

27 March 2017

United States Embassy Lisbon

Foundation for Science and
Technology (FCT)

Lisbon Academy of Science

U.S. National Institutes of
Health (NIH)

Enhancing U.S.-Portugal Biomedical Research Collaborations Meeting



FCT
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia



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WELCOME

Welcome to today's meeting on enhancing U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration. Centuries ago, Portugal's age of innovation and great journeys to unknown and distant shores opened the world. Today, in the unknown frontiers of scientific discovery, Portuguese biomedical scientists are leading important research endeavors and publishing significant papers at an ever-increasing rate. New, state-of-the-art research infrastructure is rapidly being built all across the country, from Braga to Faro, and from Évora to Madeira and the Azores. Research institutes at historic universities and new foundations alike are pushing the scientific frontier and training the next generation of Portuguese scientists.

Innovation and collaboration are shared values in both U.S. and Portuguese research. Scientists in both countries are using cutting-edge technologies such as genomics, proteomics, bioengineering, bioinformatics and nanotechnology to drive breakthrough discoveries in scientific fields ranging from neuroscience to development of new polymers.

The collaborative research being carried out by Portuguese scientists has helped fuel the dramatic increase in Portuguese scientific discoveries and innovation in recent years. Discoveries that may lead to innovative biomedical tools with a broad array of applications such as combating cancer, cardiovascular diseases, emerging pathogens and other devastating diseases are occurring.

Today's interdisciplinary meeting organized by the U.S. Embassy, in partnership with FCT and the Lisbon Academy of Science, brings together scientists from across Portugal to discuss the accomplishments of Portuguese science and identify areas and strategies to enhance U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration.

Our hope is that this discussion will provide a roadmap for further exploring the great potential of U.S.-Portugal biomedical partnership and lead to improvements in public health, reduce global health disparities, and improve the lives of vulnerable populations around the world.

Herro Mustafa
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., U.S. Embassy

Professor Miguel Castanho
Vice President of the Board of Directors of FCT

Professor Maria Pais
Secretary General of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences

AGENDA

12:40 – Doors open

13:00 – Welcome and opening remarks by the Embassy, FCT, the Lisbon Academy of Science, and event Chairs

13:30 – Working group discussions and buffet lunch

15:00 – Coffee break

15:20 – Plenary session and discussion with moderators, led by the event Chairs

16:30 – Closing remarks by the Chairs, Lisbon Academy of Science, FCT, and U.S. Embassy

17:00 – Event ends

INFORMATION ON THE MEETING

To enhance existing U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration and identify potential focus areas for future cooperation, the U.S. Embassy, in partnership with FCT and the Lisbon Academy of Science is holding a half-day meeting of the minds/brainstorming session in Lisbon on March 27. The goal is for 50 Portuguese scientists from different disciplines, geographies, and career phases to engage in small and large group interdisciplinary discussions on the past, present, and future of U.S.-Portugal biomedical cooperation.

Format:

The meeting will open with introductory remarks before participants break out into smaller eight-person pre-assigned discussion groups, each with two moderators. The interdisciplinary groups comprise a diversity of geography and scientific experience. After the group discussions, and a coffee break, the event Chairs, Professor Maria Mota and Professor Claudio Sunkel, will lead a plenary session in which the moderators present a condensed verbal summary of their group's feedback. Areas of convergence and divergence will be identified and used as the basis for further discussion. The conference will conclude with closing summary remarks by the overall event moderator. Subsequently, event Chairs and other Co-chairs will work with the moderators to prepare a written summary of the conference and its conclusions, which will then be disseminated by the Lisbon Academy of Science, FCT, and the Embassy.

Small group discussions:

The discussion groups will focus on several areas including, but not limited to, the following questions:

1. How do you view the current state of U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration and what are the areas with most potential for mutually beneficial U.S.-Portugal research cooperation? What are the biggest challenges to U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaborations? How can these challenges be overcome?
2. In what area(s) does Portuguese science offer unique expertise, scientific resources, capabilities and opportunities? Are there additional areas that can be developed where Portugal will offer unique contributions? Which of these areas might be promoted to achieve deeper Portuguese-US cooperation in order to bring mutual economic benefit?
3. In your opinion, what are or should be biomedical research priorities for Portugal?
4. Are there areas of biomedical research that could benefit from targeted attention or development including unmet scientific needs that could be addressed through collaboration with the U.S. or other parties?

PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. The current state of U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration
2. Areas in which Portuguese science is already playing, or has the potential to play, a leading role in the international arena
3. Biomedical research priorities for Portugal
4. Unique scientific resources, capabilities and opportunities which exist in Portugal
5. Unmet scientific needs that could be addressed through collaboration
6. Areas of biomedical research that could benefit from targeted attention or development
7. Areas that have the most potential for mutually beneficial U.S.-Portugal research cooperation
8. The biggest barriers/challenges to U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration
9. Strategies that might be used to overcome the challenges to U.S.-Portugal biomedical research collaboration

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE CHAIRS



Maria Manuel Dias Mota

Professor Maria Mota leads the Biology and Physiology of Malaria Laboratory at the Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) and Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of University of Lisbon. Maria undertook her postdoctoral research with Professor Victor Nussenzweig at the New York University Medical School and is currently the Executive Director of IMM, as well as Visiting Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health. Maria's laboratory studies the interactions between liver stage malaria parasites and their hosts. Her group has published several landmark papers in Nature Medicine as well as Cell Host & Microbe, PNAS, PLoS Pathogens, amongst others, in the identification of host molecules that dictate resistance or susceptibility to severe malaria and the interaction between ongoing blood-stage and liver-stage infections.



