



Faculdade ¹⁸²⁵
de Medicina



UNIDADE LOCAL DE SAÚDE
SANTA MARIA



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Biobank Week 2026

23-26 February 2026

Auditorium 58, Floor -1, Egas Moniz Building,
FMUL, Av. Professor Egas Moniz, 1649-028 Lisbon

Programme + Information



Scope

Biobank Week is designed to explore best practices in biobanking for biomedical research fostering discussion, harmonization and innovation in approaches to biobanking.

At the core of *Biobank Week* is an **Advanced Course** that delves into the inner workings of a biobank — from daily operations and quality management to ethics, governance, data protection and sample security. The programme includes a hands-on workshop component, ensuring that participants can translate theory into practice. For those with limited availability, *Biobank Week* also offers an **open session for the wider community**, on 23rd February PM, focused on increasing the visibility and understanding of biobanks in health research, particularly among healthcare professionals. The programme is further enriched by the participation of industry partners, providing insights into the latest materials, technologies and solutions for biobanking.

Biobank Week is aimed at **all those seeking a deeper and up-to-date understanding of biobanks**, whether healthcare professionals, researchers, technicians, postgraduate students in health sciences or the general public.

Dates: 23–26 February 2026

Location: Auditorium 58, Floor -1, Egas Moniz Building, FMUL, Av. Professor Egas Moniz, 1649-028 Lisbon

Find out more here: <https://care.gimm.pt/biobank-week/>

Organizers

Biobank Week is a collaborative knowledge-sharing initiative promoted by the **Gulbenkian Institute of Molecular Medicine (GIMM)** GIMM CARE clinical and translational research initiative, the **School of Medicine of the University of Lisbon (FMUL)** and the **Vall d’Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)**, with support from the **Local Health Unit Santa Maria (ULSSM)**.

Coordinating Committee

- Ângela Afonso | Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM)
- Brígida Riso | Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon (FMUL)
- Patrícia Costa Reis | Local Health Unit Santa Maria (ULSSM), Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon (FMUL), Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM)
- Sérgio Dias | Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM), Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon (FMUL)
- Isabel Novoa | Vall d’Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)

Programme

Day 1 (23 Feb)	Day 2 (24 Feb)	Day 3 (25 Feb)	Day 4 (26 Feb)
9.00-9.45	9.00-9.45	9.00-9.45	9.00-9.15
Welcome & Course Introduction (Brígida Riso & Ângela Afonso)	Biobanks in context: international and national initiatives (Brígida Riso)	Data privacy in Biobanking: legal aspects (Rita Coutinho)	Welcome to the workshop (Ângela Afonso and Isabel Novoa)
9.45-10.30	9.45-10.45	9.45-10.45	9.15-10.00
Biobanco.pt (Sérgio Dias)	Sample quality: a key to biobank success (Ângela Afonso) <i>*Note: programme alteration*</i>	Data management in Biobanks (Maria Sá Guedes & José Maximino)	Practical case: Informed consent (Isabel Novoa)
10.30-11.00	10.45-11.15	10.45-11.15	10.00-10.30
Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
11.00-12.00	11.15-12.00	11.15-12.00	10.30-11.30
Visit to the GIMM Biobank	Tumour biobanks (Rita Barros)	Quality Management and Competence: coalition on the horizon? (Anabela Martins)	Required documentation for project submission to Ethics Committee (Ângela Afonso)
12.00-14.00	12.00-13.30	12.00-13.30	12.00-13.30
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14.00-14.30	13.30-14.30	13.30-14.15	13.30-15.00
<i>Biobancos: da ideia ao lançamento</i> João Eurico da Fonseca (FMUL, ULSSM)	ELSI and Biobanks: an overview (Brígida Riso)	Biobanking: Insights from other Initiatives (Christiane Hahn) <i>*Note: programme alteration*</i>	Practical case: Sample Quality (Isabel Novoa)
14.30-15.00	14.30-15.30	14.15-15.00	
<i>Dos doentes à investigação: como funcionam os Biobancos?</i> Cláudia Faria (GIMM CARE, FMUL, ULSSM)	Informed consent for future research: key challenges (Cíntia Águas)	Risk assessment (Ionela Toader)	
15.00-15.30	15.30-16.00	15.00-15.30	15.00h-15.30
Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
15.30-17.00	16.00-17.00	15.30-16.15	15.30-16.30
<i>Mesa-redonda: Biobancos em Portugal: uma questão de confiança?</i> Anabela Isidro (Vogal da Direção, AICIB) Patrícia Costa Reis (Médica, ULSSM, FMUL, GIMM CARE) Margarida Cruz (Directora, Associação Acreditar) Ana Almeida (Investigadora, GIMM CARE) Ana Delicado (Investigadora, ICS-ULisboa)	Biobank technologies and materials showcase (Sponsor presentations)	What's next? Organoids and biobanking (Andreia Lopes)	Practical case: Data Protection (Isabel Novoa, VHIR)
		16.15-17.00	16.30-17.00
		How to fund a Biobank (Joana Costa)	Closing remarks
Sponsor booths / demonstrations			

