

To NIH  
Principal Investigator

Taking into account the MoU signed between the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), in December 2013, FCT would like to address you to explain the context of the contacts that you might receive by potential Portuguese candidates to this Program, in 2016, in its third edition.

According to the MoU, FCT and NIH established a five year period collaboration for postdoctoral training in the framework of the **NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP)**. This collaboration is based on the following general terms (for more details, please refer to the document attached to this email):

1. FCT ensures all the benefits, including an annual fellowship for up to three consecutive years, to support the FCT Fellows working at the NIH laboratories/centers **under the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP)**, up to a maximum of four candidates per year. NIH will provide the health insurance coverage and assistance in obtaining appropriate work-authorized U.S. immigration status.
2. The grants awarded within the framework of this program are for postdoctoral/career development training at the more than 1200 laboratories/research centers located on the main campus in Bethesda MD and the surrounding area, as well as in Baltimore and Frederick, MD; Research Triangle Park, NC; Hamilton, MT; Framingham, MA; and Detroit, MI, **exclusively under the NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP)**.
3. This opportunity is addressed exclusively to outstanding Portuguese candidates who never benefited by any means, of formal or informal training at NIH centers or laboratories;
4. The screening, review and ranking of the candidates is made by FCT, who will have to provide the NIH a reserve list with the top ranking candidates. NIH will then make the final decision of acceptance over the candidates who will receive a fellowship;


Portuguese candidates will be asked to consult the **NIH Intramural Research Program (IRP) PI database** (links (<http://intramural.nih.gov/search/index.taf>; <http://www.nih.gov/icd/>; <http://irp.nih.gov/our-research/principal-investigators>)) and directly address the NIH supervisor of the lab/center they would like to join, by presenting a CV and a motivation letter where they will briefly describe why they are interested in this program. **To be able to apply to this program, the candidates must provide FCT with a supporting letter from an NIH supervisor that will certify the interest of the PI in receiving the candidate in his/her lab or center. The decision of acceptance is entirely voluntary.**

After considering the candidate's proposal, and in case you would like to support the candidate's application, we kindly ask you to provide the following:

- a) A signed formal letter of acceptance with a brief description of the scope of the potential project, with stamp/seal of the NIH, guaranteeing your support and supervision of the candidate's research and providing to the candidate your CV (NIH format), duly signed and initialed on every page;

Certain that both FCT and NIH share an interest in fostering collaborative health related research in mutual areas of excellence, and a common goal in educating and training the next generation of research scientists, I present you my best regards.

The President



(Paulo Ferrão)