Claudio E. Sunkel

Is a Full Professor of Molecular Biology at the Biomedical Institute of University of Porto (ICBAS). His laboratory is mostly devoted to the study cell division and of the mechanisms involved in maintaining genomic stability in higher eukaryotes where he has made major contributions to the identification and study of the molecular players involved in cell division.

Started these studies during his postdoctoral work at Imperial College, UK, and later continued in Porto. Has published over 100 original peer reviewed articles, supervised 24 PhD students and many postdocs. Teaches Molecular Genetics for Biochemistry and Bioengineering BsC Major at ICBAS, University of Porto and is responsible for the PhD Program on Cell and Molecular Biology. Obtained a First Degree Honors in Biology (1979) and a Ph.D. in Genetics (1983) from Sussex University, UK. Was born in Santiago, Chile, 1958. He is the Director of the Institute of Molecular Cellular Biology (IBMC) and head of the Molecular Genetics Group at the same institute. Currently he is Vice-Director of the i3s (Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde da Universidade do Porto). He is a Member of the European Molecular Biology Organization since 2000, was Vice-President of the European Molecular Biology Conference (2007-2010), Vice-President of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Council (2010-2012) and Chair of the EMBL Council (2013-2016). Currently is a member of the Wellcome Trust-India Alliance fellowship selection committee (2014-2017). During 2007-2008 was the National Coordinator for the Evaluation of Research Units by the Foundation for Science and Technology of Portugal. He was elected as a member of the EMBO council in 2016.

LIST OF ATENDEES

Name	Institute	City	Role	Panel
Gregory Macris	U.S. Embassy	Lisbon	Acting Deputy Chief of Mission	
Miguel Castanho	FCT	Lisbon	Vice President of the Board of Directors of FCT	
Maria Pais	Lisbon Academy of Science	Lisbon	Secretary of the Lisbon Academy of Science	
Megan Ihrle	U.S. Embassy	Lisbon	Organizer	
Teresa Courinha	FCT	Lisbon	Organizer	
Ana Quartin	FCT	Lisbon	Organizer	
Avi Rasooly	NIH	Rockville MD	Organizer	
Maria Mota	University of Lisbon	Lisbon	Co-Chair	A
Claudio Sunkel	University of Porto	Porto	Co-Chair-Moderator	A
Manuela Gomes	University of Minho	Braga	Moderator	A
Adelaide Almeida	University of Aveiro	Aveiro	Panelist	A
Ana B. Abecasis	NOVA University	Lisbon	Panelist	A
Ana Paula Pêgo	University of Porto	Porto	Panelist	A
Cláudia Lobatoda Silva	University of Lisbon	Lisbon	Panelist	A
Jorge F. J. Coelho	University of Coimbra	Coimbra	Panelist	A
Michel Kranendonk	NOVA University	Lisbon	Panelist	A
Maria Paula Macedo	University of Aveiro	Lisbon	Moderator	B
Pedro Pitta Barros	NOVA University	Lisbon	Moderator	B
Ana M. Tomás	University of Porto	Porto	Panelist	B
Nikolaos Papanikolaou	Champalimaud Foundation	Lisbon	Panelist	B
Jorge Almeida	University of Coimbra	Coimbra	Panelist	B
Manuela Lima	University of the Azores	Azores	Panelist	B
Mariana Pinho	NOVA University, ITQB	Lisbon	Panelist	B
Nuno Vale	University of Porto	Porto	Panelist	B
Fernando J. Monteiro	University of Porto	Porto	Moderator	C
Luisa Mota-Vieira	Hospital do Divino Espírito Santo de Ponta Delgada	Azores	Moderator	C
Bruno Costa Silva	Champalimaud Foundation	Lisbon	Panelist	C
Elsa Azevedo	University of Porto	Porto	Panelist	C
Igor BdiKin	University of Aveiro	Aveiro	Panelist	C

Joana Azeredo	University of Minho	Braga	Panelist	C
John G. Jones	University of Coimbra	Coimbra	Panelist	C
Manuela Caniça	Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr. Ricardo Jorge	Lisbon	Panelist	C
José Bragança	Algarve University	Faro	Panelist	C
Félix Carvalho	University of Porto	Porto	Moderator	D
Emília Monteiro	NOVA University	Lisbon	Panelist	D
Helena Rebelo de Andrade	Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr. Ricardo Jorge	Lisbon	Panelist	D
Monica Sousa	University of Porto	Porto	Panelist	D
Paulo J. Oliveira	University of Coimbra	Coimbra	Panelist	D
Raquel Ferreira	University of Beira Interior	Covilhã	Panelist	D
Tiago V. Maia	University of Lisbon	Lisbon	Panelist	D