



MIA Portugal
Multidisciplinary
Institute of Ageing

Common Advanced Teaching

**Synergies with
Teaming Partners M24**

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1. Limitations to implement teaching activities

A critical feature ensuring the efficiency of the teaching process is the dynamic interaction with students, which was severely curtailed by the distancing imposed by the COVID pandemics. The digital ‘at-distance’ teaching options fail to allow this critical feature of dynamic interactions and can only be considered a poor surrogate strategy without validated tools to ensure its efficiency. This is particularly limiting when considering graduate specialized teaching fostering not only the transmission of information but mainly grasping to develop critical thinking. Thus, the aim of implementing processes of excellence in graduate teaching is hardly compatible with the impossibility to carry out in person interactive teaching activities.

Therefore, these successive lockdowns and imposition of non-presential teaching activities justifies the forced a delay in implementing the teaching activities planned in the realm of MIA-Portugal’s activities. The launching of an inter-institutional PhD program is still waiting for the conditions required for its effective presential functioning. Likewise, the organization of Schools on Aging, to bolster the interest of particularly promising PhD students or candidates and post-doctoral fellows in subjects related to the Biology of Aging, has been delayed. Even the participation of the core MIA-Portugal Researchers in graduate training programs organized by Institutions linked to MIA-Portugal, has been limited to avoid beginning interactions based on non-validated ‘at distance’ teaching methodologies that may hamper the recognition of the intended excellence of MIA-Portugal participation.

Therefore, the current report of activities necessarily reflects a highly controlled and limited scope of activities, far from the breath of teaching activities expected from MIA-Portugal.

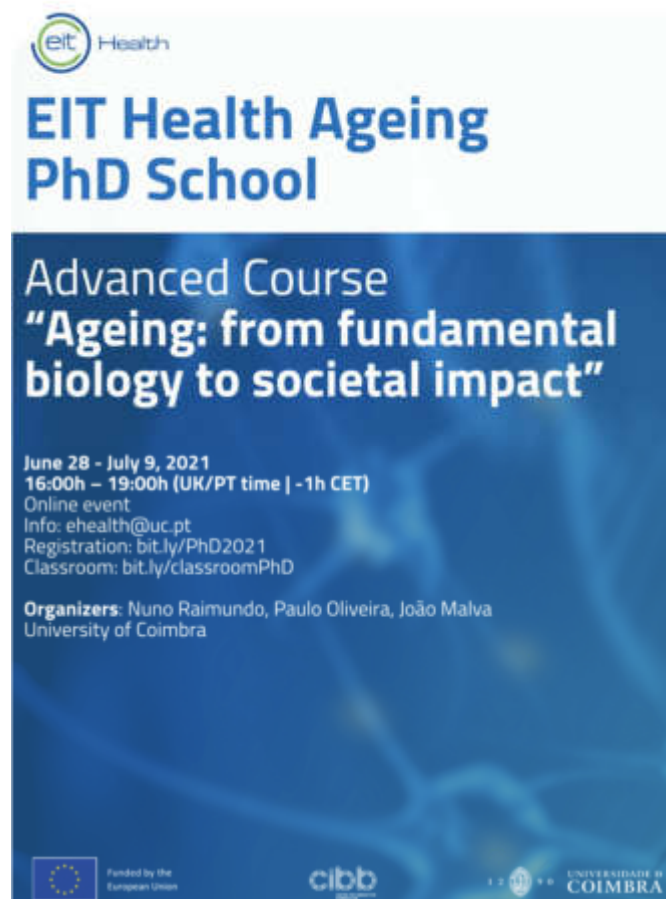
2. Ageing Spring School and Symposium 2022

Based on our particularly successful previous organization of a Spring School, which gathered during a period of one week a group of selected promising students with specialists in several subjects in the area of the Biology of Aging, we had as a major goal in the first year of activities of MIA-Portugal to carry out a similar event. The aims of this event are to raise interests in the area of the Biology of Aging in a selected population of promising PhD students and candidates to become PhD students, as well as in a handful of post-doctoral fellows. By gathering during one week a selected Faculty from different Institutions highly focused in the Biology of Aging, there is a secondary goal to promote conditions for extended discussions hopefully blossoming into new inter-institutional twinning research projects.

Such goals should make it clear that this endeavour only makes sense by personally joining Faculty and students and it is inadequate to consider that a digital Spring School may be an alternative. Until the end of 2021, there was an uncertainty as if and when such a presential activity could be scheduled. With the alleviation of pandemic-related constraints, we immediately undertook the planning of this event, which will be organized by MIA-Portugal in partnership with the Global Healthy Alliance that includes all the partners and associated partners of MIA-Portugal, all represented in the organizing committee of the event. In tight collaboration with Marco Di Maria (UMCG) and Satomi Miwa (Univ.Newcastle), the program has now been defined, the Faculty invited and confirmed and the students' selection completed. The event is scheduled to take place in Coimbra between 4 and 8 April 2022 and includes a symposium open to the general biomedical community and a 4 days School gathering Faculty with the selected students (webmail: <https://www.uc.pt/mia/mia-portugal-ageing-spring-school/>).

3. EIT Health Ageing PhD School

The EIT Health Ageing has an on-going PhD school with yearly virtual activities and MIA-Portugal has provided its support to this endeavour. Thus, Nuno Raimundo (Principal Investigator of MIA-Portugal) was involved as a co-organizer (with J. Malva and P. Oliveira) and as a speaker in the EIT Health Ageing PhD school in 2021. Also, Nuno Raimundo and Ira Milosevic (Principal Investigators of MIA-Portugal) have co-organized and delivered two half-day workshops at the EIT Health Ageing PhD School Annual Retreat – Theme: Healthy Living and Active Ageing in December 2021.



This involvement of MIA-Portugal in the EIT Health Ageing PhD School will continue in 2022, with the participation of Nuno Raimundo and Mia

Milosevic as co-organizers (with J. Malva and P. Oliveira) of the 2022 EIT Health Ageing PhD School. This year's theme is 'Ageing: from fundamental biology to societal impact'. In addition to its organization, Nuno Raimundo and Mia Milosevic will give lectures to the participating students in June 2022.

4. European training networks

Ira Milosevic is a co-organizer (with C. Duarte, A.L. Carvalho, P. Pinheiro, J. Peça) and a speaker of the 8th European Synapse Meeting, to be held in Coimbra, October 20-21, 2022. This meeting brings together junior and senior neuroscientists focused on different aspects of synapse functioning to create a European research community with an active role in promoting synaptic research (webmail: <https://esm-coimbra2022.cnc.uc.pt/>).

5. Participation in PhD Programs

Nuno Raimundo has presented one lecture in the PhD course "Oncometabolism" (PhD Programme in Experimental Biology and Biomedicine, PDBEB) in 2021.

Nuno Raimundo will deliver a lecture in the PhD course "Metabolic and inflammatory drivers in age-related neurodegenerative diseases" in spring 2022.

Ira Milosevic has delivered two lectures within the PDBEB (PhD Programme in Experimental Biology and Biomedicine) course on 'Synapse Biology' in 2021 (organized by A.L. Carvalho). She will continue this collaboration by delivering two lectures within this same PDBEB course on 'Synapse Biology' in February 2022 (organized by C. Duarte).



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