Seabra



President
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
(FCT)

Appendix: Call for Applications, Review Process, and Renewals

Participants intend that the Program will support Postdoctoral Visiting Fellows currently participating in or seeking to join the NIH intramural program.

The NIH-FCT Research Fellow Program is only offered to residents or citizens of Portugal.

FCT intends to advertise a Call for Applications to announce that it may provide up to \$150,000 for each group of visiting fellows, selected annually, during three years, to support Supplemental Visiting Fellows in the NIH intramural program.

In addition to a standard application developed by FCT, the application packages should include:

- A. A letter of support from the Applicant's prospective or current sponsoring NIH Mentor. This documentation should state the Lab Chief's understanding that he/she would be required to cover a portion of the Fellow's stipend, in accordance with NIH policy as described in NIH Manual Chapter 2300-320-03 - NIH Intramural Visiting Fellow Program (<http://oma.od.nih.gov/manualchapters/person/2300-320-3/>); and
- B. A one to two-page Research Plan that details the Applicant's plans for incorporating the NIH-FCT Research Fellowship into their long-term research goals, including intentions/goals for continuing their post-Fellowship research in Phase II of the Program.

The NIH Mentor is expected to follow the standard procedures for the selection of postdoctoral Fellows into the NIH Visiting Fellows Program.

Applicant must meet all NIH Supplemental Visiting Fellow eligibility requirements as described in NIH Manual Chapter 2300-320-03 – NIH Intramural Visiting Fellow Program.

Any renewals would be based on merit and the availability of funds and be subject to approval by the sponsoring NIH Lab Chief and the NIH Institute Scientific Director. Renewals can be permitted for an aggregate period of up to three years at the NIH and are contingent upon visa limitations and compliance with U.S. immigration laws.

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