*Included in the paid and accredited FMUL Advanced course. Sessions in ENGLISH.

*Open to the community and free to attend. Sessions in PORTUGUESE.

*Open to the community. Sponsor demonstrations.

Speakers and Invited Participants

Open Session – Talks (in alphabetical order)

Cláudia C. Faria

GIMM CARE, Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM), Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon (FMUL), Local Health Unit Santa Maria (ULSSM)



Since 2025 Cláudia Faria is Director of GIMM CARE, as well as Head of the Brain Cancer Dynamics and Therapy Translational Lab, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology at the Lisbon School of Medicine and Neurosurgeon at Hospital de Santa Maria. She obtained her PhD in Medicine in 2014, (University of Toronto and University of Lisbon) focused on using genomics for drug discovery in medulloblastoma as part of a large genomics consortium (MAGIC), which led to seminal discoveries and publications in the field. She was co-director of the GIMM/CAML Biobank from 2018 to 2025 and founded the Brain Tumor Bank which harbours biological samples (tumor tissue, blood, plasma and cerebrospinal fluid) from over 2,800 children and adults with brain tumors.

João Eurico da Fonseca

Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon (FMUL), Local Health Unit Santa Maria (ULSSM)



João Eurico da Fonseca is the Dean of the Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Portugal. He is also Director of the Rheumatology Department of the ULS Santa Maria, Lisbon Academic Medical Centre (CAML). His research focuses on markers for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment response in rheumatic diseases, with a special interest on synovial tissue. Professor Fonseca is a member of the editorial board of several medical journals and has authored more than 400 scientific papers. He was responsible for driving forward the initial CAML Biobank vision in 2012, leveraging clinical samples collected at Hospital Santa Maria and at other healthcare institutions.

Open Session – Round table Participants (in alphabetical order)

Ana Delicado
ICS-ULisboa



Ana Delicado is a sociologist and a senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon. She works mainly in social studies of science and technology and has conducted research on multiple issues, including the acceptance of energy infrastructures, climate change risks, public engagement with science and science communication. She collaborates with GIMM-CARE in the field of citizen science and the social impact of science.

Ana Santos Almeida
GIMM CARE, Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular
Medicine (GIMM)



Ana Santos Almeida is a microbiologist and immunologist dedicated to advancing understanding of host–microbiome interactions in chronic inflammation and cancer. Her research spans from uncovering the immunopathogenesis of rhinoscleroma during her PhD, to developing advanced imaging and flow cytometry tools for tumour immunology at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, and leading translational microbiome studies at APC Microbiome Ireland. Currently, Ana currently leads the *Microbiome in Health and Disease Translational Laboratory* at GIMM CARE. In parallel, she leads AGEWISE (Biocodex Foundation), exploring the gut–hormone axis in women’s ageing, and contributes to several interdisciplinary initiatives, including BIOMICS (HEurope Twinning), CiDx-ASPeCT (FCT), and Microbioma Comunidade Portugal (Oeiras Valley).

