

CLINICAL RESEARCH: WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? ...a focused training for busy investigators and study teams

COURSE DIRECTORS & INVITED PRESENTERS - SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Inês Zimbarra Cabrita (Course Director)

Inês is a results-oriented and accomplished professional with more than 15 years of clinical research experience. Inês graduated from the Lisbon School of Health Technology (ESTESL), where she obtained her Cardiopneumology BSc (Honours) degree. In 2005 she moved to London, where she attended a Master of Science on Medical Imaging Ultrasound at the Faculty of Medicine Imperial College London, following a PhD in Cardiovascular Sciences at the same Institution.

Inês is the Director and Co-founder of CETERA and also Co-founder and Scientific Coordinator of GAIC, the Cardiovascular Research Support Department at Centro Hospitalar e Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN, Hospital Santa Maria), created in 2012. Her role incorporates the full management of the Research Activity at the Heart and Vessels Department.

Since July 2013, Inês is the Director of the Academic CRO CETERA, managing a team of 10 people. Inês is responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient coordination and management of all CRO activities and for overseeing the provision of support to researchers during all clinical trials activity. Inês has more than 15 years of experience and knowledge in the cardiovascular field and has published several original papers in scientific journals being invited assistant professor for several postgraduate courses.

Inês is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Cardiovascular Centre at Universidade de Lisboa and Assistant Teacher at the Lisbon School of Medicine (FMUL) and Assistant Teacher at Escola Superior de Saúde da Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa. Inês is also member of Scientific Coordination of the Master in Clinical Research of FMUL.



Francisca Patuleia Figueiras (Course Director)

Francisca has a Ph.D. in Biomedicine at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. She has graduated at the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia - Universidade Nova de Lisboa where she obtained her Integrate Master's degree (MEng) in Biomedical Engineering (2007). In 2012/13 Francisca worked as post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Psychiatry, Clinics Hospital - University of São Paulo, Brazil. In 2016, she completed a 2-years Master focused on Monitoring, Quality and Statistics at the University of Ferrara, Italy.

In 2013, Francisca was recruited by the Association for Research and Development of the Faculty of Medicine (AIDFM) to integrate the scientific team of the GAIC - Cardiovascular Research Support Department, acting as scientific advisor and study coordinator of several national and international clinical trials and non-interventional studies in the cardiovascular field. Still, in 2013, Francisca started collaborating in the pioneering project of an academic CRO, AIDFM-CETERA, being the Scientific Affairs & Business Development Manager until December 2019. Also, Francisca was Project Manager and Senior Clinical Research Associate of several clinical trials, working on their implementation, management, and monitoring activities.

Since April 2021 Francisca is the Director of Clinical Operations of CETERA and also the Education & Initiatives Manager, being responsible for the education, training, and community-oriented initiatives.



Dulce Brito (Invited Speakers)

Prof. Dulce Brito received her MD from Lisbon University Medical School in 1982. After obtaining her Doctoral degree (PhD.) in 2007, at the same Faculty, in the area of Cardiomyopathies, Dulce Brito was appointed to her current position as Invited Professor of Cardiology at Lisbon University Medical School.

Currently, Prof. Dulce Brito is cardiology consultant and researcher at the Cardiology Department at Santa Maria University Hospital (Cardiology Department), Head of the Cardiomyopathies Unit, and coordinator of the inpatient Cardiology Unit where several clinical trials and studies are conducted.

To the present, she has participated in over 17 international therapeutic investigational clinical trials, most as local PI (Principal Investigator) coordinating different teams and promoting Investigator driven research at the department. She is also a Senior Investigator at a H2020 Sponsored Clinical trial.

Dulce Brito has published over 90 scientific full papers, and over 130 conference proceedings (published abstracts), and has presented over 280 lectures/chairpersonships at national and international meetings.



Pedro Carrilho Ferreira (Invited Speakers)

Pedro has a MD from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, and currently works as Attending Cardiologist in Santa Maria University Hospital. During residency, he spent four months in the Interventional Cardiology Unit of the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and at the moment is completing the subspecialty in Interventional Cardiology. His main areas of interest are coronary artery disease and valvular heart disease.

