

APPENDIX 3

REPORT

INTERNATIONAL POSTGRADUATE

PROGRAMME

Courses and Workshops

**ESCOLA DE CIÊNCIAS DA SAÚDE
INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGAÇÃO EM CIÊNCIAS DA VIDA E SAÚDE
UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO
2007**

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Scientific Content and Structure

In 2007, and for the seventh consecutive year, we offered a highly specialized training for medical doctors and investigators in biomedical sciences. To run this programme, we obtained financial support from "Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian" and "Fundação Luso-Americana" as well as from several companies: Bioportugal, Bio-Rad, Bonsai Technologies, Delta Cafés, Dias de Sousa S.A., ENZIfarma, Frilabo, Fujifilm Lifescience, INOPAT, Olympus, Reagente 5, Roche, Sarstedt, Tadinense and VWR International. We are grateful to our sponsors for the helpful contribution for this international program of courses and workshops in biomedical sciences.

The 2007 postgraduation programme included nine courses and four workshops, listed below, and counted with 257 participants. In 2007 the number of courses and workshops was smaller than in previous years given the space and organizational constraints imposed by the move of the School facilities to a new building in August.

Detailed information of the programme (courses and workshops) is available at (<http://www.ecsaude.uminho.pt/postgrad>).

Courses in Biomedical Sciences

Hospital Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees

Coordinators: Fátima Baltazar, António Sarmiento

27-28 April

Bioinformatics

Coordinators: Paula Ludovico, António Gil Castro, Jorge Carneiro

2-4 May

Animal Cell and Tissue Culture

Coordinators: Fernanda Bajanca, Isabel Palmeirim, Gabriela Rodrigues, Ana I. Moura Santos

16-18 May

Neurosurgery "Cerebral Sulci, Gyri and Ventricles", 4th Edition

Coordinators: Evandro de Oliveira, Carlos Alegria, Nuno Sousa

11-15 June

New perspectives in Anxiety and Depression: From Laboratory to the Clinics

Coordinators: Joana Palha, Nuno Sousa, Óscar Gonçalves

28-30 June

Laboratory Animal Science

Coordinators: Jorge Pedrosa, Patrícia Maciel and Magda Carlos

3-14 September

Applied Epidemiology

Coordinators: Mário Freitas, Jaime Correia de Sousa, Yonah Yaphe

15-24 October

(Cancelled)

Invasive Infections by *Aspergillus spp*

Coordinators: Fernando Rodrigues, António Sarmento, Luigina Romani

21-23 November

Minimally Invasive Surgical Week: Laparoscopy, Endoscopy and 3rd Generation Surgery

Coordinators: Jorge Correia-Pinto, Estevão Lima, José L. Carvalho, Guilherme Macedo

3-7 December

Workshops

Basic Training on Multiple Choice Testing

Coordinators: Manuel João Costa

31 January

The Nematode *C. elegans*: a model for Teaching and Research in Biology

Coordinators: Patrícia Maciel

21-24 March

(Cancelled)

Assessment Methodologies in Occupational Health

Coordinators: António Alegre Sarmento, Mário Freitas

1-3 October

(Cancelled)

Assessment of Medical Competence

Coordinators: Manuel João Costa and Lambert Schuwirth

13-14 December

(Cancelled)

Global evaluation

In 2007 the International Postgraduate Programme included novel courses in diverse scientific areas and also new editions of the courses "Laboratory Animal Science" and "Neurosurgery: Cerebral Sulci, Gyri and Ventricles", that had been very successful in previous years and that continue to represent areas of demand among the participants. In particular, for the third consecutive year we offered the training on "Laboratory Animal Science", which provides international certification for research using animal models. For the fourth time the course "Neurosurgery: Cerebral Sulci, Gyri and Ventricles" took place reinforcing the relevance of the new laboratory of neurosurgery for advanced training in the new facilities. Among the multiplicity of courses and workshops offered we would like to highlight the course "Minimally Invasive Surgical Week: Laparoscopy, Endoscopy and 3rd Generation Surgery" that took place in the new ECS/ICVS facilities and allowed the specialized training of medical doctors on the third generation surgery, a novel and emerging area on surgery. The workshop "Basic Training on Multiple Choice Testing" was also very successful. The school was contacted by "Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar/Hospital Geral de Santo António (ICBAS/HGSA) and a second edition of this workshop took place during 2007 in ICBAS/HGSA.