Anabela Isidro
Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical
Innovation (AICIB)



Anabela Isidro is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Agency for Clinical Research and Biomedical Innovation (AICIB), Delegate and National Contact Point for Health under Horizon Europe, and Coordinator of the European project ECHoS (Establishing Cancer Mission Hubs: Networks and Synergies). She previously worked as Communication, Science and Technology Manager at the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), where she coordinated the team responsible for European Research Area Partnerships. She holds a PhD in Molecular Biology from the Institute of Chemical and Biological Technology at NOVA University Lisbon. She has 13 years’ experience as a researcher at leading national and international institutions, including ITQB, the Max Planck Institute, CNRS and FMUL.

Margarida Cruz
Acreditar - Associação de Pais



Since 2022, Margarida Cruz is the General Manager of Acreditar, a private social solidarity institution founded in 1994 in Portugal with the mission to help children with cancer and their families. From 1983 till 2001 worked in a multinational insurance company, first denominated Royal Insurance PLC and after a merger Royal and Sun Alliance. She has held several positions in Portugal and Uk and during last 10 years part of the Portuguese management team. During 2001 and 2002 she trained management staff in the insurance market in Angola. She is a trained Lawyer (Universidade Clássica de Lisboa , certified in 1985) with Post-graduation in Social Economy (ISCTE Lisboa), MBA in International Management (Universidade Católica de Lisboa), Post-graduation in EU Law (Universidade Católica de Lisboa).

Patrícia Costa Reis
Local Health Unit Santa Maria (ULSSM) Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa, Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM)



Patrícia Costa Reis is a Pediatric Rheumatologist and a Pediatric Nephrologist at Hospital de Santa Maria (ULSSM), an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics in Lisbon School of Medicine, a member of the Portuguese Technical Committee on Vaccines and a researcher at the Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM). Patrícia is also the co-director of GIMM/CAML Biobank, the biobank recently chosen by the European Space Agency. Patrícia was trained in Pediatric Rheumatology at Columbia University Medical Center, in New York, and at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, for three years. She was awarded with the Salomão Sequerra Amram Excellence in Medicine Award 1999-2005, the Lupus Foundation of America Preceptorship Award 2012 and the L'Oréal, FCT, UNESCO Prize for Women in Science 2018. Patrícia Costa Reis was awarded the title fellow of the European Society of Pediatric Nephrology, in 2024, for her clinical, academic and research work.

Cristovão Sousa (Chair)
GIMM CARE, Gulbenkian Institute of Molecular Medicine (GIMM)



Cristovão Sousa is a translational research leader with more than 15 years of experience in functional genomics, biomarker discovery and early clinical development. Trained at Institut Curie (PhD) and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard Medical School (Post-doc), he has an extensive track record of high-impact publications and scientific leadership. As R&D Director at the Gulbenkian Institute of Molecular Medicine, he co-leads the GIMM-CARE translational division, where he develops strategies to translate molecular insights into clinically actionable tools, including in neurobiology-adjacent and cross-disciplinary research. His background includes leading discovery and exploratory programs at Servier Pharmaceuticals and Agios Pharmaceuticals.

Advanced Course (in alphabetical order)

Anabela Martins

GESQAF Consulting and University of Minho



Anabela Martins is a Pharmacist with a PhD in Quality. She is Director of QESQAF – Consulting, Auditing and Training, and Quality Manager of the Mycotheca of the University of Minho. Anabela works in the field of quality, mainly conducting audits and providing consultancy in the areas of pharmacies and biobanks, having served as an auditor for Apcer and SGS for 20 years. She was a member of the Executive Board of the World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC) from 2017 to 2025 and is President of the Good Practices Committee of this federation.

Andreia Lopes

University of Antwerp



Andreia Lopes holds a BSc in Biomedical Sciences and an MSc in Biochemistry. She began her career in clinical laboratories but transitioned to academia in 2020, joining Biobanco-iMM (now the Biobank of GIMM) as a lab technician. In Lisbon, her responsibilities included laboratory routine tasks, sample quality control, collection and counseling, data entry, and biobank research. Since June 2025, she has been part of the Biobank of Antwerp, where she oversees the Antwerp Organoid Biobank. In this role, she manages the entire Organoid Biobank structure in collaboration with the Center for Oncological Research at the University of Antwerp and the Antwerpen Biobank Central Lab.

