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Position:

Assistant Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Coimbra (UC), Coimbra, Portugal

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Research area: Gene therapy to the central nervous system

Education:

Ph.D. in Pharmacy (Pharmaceutical Technology), University of Coimbra, Portugal. 2003

Master in Medicines Technologies, UC, 1996

1991- Graduated in Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Previous positions

From 2003 - Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy - University of Coimbra (Portugal).

1998-2001 - PhD Student at the Gene Therapy Center, CHUV, Switzerland under supervision of Prof. Patrick Aebischer (University of Lausanne), Dr. Nicole Déglon and Prof. Rogerio Gaspar (University of Coimbra).

From 1996 - Investigator of Center for Neurosciences & Cell Biology of Coimbra

1993-2003 - Teaching Assistant at the Faculty of Pharmacy - University of Coimbra (Portugal).

1991- 1993 Chief of Production of a Pharmaceutical Industry, Queluz (Lisbon), Portugal Laboratórios Delta /Rotta Research Group

Research activities:

Investigator of the Dept. of Vectors & Gene Therapy of the Center for Neurosciences of Coimbra,
Coordinator of the Doctoral Program in Experimental Biology and Biomedicine of CNC.

Areas of Research:

- Gene therapy to the Central nervous system
 - Neurodegenerative disorders -Polyglutamine disorders - Huntington´s disease, Spinocerebellar ataxia 3/Machado-Joseph disease
- Gene Therapy with lentiviral vectors
- Gene Silencing with lentiviral vectors encoding short hairpin RNAs
- Development of cell and animal models of neurodegenerative diseases with lentiviral vectors
- Drug Delivery to the Central Nervous System

Financed Projects:

- "Lentiviral vector-based silencing of endogenous rat ataxin-3", Reference: Grant #8 04/05. National Ataxia Foundation, EUA. Principal investigator

- "Lentiviral vectors and gene silencing in polyglutamine disorders: Expression of double-stranded RNAs mediated by lentiviral vectors for silencing of the ataxin-3 gene. FCT, POCTI/SAU-MMO/56055/2004. Principal investigator

"Transcription regulation by FK506 and BDNF control mitochondrial dependent cell death – a protective role in Huntington´s disease". FCT, POCTI/SAU-NEU/57310/2004. Member of the research team.

"Development of novel synthetic viral vectors for gene transfer: expression of angiogenic growth factors for vascular diseases therapy". FCT, POCTI/BIO/48735/2002 (2003-2006). Member of the research team.

Teaching activities

During the last years has taught to the undergraduate students of Pharmaceutical Sciences the disciplines "Research and new technologies in neurodegenerative diseases and aging", "Pharmaceutical Technology", Galenics and Biopharmacy and Pharmacokinetics. Has been involved in the coordination of different advanced courses to the students of the doctoral programme in experimental Biology and Biomedicine of CNC.

Selected publications

Girão da Cruz M.T., Cardoso A.L.C., de Almeida L.P., Simões S., Pedroso de Lima M.C.: Tf-lipoplex-mediated NGF gene transfer to the CNS: neuronal protection and recovery in an excitotoxic model of brain injury. **Gene Therapy**. 12(16):1242-52, 2005.

Zala D; Bensadoun JC; Pereira de Almeida L; Leavitt BR; Gutekunst CA; Aebischer P; Hayden MR; and Déglon N : Long-term Lentiviral-Mediated Expression of Ciliary Neurotrophic Factor in the Striatum of Huntington's Disease Transgenic Mice. **Exp. neurol.** 185(1) : 26-35, 2004.

Bensadoun* JC, de Almeida* LP, Tseng J, Fine E, Deglon N and Aebischer P: Comparative study of GDNF delivery systems for the CNS: polymer rods, encapsulated cells and lentiviral vectors. **J Control Rel** 87:107-15, 2003 *Both authors contributed equally to this work.

Regulier E, Pereira de Almeida L, Sommer B, Aebischer P, Deglon N: Dose-dependent neuroprotective effect of a TET regulated lentiviral mediated CNTF delivery in the QA model of Huntington's disease. **Hum Gene Ther** 13, 1981-1990, 2002.

de Almeida LP, Ross CA, Zala D, Aebischer P, Deglon N: Lentiviral-mediated delivery of mutant huntingtin in the striatum of rats induces a selective neuropathology modulated by polyglutamine repeat size, huntingtin expression levels, and protein length. **J Neurosci** 22: 3473-83, 2002.