Unfortunately, for different reasons, one course, "Applied Epidemiology", and three workshops, "The nematode *C. elegans*: a Model for Teaching and Research in Biology", "Assessment Methodologies in Occupational Health" and "Assessment of Medical Competence" were cancelled.

The main goal of the International Postgraduate Programme is to offer a highly

specialized training for medical doctors and investigators in biomedical sciences as well as to improve and promote the medical education an emergent research area that aims to improve individual's abilities to teach. Therefore, we pretend to continue offering training in multiple areas by organizing novel courses every year, but also by promoting additional editions of courses for which the demand is evident.

Participants Background

In 2007 the International Postgraduate Programme counted with 257 participants, a lower level of participation when compared to 2006 that is probably related to the lower number of courses and workshops offered in 2007. Figure 1 presents the participant's background distribution in 2007. It is grateful to realize that the program attracted a considerable number of clinicians, which we intend to promote further.

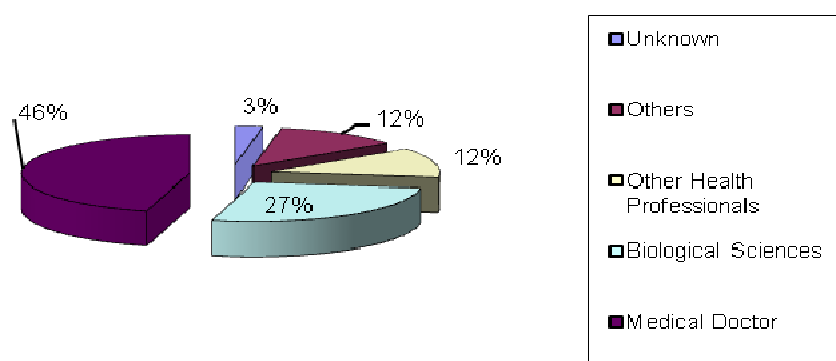


Figure 1 - Background distribution of the participants ("Unknown" reflects the number of questionnaires in which the participant's background was not provided; "Others Health Professionals" include participants having as background pharmacy, psychology or clinical analysis and public health; "Others" include participants having as background polymer, biotechnological, biological, food technology or chemical engineering).

The participants belong to different national and international institutions as presented in Figure 2.

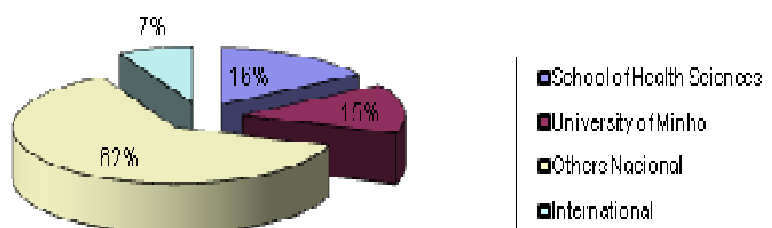


Figure 2 – Participants affiliation.

The vast majority of the participants originate from Portuguese Institutions other than the University of Minho, which is very representative of the growing acceptance of our programme in the national biomedical research and medical communities. Our programme counted with participants from international institutions, particularly in the courses “Neurosurgery: Cerebral Sulci, Gyri and Ventricles”, “New Perspectives in Anxiety and Depression: From Laboratory to Clinics” and “Minimally Invasive Surgical Week: Laparoscopy, Endoscopy and 3rd Generation Surgery”, which further reinforces the international recognition of our programme.

Evaluation results

A questionnaire was filled by 209 out of 257 participants to evaluate several aspects of each course or workshop. The overall evaluation provided the results presented in Figure 3: excellent (37%), Very good (52%), Good (11%), Fair (0%), Poor (0%).

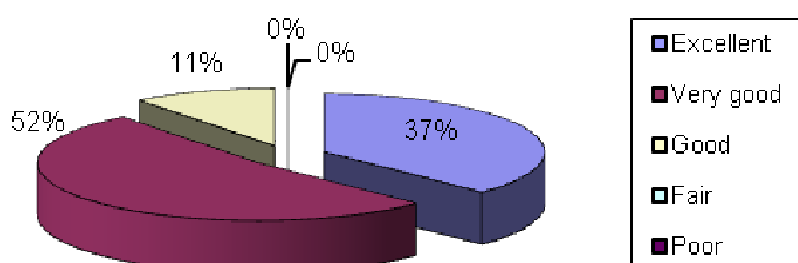


Figure 3 – Evaluation results.

In most cases, participants considered that the courses should be repeated in years to

come, and would recommend it to a peer; which represents a great incentive to continue and consolidate the programme.