Ângela Afonso

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM)



Ângela Afonso is Senior Biobank Area Manager of Biobanco-GIMM since 2011. She was part of the founding team of Biobanco-GIMM, where she has since carried out the following responsibilities: management of the database and laboratory information system; implementation of laboratory practices, guidelines, SOPs, and ethical and legal principles (namely GDPR); implementation and maintenance of the quality control system; specialized support for research projects and clinical trials; and training and consultancy in the field of biobanking.

Brígida Riso

Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon
(FMUL)



Brígida Riso is an Assistant Researcher at Lisbon School of Medicine (FMUL), University of Lisbon. Brígida Riso got her PhD in Sociology and a Master degree in Health, Medicine and Society both by Iscte-IUL. She also has a degree in Nursing. Her research has been focused in the social construction of medical knowledge particularly through biobanking activities. She has been a member of several research networks and she currently integrates COST Action IMPROVE. She is a certified trainer in Open Science (OpenAire) and in Research Integrity (Embassy of Good Science and VumC Amsterdam). In 2019 she was selected to be Visiting Scholar at Brocher Foundation. As health sociologist, her research has been focused in the social and ethical aspects of biobanking, having conducted the first research in Portugal on the topic. She is also interested in datafication of health, research integrity and open science.

Christiane Hahn

European Space Agency (ESA)



Christiane Hahn holds a PhD in Neuroscience from King's College London, where her research focused on neuroplasticity using electrophysiological techniques. She also earned an MRes in Developmental Neurobiology from King's College and an MSc in Biological Research from Royal Holloway, University of London. Since 2019, Christiane has contributed to space biology at the European Space Agency, currently serving as Science Lead for Biology within the Human and Robotic Exploration Directorate. In this role, she manages the biology research portfolio, oversees scientific strategies for space life sciences, and coordinates initiatives to support human space exploration from Low Earth Orbit to Beyond

Cíntia Águas

Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon
(FMUL)



Cíntia Águas is an Invited Assistant Professor at the Lisbon School of Medicine (FMUL). She holds a Law degree from the University of Coimbra and completed postgraduate studies in Public Administration. She obtained her PhD in Bioethics from the Institute of Bioethics of the Portuguese Catholic University, with the thesis “Informed Consent in Biobanks for Biomedical Research Purposes.” She is a certified trainer in Research Integrity by Amsterdam University Medical Centers. She serves as Vice-President of the Ethics Committee of the Portuguese Red Cross Health School, Member of the Ethics Committee of the Algarve Biomedical Centre, Board Member of the Bioethics Study Centre, and Member of the Ethics Reflection Group of the Portuguese Association for Palliative Care. She is the Executive Secretary of the National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences.

Ionela Toader

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine
(GIMM)



Ionela Toader is a Laboratory Technician at Biobanco-GIMM since 2020 and recently Area Manager of Biobanco-GIMM, where she has carried out the following responsibilities: processing of human biological samples, nucleic acid extraction, isolation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs), primary cell culture, sample storage, and management of sample requests. In addition to her technical duties, she developed and is responsible for the risk assessment plan and manages the social media of Biobanco-GIMM.

Isabel Novoa

Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)



Isabel Novoa has a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of the “Universidad Autónoma de Madrid”, Spain. During her scientific carrier she worked at “Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa” (Madrid), New York University Medical Center (New York) and “Centro de Regulación Genómica” (Barcelona). In 2010 she joined the Vall d’Hebron Research Institute (VHIR, Barcelona) as a coordinator of the HUVH Biobank and afterwards she became the Director of this Biobank that offers specialized services related to human biological samples for a wide variety of diseases. Her duties are to support biomedical researchers to develop research projects to find biomarkers to improve human health with new diagnostic tools and treatments. HUVH Biobank is a member of the Spanish Network of Biobanks, the Catalan Network of Tumor Banks, and recently joined the European research infrastructure for biobanking BBMRI as a guest country.

