



School of Health Sciences

POST-GRADUATION REPORT

Academic Year 2012-2013

University of Minho

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1. Post-graduation: Master and PhD programmes

The School of Health Sciences formally started to offer master and PhD programmes, in accordance with the Bologna legislation, in the academic year 2009-2010. Specifically, the School presently offers a Master programme in Health Sciences, a PhD programme in Health Sciences and a PhD programme in Medicine. While for the Master programme there is a specific period for admission (April-July), the PhD programmes are always opened. Presently, for a student to be admitted to the PhD programme in Health Sciences, and in addition to the academic criteria for admission, he/she must have a scholarship attributed by a funding agency or require no support.

In the academic year 2012-2013, 29 students enrolled our PhD programmes (22 in Health Sciences, of which 8 within the inter-institutional programme in Aging and Degeneration of Complex Biological Systems - PhDESC programme; and 7 in medicine), and 14 enrolled the Master programme in Health Sciences (including 4 medical doctors originating from Mozambique, within an agreement with the Mozambican Health Authorities). The recruitment for the 2013-2014 Master programme has been completed, and 18 students were formally accepted.

In 2013, 4 PhD students, 2 in medicine and 2 in health sciences, have successfully defended their theses, and 3 others are expected to do so until the end of the year; and 7 Master students defended their theses and 8 others are expected to do so until the end of the year.

PhD programmes

Of notice, the PhD programme in Health Sciences shares with the Medical School of the University of Coimbra and with the Faculty of Medical Sciences, New University of Lisbon, an inter-institutional programme in Aging and Degeneration of Complex Biological Systems (PhDESC), in which students from the three universities rotate for advanced courses and laboratory rotations. This programme was directly attributed 9 scholarships from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). In 2012-2013 the PhDESC opened a call with 15 vacancies, of which 8 were given to students applying through the ECS (among these 5 directly received PhD scholarships from the programme, while the other 3 students received PhD fellowships from the FCT national call).

Of relevance, FCT opened a national competitive call for PhD programmes, and the inter-institutional programme in Aging and Degeneration of Complex Biological Systems was among the selected for funding. Therefore, for the next 4 academic years the programme will be awarded 9 PhD scholarships/year with an additional funding of 100 000 euros for training costs for the full duration of the programme.

MD/PhD programme

A specific note, as well, to the MD/PhD pathway within the PhD programme in Medicine. The ECS offers a unique MD/PhD programme, in which students are admitted to the PhD programme before completing their training in the medical degree, specifically after the 5th year is successfully completed. For that, students must have accomplished at least two summer laboratory rotations in the previous years. This requisite is of interest since it encourages many medical students to participate in research activities early during their training, which is relevant irrespectively of their formal entering in the MD/PhD programme. In the summers of 2012 and of 2013, 34 medical and 36 students, respectively, participated in such rotations, which is a clear demonstration of the vitality of the programme.

It is also worth mentioning that the MD/PhD programme was also selected for funding in the FCT national competitive call for PhD programmes, and continues to be the only MD/PhD programme in which MD students interrupt their MD training for the PhD thesis project. A total of 20 PhD scholarships and 100 000 euros were attributed for the next 4 editions of the programme. Importantly for the academic year 2013-2014 a record of 4 students will formally enrol in the MD/PhD programme; 4 MD students are presently developing their PhD thesis projects and 1 student is expected to defend the thesis during the current year.

In summary, from the 11 PhD programmes funded by FCT in Health Sciences in Portugal, two have direct involvement of the School of Health Sciences of the University of Minho.

2. Advanced courses

The postgraduate offer of ECS continues its mission to provide the scientific community with opportunities for career development and advanced training, by presenting courses and workshops intended for medical doctors and researchers in the biomedical sciences.

From January to July 31st 2013, the international postgraduate programme offered 23 courses, which were attended by a total of 437 participants. Below are listed all the courses and workshops proposed for 2013. Detailed information on the courses and workshops is available at www.ecsaude.uminho.pt/pg.

