

**Research for Excellence at the European Parliament - a day with IMM**  
**Brussels, 15 June 2011**  
**Hosted by Maria da Graça Carvalho, MEP**

**CV of participants:**



**Maria Manuel Mota** did her PhD studies at the National Institute for Medical Research (University College London, UK) where she studied a fundamental feature of Plasmodium-infected erythrocytes in malaria infection. In 1999, she joined Victor Nussenzweig's lab at the New York University Medical Center (USA) to study the stage when the malaria parasite infects hepatocytes. On her return to Portugal in 2003, she became group leader at Instituto Gulbenkian Ciência and in 2006 she moved to the IMM. The goal of her current laboratory is to elucidate the role of host components in the establishment of a malaria infection and in the subsequent development of pathology. Maria Mota has published extensively in high impact journals (*Infection and Immunity*, 2000; *Science*, 2001; *Nature Medicine*, 2002; *Nature Medicine* 2003; *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*, 2005; *Nature Medicine* 2007; *PLoS Pathogens*, 2008; *Cell Host & Microbe*, 2008). She started to publish in 1998 and in approximately 10 years Maria's work has been cited more than 1100 times. The importance of her findings led to multiple invitations to speak at international meetings such as Keystone and Gordon Conferences and Malaria International Conferences as well as to the present seminars at various International institutions such as EMBL, Institut Pasteur, Sanger Institute, and the Imperial College London. The work carried out by her research group has earned several awards and distinctions from National and International entities, and has attracted a series of prestigious international grants (EMBO Young Investigator Award in 2004, European Research Young Investigator Award and Howard Hughes Medical Institute International Scholar in 2005, Melinda Gates Foundation 2009). Maria Mota is also a brilliant science communicator, often called to express her ideas to the media.



**Bruno Silva-Santos** heads the Molecular Immunology unit of IMM and Assistant Professor at the Lisbon School of Medicine since 2005. Bruno Silva-Santos holds a degree in Biochemistry (FCUL) and a PhD in Immunology (University College London), as a student from the Gulbenkian PhD Programme in Biomedicine. Before his return to Portugal to head a research group at IMM, he carried out postdoctoral research at Professor A. Hayday's laboratory, at King's College in London. He is also an External Researcher at Instituto Gulbenkian Ciência since 2007. In 2006, Bruno Silva Santos was awarded an *Installation Grant* by the *European Molecular Biology Organization* (EMBO) and, in 2010 he was elected Young Investigator from EMBO. Still in 2010, he joined the prestigious group of awardees of the Starting Grants from the *European Research Council*. Bruno Silva Santos has published in international journals such as *Nature Immunology* (2003 and 2009), *Science* (2005) and *Nature* (2006). During his postdoc, he was also distinguished with the prize *Young Researcher of the Year* from *King's College London* (2005). As a Principal Investigator, he received the *Pfizer Award in Clinical Research* (2009) and the young researcher prize from the *International Cytokine Society* (2009).

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**João Lobo Antunes** holds a degree (1968) and a PhD (1983) in Medicine from the University of Lisbon. Between 1971 and 1984 he lived in New York, where he was a Fulbright Fellow and Associate Professor at the Neurosurgery Department of Columbia University. In 1984 he became Full Professor of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Lisbon. In 1990, he was the Vice-president of the European Area of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies, in 1999 he was the President of the European Society of Neurosurgery and, in 2000 he headed the Sociedade das Ciências Médicas de Lisboa. João Lobo Antunes was also Invited Professor of the University of Pequim,

in 2001. Currently, he is the Director of the Neurosurgery Service at Santa Maria hospital, President of the Academia Portuguesa de Medicina and of Instituto de Medicina Molecular. In 1996, he was elected President of the Scientific Council of the Lisbon Faculty of Medicine, and received the prestigious Prémio Pessoa. João Lobo Antunes dedicated to the study of the hypothalamus and of the hipofisis, and was the first clinician to implant an electronic eye on a blind person, in 1983. He has produced over 100 research papers, in addition to 4 novels (*Um Modo de Ser* - 1996, *Numa cidade feliz* - 1999, *Memória de Nova Iorque e outros ensaios* - 2002, *Sobre a mão e outros ensaios* - 2005). He was national representative at the presidential election campaign of Jorge Sampaio in 1996 and of Cavaco Silva in 2006. He is a member of the Council of State since 2006.



**Maria do Carmo Fonseca** is the Executive Director at Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Full Professor of Cell Biology at the Lisbon School of Medicine and Director of the international clinical and translational Research Program *Harvard Medical School – Portugal*.

Carmo-Fonseca holds a PhD in Cell Biology by Universidade de Lisboa and has carried out postdoctoral research at the *European Molecular Biology Laboratory* (Heidelberg, Germany). She has produced over 92 research papers, is an elected member of the *European Molecular Biology Organization* and other scientific organizations; and has been evaluator for international agencies such as *The Wellcome Trust*, *Human Frontier Science*

*Program* and *Swedish Academy of Science*, *The EMBO Young Investigator Program*, *European Research Council Young Investigator Award Review Panel* and *Agence d'évaluation de la recherche et de l'enseignement supérieur*, France. Carmo-Fonseca is the recipient of numerous national and international prizes, such as Pessoa, Gulbenkian Science Award, DuPont Science and *Comenda Ordem de Santiago de Espada Ilustres Carreira*.

Carmo-Fonseca is an expert in nuclear dynamics and genetic expression. Her research group dedicates to the study of alternative splicing and the disruption of splicing regulatory networks, which is emerging as a major contribution to various diseases.

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**Margarida Pinto Gago** holds a degree in Management from Instituto Superior de Economia e Gestão da Universidade Técnica de Lisboa. Worked for PricewaterHouse as financial and management consultant and in 2003 was recruited to IMM, as Manager. Her current responsibilities include the overall IMM legal, human resources, financial and administrative areas. It covers, namely, the responsibility for IMM statutory accounts and tax returns; accounts and budget management for Research Projects, Facilities, Support Units and Management; Project management and reporting; Human resources;

Quality Management System; support to the Executive Director and the other Statutory Boards in relation to organizational matters, inter-institutional collaborations, financial and budget management strategy.



**Margarida Trindade** is currently responsible for Science Funding at the *Instituto de Medicina Molecular* (IMM) in Lisbon, Portugal. Margarida obtained her PhD on Developmental Biology at the University College in London in 2000 and has since dedicated her career to science communication and management. She was the co-founder and president of *Associação Ciência para o Desenvolvimento*, a nongovernmental organization aimed at promoting science in developing countries, and then worked as Assistant Campaigner at the NGO *Global Witness* in the UK. On her return to Portugal, she became director of *Associação Viver a Ciência* (2005-08) managing successfully sponsored annual prizes for

researchers in Life Sciences and science communication activities targeted at politicians, journalists and general public. In 2008, Margarida Trindade was recruited to IMM to foster an environment for additional science funding. Her current responsibilities include the provision of support to IMM researchers on the assembling of national or international research funding proposals, grant application management and contract negotiation. In addition, she performs grant evaluations for the European Commission's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program and provides training on grant application.