

# SIMICA

THERAPEUTIC SITE-SELECTIVE  
PROTEIN-MODIFICATION CHEMISTRIES



## Newsletter XII

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Jun 2023

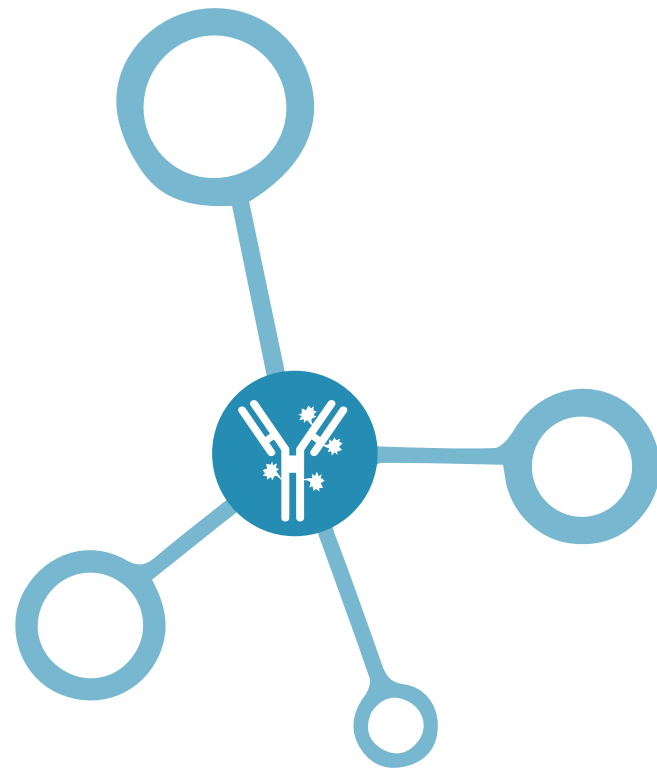


# SIMICA

THERAPEUTIC SITE-SELECTIVE  
PROTEIN-MODIFICATION CHEMISTRIES

## OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

The SIMICA Project intends to place the Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes within the core of a European network of laboratories that seeks to produce cutting-edge research in the field of site-selective protein modification.



### Did you know that:

iMM was awarded with 41.75 M€ from public and private funding to deliver a pioneering Centre of Excellence in clinical and translational research in Portugal. The new institute will catalyze an interdisciplinary environment across stages of biomedical research, from bench to bedside, to solve health challenges. The mission of iMM-CARE is to perform human-centred and data-driven research as a new

way to engage with citizens, patients, healthcare professionals, scientists, entrepreneurs, industry, health authorities and government.

### The Technology Transfer Office at iMM

The Technology Transfer Office stimulates the valorization of knowledge produced at iMM through the creation of a favorable internal environment to foster innovation and speed up the translation of promising ideas and results into new medical solutions.



## Meet the SIMICA Collaborators

Pedro Silva is a technology transfer professional with 19 years of experience in the field. He raised more than 600 million euros in research funding in the context of university and industry collaborations, managed 300+ patents, negotiated 60+ license agreements and supported the creation of 40+ startups. In 2010, after a working experience in the US, Pedro focused on tech transfer and start-up creation in the field of life sciences. Since then, Pedro developed equity policy for start-ups created with IP generated at iMM and is being involved in the development of strategic initiatives to strengthen the biomedical industry in Portugal. He served as a consultant to start-ups, SMEs, large corporations, and other public and private organizations in strategy, business development, innovation management, intellectual property, licensing, and fundraising. He is also member and coordinator of projects with European, National and regional funding. Pedro also participated as evaluator and expert in different EU funding programs and European Commission missions. He is the director of the Technology Transfer Office at iMM since 2018.

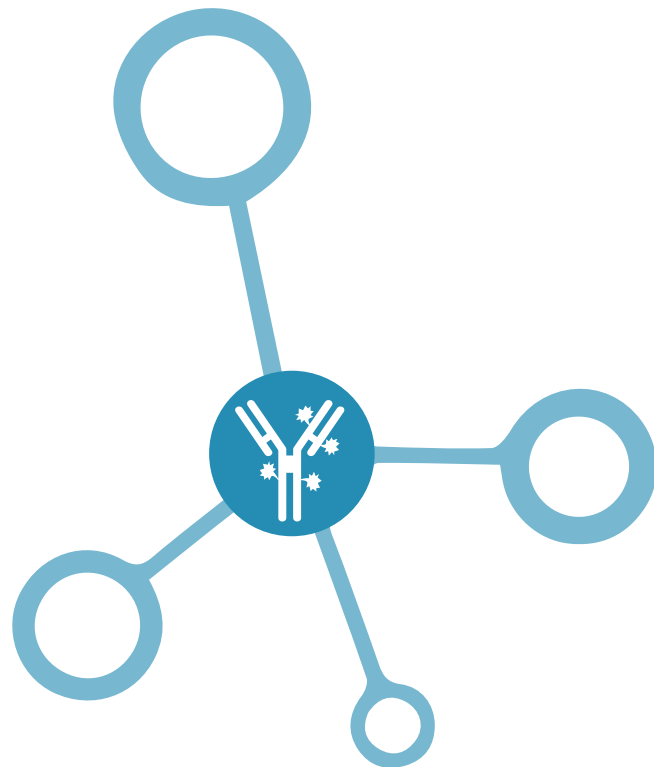


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The strategic positioning in the largest medical research campus in the country gives the unique capacity of driving and supporting biomedical innovation from bench to bedside. The IMM-TTO is involved in the protection and licensing of intellectual property, the promotion of entrepreneurship and the creation of start-ups and the interaction with industry (at national and international level) leading to new collaborations. Since 2021, the IMM IP portfolio was strengthened with 50 new inventions and 76 patents filed in different territories. Importantly, 7 license agreements have been set with companies to exploit IMM IP and 3 IMM start-ups have raised 20.5 M€ in funding. This is a great recognition of the impact of entrepreneurship and innovation for transformation of knowledge into viable economic products and services. During the course of SIMICA we developed a glycoconjugate vaccine against cancer that resulted in the submission of a patent application in collaboration with the IMM-TTO.

## SIMICA news

- Prof. Gonçalo Bernardes is the recipient of the 2023 EFMC-WuXi AppTec Award for Excellence in Chemical Biology! We are delighted to see our SIMICA partner being awarded for his groundbreaking research! Congrats Gonçalo.
- SIMICA is approaching its end. The main propose of the consortium was to increase the impact and excellence of research in the field of novel methods for production of therapeutic protein conjugates. During the course of the project SIMICA established research agreements with industry partners. Similarly, we were also able to attract funding from national (FCT) and international competitive calls (WFR) to continue research beyond the end of SIMICA. This hallmark could not be possible without this “seed funding” from EU. Please keep tuned.

## Follow us

- <https://simica.imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/#home>
- [https://twitter.com/SIMICA\\_IMM](https://twitter.com/SIMICA_IMM)
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/simica-twinning-project-at-imm/>

## Contacts

- Ana Guerreiro, [anamguerreiro@medicina.ulisboa.pt](mailto:anamguerreiro@medicina.ulisboa.pt)
- Bruno Oliveira, [bruno.oliveira@medicina.ulisboa.pt](mailto:bruno.oliveira@medicina.ulisboa.pt)