FUNDAMENTALS OF GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT AND NEOPLASIA (4th Edition)

Fátima Baltazar, Raquel Andrade

January 14-25, 2013

ASTIGMATISM MANAGEMENT IN CATARACT SURGERY

a comprehensive approach

Fernando Silva

January 19, 2013

TEACHING LARGE (OR SMALL) CLASSES ACCORDING TO BOLOGNA

Manuel João Costa

February 15, 2013

AN INTEGRATIVE APPROACH TO CELL ANALYSIS (5th Edition)

cell and tissue culture, flow cytometry and microscopy

António Salgado, Margarida Saraiva, Margarida Correia-Neves, Paula Ludovico

February 25 - March 8, 2013

STEM CELLS GET PRACTICAL (3rd Edition)

approaches on stem cell isolation, characterization and differentiation

António Salgado, Luisa Pinto

March 11-15, 2013

METHODS FOR GROUPING VARIABLES WITH IBM SPSS STATISTICS (2nd Edition)

Patrício Costa

April 3-4, 2013

FETAL AND NEONATAL ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY (5th Edition)

Tiago Henriques-Coelho, João Moreira-Pinto, Jorge Correia-Pinto

April 4-6, 2013

LAPAROSCOPIC RADICAL CYSTOPROSTATECTOMY

Estêvão Lima, Jorge Correia-Pinto
April 9, 2013

EXTRAPERITONEAL LAPAROSCOPIC RADICAL PROSTATECTOMY (2nd Edition)

Estêvão Lima, Jorge Correia-Pinto
April 10-11, 2013

MASTER CLASS IN 3D SCARLESS UROLOGY (4th Edition)

Estêvão Lima, Riccardo Autorino, Jorge Correia-Pinto
April 12-13, 2013

BASIC LAPAROSCOPY FOR RESIDENTS (4th Edition)

Cristina Nogueira-Silva, Emanuel Dias, Paulo Mota, Jorge Correia-Pinto
April 15-16, 2013

GYNECOLOGICAL LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY (5th Edition)

comprehensive hands-on course with live surgery

Hélder Ferreira, João Bernardes, Fátima Faustino, Jorge Correia-Pinto
April 18-20, 2013

TOPICS OF REGRESSION WITH IBM SPSS STATISTICS (2nd Edition)

Patrício Costa
May 2-3, 2013

FUNDAMENTALS OF ASSESSMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Manuel João Costa
May 9, 2013

PHARMACOLOGICAL BASIS OF RATIONAL THERAPEUTICS: ANTIBIOTICS (3rd Edition)

Fátima Baltazar, Hélder Novais e Bastos, Carlos Capela
May 31 - June 1, 2013

FUNDAMENTALS IN ARTHROSCOPY (4th Edition)

Rui Duarte, Nuno Ferreira, Espregueira-Mendes, Vieira da Silva
June 13-14, 2013

NEXT GENERATION SEQUENCING: APPROACHES AND APPLICATIONS

Patrícia Maciel, José Luís Costa
June 17-21, 2013

AROUND THE NOSE: ENDOSCOPIC SINUS SURGERY (2nd Edition)

Fausto Fernandes, Francisco Moreira da Silva, Jorge Correia Pinto
June 27, 2013

AROUND THE NOSE: FUNDAMENTALS IN RHINOSEPTOPLASTY (2nd Edition)

Fausto Fernandes, Francisco Moreira da Silva, Jorge Correia Pinto
June 28, 2013

AROUND THE NOSE: SURGERY FOR SNORING AND OSAS (2nd Edition)

Fausto Fernandes, Carlos Matos, Jorge Correia Pinto
June 29, 2013

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: FROM CLINIC TO GENE AND BACK (3rd Edition)

Patrícia Maciel, Mafalda Barbosa
July 1-5

EFFECTIVE TEACHING OF BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES

organized in collaboration with the Portuguese Biochemical Society (SPB)
Manuel João Costa
July 8, 2013

THE NEMATODE C. ELEGANS: A MODEL FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Patrícia Maciel, Ana João Rodrigues
July 8-10, 2013

2.1. Sponsors

To run the international postgraduate programme, we obtained financial support from several companies:

Amplifon, Angelini, Baptista Marques, Bausch + Lomb, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Coloplast Portugal, Enzifarma, Ethicon Endo-Surgery, I.L.C., Jérôme Lejeune Foundation, LabClinics, Olympus, Roche, Sarstedt, Storz and Tadinense. We are grateful to our sponsors for the helpful contribution for this international programme of courses and workshops in biomedical sciences.

