

New PhD projects at IMPaCT ITQB NOVA team – study of SARS-CoV-2 virulence factors

The IMPaCT coordinator, Dr. Célia Romão and the Team Member Dr. Elin Moe are supervisors of a PhD Student, Bruno Salgueiro that recently was awarded this position in the scope of the FCT PhD4COVID program. The project that

Bruno will develop aims to unveil the molecular mechanisms of the interaction between the virulence factors from SARS-CoV-2 and the host innate immune system.



IMPaCT 1st Reporting Evaluation by the EU Commission

After completing the first 18 months of our EU Twinning Project, the IMPaCT Coordination team received a very positive evaluation from the Project Officer and the appointed External Consultant Evaluator on the [project's 1st Reporting Period](#).

During the evaluation meeting, the Project Officer praised the effort made by the project Consortium in overcoming the challenges and limitations caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic outbreak, and highlighted the proactive posture of our Coordination team to ensure

a mitigation plan that was aligned with the EU Commission recommendations.

Despite this unforeseen worldwide situation, some actions were prioritized and important achievements and milestones were accomplished towards the goals of boosting the knowledge in the CryoEM methodologies within the UNL Early Researchers as well as in promoting network building in this field with relevant international experts.



IMPaCT Cryo-EM Seminar with the Nobel laureate, Richard Henderson

On March 16th, 2021, the IMPaCT Coordinators had the great pleasure of welcoming Professor Richard Henderson, the 2017 Nobel Prize in Chemistry laureate, to a series of virtual meetings with the Project Coordinators and the ITQB NOVA team members.

It was a day filled with fruitful meetings with the Project Coordinators and the ITQB NOVA Early Researchers. During these meeting, we had the opportunity to present our project's mission and the main activities and to discuss 6 on-going projects with our expert guest. There were so many valuable inputs shared by

our guest to further assist in boosting the CryoEM growth at our Macromolecular Crystallography Unit at ITQB NOVA and in Portugal.

Also, Richard Henderson Webinar was a big success and a great opportunity to have a good overview of the [revolution brought by the Cryo-Electron Microscopy methodology to the Structural biology](#) field and all the achievements made possible by improvement of this technology and processing programs.

Recording of this webinar is available on [IMPaCT's YouTube](#) Channel.

The cryoEM revolution in structural biology

ITQB NOVA, Oeiras
virtual seminar
16th March 2021
Richard Henderson



IMPaCT Career Development short-courses

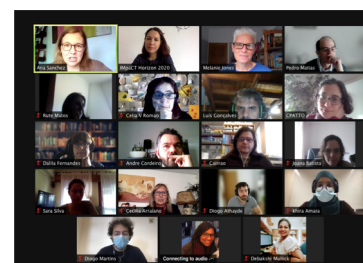
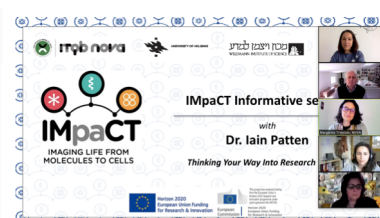
With the aim of enhancing the international profile of the Consortium Early Career Researchers, in particular the young Researcher from ITQB NOVA, the IMPaCT project organized strategic short courses that aims to reinforces the competitiveness of our researchers at the national and international level.

From a series of short-courses designed to promote the professional growth of our researchers, two have been successfully accomplished – [“Thinking your way into research writing”](#) and [“Attending to you – workshop series”](#).

The first course, mentored by Dr. Iain Patten, was focused on providing tools and concepts for strategic design of the writing process, to

ensure a clear communication of the research project and its results. The course was divided into 3 parts – open public session, with 84 attendees; a day and half short course for 20 participants, and a 3 days intensive hands-on module for 8 participant.

The "Attending to You" series, mentored by Mel Jones, consists of workshops designed to encourage you to think about you with a view to helping you to be as productive, positive and fulfilled as possible. The course is divided in 4 modules – “The C word – Confidence”, “Thinking about thinking”, “You and Your purpose: finding it, maximising it”, and “Communicating with Power and Empathy”.



IMPaCT Consortium continues to promote a wide dissemination of our EU H2020 project

Despite the prolonged limitations caused by the pandemic situation, the IMPaCT project Consortium continues to shown a great level of perseverance and willingness to bring this project forward. The

limitations for in-person meetings has allowed the IMPaCT project members to benefit from a range of online that have nature the growth and consolidation of our network.