He has teaching duties at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon since 2005, and currently is Invited Assistant of Cardiology. He has supervised several Integrated Masters in Medicine, and collaborates in different optional disciplines and post-graduate courses. Between 2011 and 2012 he was also a teacher in the Master of Cardiovascular Diagnosis and Intervention of the Lisbon School of Health Technology and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon.

Pedro has extensive experience in clinical research. He participated in more than 20 multicenter registries and clinical trials, as co-investigator, and designed and developed several investigator-initiated studies.



Catarina Sousa

Catarina graduated in Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon in 2004. In 2006, she started her medical residency in Cardiology at Hospital Pulido Valente. Her training included a rotation in the Intensive Care Unit at Saint Thomas Hospital and in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London.

Catarina is an invited assistant at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon. She completed her PhD in 2022 in Cardiovascular Sciences at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon. She is currently working as a graduate assistant in Cardiology at the Heart and Vessels Department of the CHULN

At CETERA Catarina is the Medical Advisor, since 2014, providing clinical guidance to the team members, being responsible for the medical revision of clinical data and safety and efficacy events. Catarina also coordinates the Medical Writing & Translation Department.



Cristina Valente

Cristina has PharmD from the University of Lisbon. Additionally, she attended 3 years in Medicine at Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Cristina is currently Clinical Research Local Study Manager na AstraZeneca Portugal.

In September 2019, Cristina joined Takeda Portugal as Patient Advocacy Group Manager & Clinical Operations Manager, where she was responsible for the coordination of services related to patient care, access to research and communication of evidence and support patient organizations related to the diseases that Takeda is involved. Supports Medical Affairs in the planning and execution of local research, namely, Real World Evidence (RWE) and Investigator Initiated Studies (IIS).

During 6 years, Cristina was a Clinical Research Associate in the pharmaceutical industry where she was responsible for the monitoring of several phase IIa, IIb and III trials in psychiatry, neurology, oncology and in cardiovascular diseases. Later in 2013, and during 5 years, Cristina was Clinical Operations Manager and CRO Manager at Servier where she was responsible for the management of several phase IIa, IIb and III trials in cardiovascular diseases, osteoarthritis, diabetic kidney disease and oncology. Since April 2017 Cristina worked as Clinical Operations Country Study Manager and Study Start-up Specialist at Roche, being responsible for the implementation of several phase II and III clinical trials in prostate and breast cancer.

Cristina joined the CETERA team as an External Consultant, participating in training programs.



Cecília Gomes

Cecília graduated in Dietetics from Lisbon School of Health Technology in 2001 beginning that same year her professional activity at the Hospital de Santa Maria - CHULN, EPE at the Dietetics and Nutrition Service, assuming, in 2010, Sub-coordination and Quality Management functions.

Later, in 2018 completes her MSc in Food Safety and Quality in Catering with her thesis on "Knowledge, attitudes and practices of hygiene and food safety. A case study: healthcare professionals of an University hospital" at Escola Superior de Hotelaria e Turismo do Estoril.

Cecilia has certification in Good Clinical Practice and holds a postgraduate degree in "Monitoring in Clinical Trials", from Universidade Lusófona. Since March 2019 she integrates the team of GAIC - Cardiovascular Research Support Department as GAIC Chief Coordinator and at the same time assumes the coordination and management of several research projects, including phase II to IV trials and non-interventional studies.

Since 2019 she has also been a Guest Assistant Professor, in the degree in Nutrition Sciences, at the Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa.



Susana Silva

Susana obtained her BSc. in Biomedical Engineering in the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) in 2013. In the same year, she made a summer course in Germany about "Designing Devices for Healthy Ageing - An International Challenge", and initiated the Master's degree (MSc) in Biomedical Technology also in IPB. In 2015 she finished the MSc with her thesis on "Gaseous embolism in microchannels and Flow Focusing Technique in the Production of Microparticles PD MS" with partnership with the University of Extremadura in Badajoz, Spain.

Susana worked at the Cardiovascular Research Support Department (GAIC) in 2016 as Study Coordinator being involved in several international interventional and non-interventional studies in the cardiovascular field. Later in 2017, Susana joined CETERA team where she acts as Senior Clinical Research Associate.