2.2. Global Assessment

2.2.1. Participants Background

In 2013, we had a total of 437 participants in the courses and workshops that took place until July 31st 2013. Figure 1 presents the participant's professional background distribution. The vast majority of the participants were medical doctors (70%), which is of notice. The courses mostly addressing biological sciences are still to take place in the Fall of 2013.

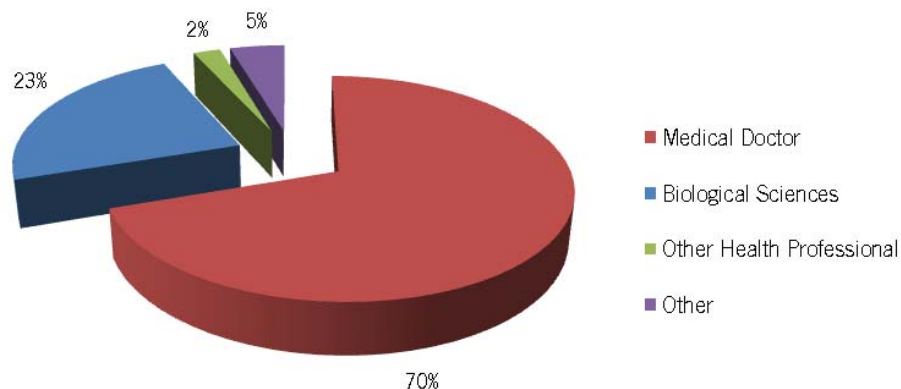


Figure 1 - Background distribution of the participants (“Other Health Professionals” include participants having as background pharmacy, psychology or clinical analysis and public health; “Others” include participants having as background polymer, biotechnological, biological, food technology or chemical engineering).

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

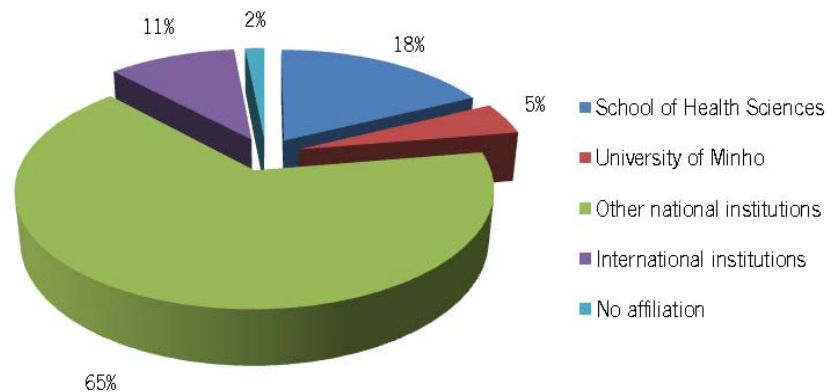


Figure 2 – Participants affiliation.

The vast majority of the participants belong to 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. Of relevance, 11% of the participants originate from foreign institutions, which highlight the ability of the programme to attract as well investigators and medical doctors from other countries; and that 65% originate from outside the University of Minho.

2.2.2. Evaluation Results

A questionnaire was filled by 396 out of the 437 total participants that enrolled until July 2013, to evaluate several aspects of each course. The overall evaluation provided the results presented in Figure 3: Excellent (51%), Very good (42%), Good (6%), Sufficient (1%), Weak/Poor (0%).

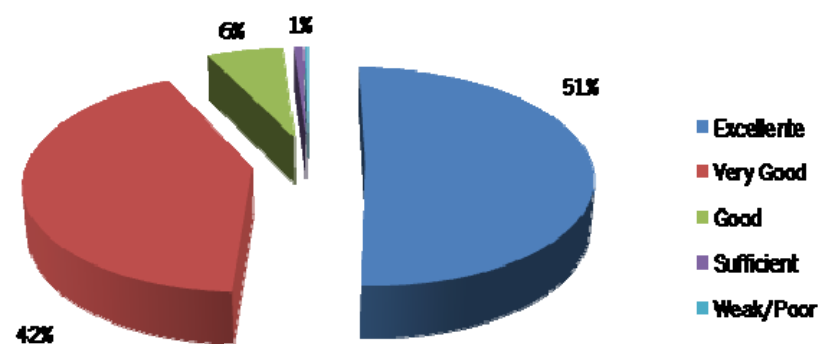


Figure 3 – Evaluation results.

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.