Joana Costa

Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon
(FMUL)



Joana Costa is the Head of the Pre-Award Office at the Lisbon Faculty of Medicine. She obtained her PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, in 2008 and has since dedicated her career to research management. With 15 years of experience in this field, her expertise covers national and international competitive research funding programmes, supporting researchers in grant proposal preparation, and providing institutional support in science policy.

José Maximino

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine
(GIMM)



José Maximino has a background in Biochemistry and Biomedicine but decided to pursue a career change. In 2023, he joined the Biobank as a Clinical Data Manager. As this was a new position within the Biobank, he developed the role alongside the team, gaining in-depth knowledge of internal workflows and operational specificities, while continuously expanding his expertise in Data Science. He is responsible for maintaining the clinical database, including data entry, management, analysis, and reporting.

Maria Sá Guedes

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine
(GIMM)



Maria Sá Guedes is Data Steward for GIMM – Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine. She graduated in History and has several years of experience in IT consulting, especially implementing and managing information and records systems, in business process optimization, and data governance. At GIMM, her goal is to foster good research data management practices and promote innovation and collaboration, supporting FAIR and Open Science values.

Rita Barros

Oporto Faculty of Medicine



Rita Barros holds a degree in Biochemistry and a PhD in Biomedicine from the University of Porto, where her studies focused on gene regulation in pre-malignant gastric lesions. During her postdoctoral work, she transitioned to clinical research on tumors of the digestive tract. She is currently a Researcher at Ipatimup/i3S and is also responsible for the operational management of the Tissue and Tumor Bank at Centro Hospitalar Universitário de S. João, as well as leading digital transformation initiatives in the Pathology Department of the same hospital.

Rita Coutinho

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine
(GIMM)



Rita Coutinho trained as a lawyer and is currently the Data Protection Officer (DPO) for Fundação Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM) and for AICIB (Agência de Investigação Científica e Inovação Biomédica). Since 2021 she is the elected Quartermaster of the Portuguese Branch of the European Association of Data Protection Professionals (EADPP). She 2018 she has worked as a DPO for different entities connected to health data, and provided support to the Portuguese Cancer Association for five years. Before her career as a DPO, she worked at the European Patent Office and for an international company dedicated to alternative dispute resolution applied to international maritime trading.

Sérgio Dias

Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine
(GIMM), Lisbon School of Medicine, University of
Lisbon (FMUL)



Sérgio Dias is Co-Director of Biobanco-GIMM since 2014 and Coordinator of the Portuguese Biobanks Network. He is an Invited Associate Professor of Oncobiology at the Lisbon School of Medicine, University of Lisbon (FMUL), Researcher at the Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GIMM) and Scientific, Communication, and Public Engagement Coordinator of Advanced Breast Cancer Translational Laboratory at GIMM CARE. He also teaches on biobanking topics at various universities in Portugal.

GIMM Biobank History and Mission

The GIMM Biobank, a strategic pillar of the GIMM CARE clinical research initiative, is part of the Lisbon Academic Medical Centre (CAML) and results from a solid collaboration between GIMM, FMUL and Santa Maria Hospital (HSM). This ecosystem ensures a unique proximity to clinical practice and teaching, in an environment conducive to innovation. The initial project vision was driven by João Eurico da Fonseca, Dean at FMUL, and has leveraged clinical samples collected mostly at HSM. The GIMM Biobank includes 273,000 samples from 25,773 donors spread across 68 collections including healthy controls. In 2025, 7243 samples were requested, with the most frequent request being healthy donor plasma, indicating a scientific shift towards 'omics technologies). Find out more about the GIMM Biobank here: <https://care.gimm.pt/lab/biobank/>

Sponsors

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Contacts

For any general queries before, during or after the event, please contact care@gimm.pt.
Visit care.gimm.pt

For any queries related to the Advanced Course process and documentation, please contact camlphd@medicina.ulisboa.pt. For Advanced Course participants, materials are provided via the online platform Moodle and access details will be sent by email.