

SIMICA

THERAPEUTIC SITE-SELECTIVE
PROTEIN-MODIFICATION CHEMISTRIES



Newsletter IX

Dec 2022

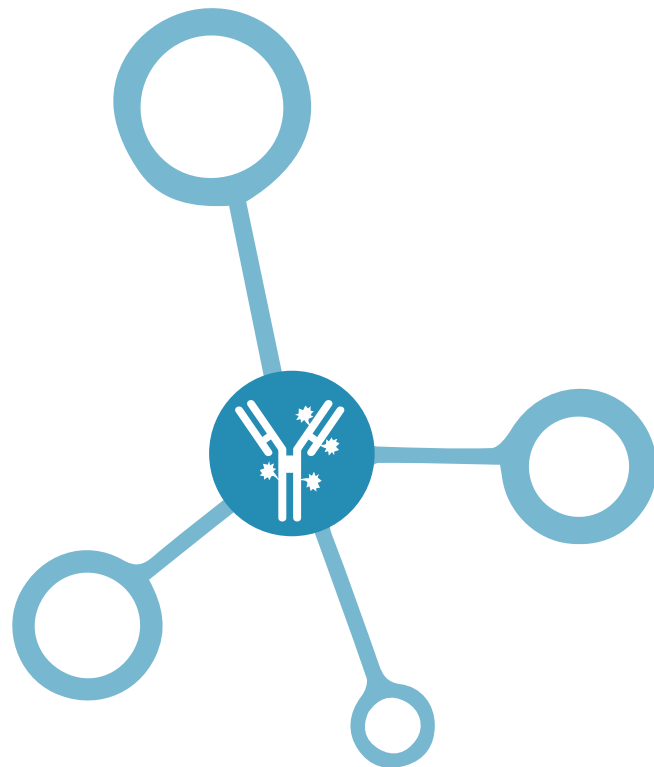


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THERAPEUTIC SITE-SELECTIVE PROTEIN-MODIFICATION CHEMISTRIES

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:

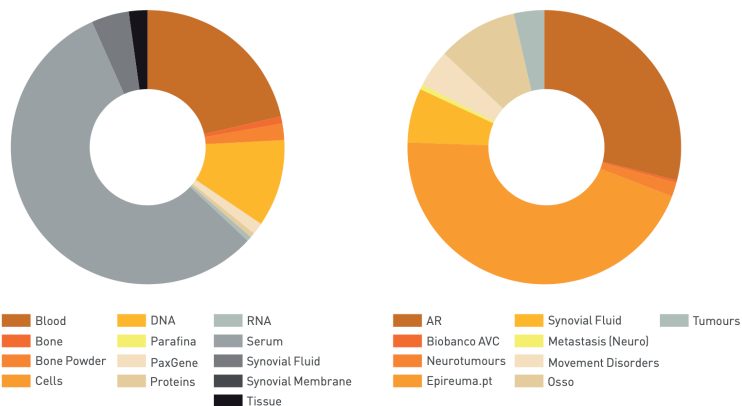
A biobank is a public or private nonprofit structure, which stores a collection of biological samples, designed for biomedical research.

The IMM Biobank:

The Biobanco-IMM is a resource created to foster biomedical research, offering the most current software for management of samples and clinical information, adapted according to the identified needs. The biobank, it is accessible to all researchers, and all types of clinical research of public interest. All applications

from researchers, research institutions or industry, Portuguese or foreign, are subject to the same selection criteria and evaluation.

IMM BioBank was created in 2011 and since then, 256 000 samples have been processed and stored, voluntarily donated by 25 000 donors. The samples are distributed in 60 collections that include 11 clinical and therapeutic areas, such as neurology, rheumatology, cardiology, oncology and pediatrics (Figure).



Meet the SIMICA Partners

Claudia Faria received the medical degree by the University of Coimbra (Portugal) in 2001 and became a board-certified Neurosurgeon in 2010. She obtained her PhD degree in the Medicine (Neurosurgery) from the University of Lisbon in 2014 and developed her research project at the Labatt Brain Tumor Research Centre, The Hospital for Sick Children, in Toronto (Canada). Claudia Faria is currently a consultant neurosurgeon at Centro Hospitalar Universitário Lisboa Norte (CHULN), a scientist at Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) and Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology at the Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa. Claudia Faria published 6 book chapters and 52 papers in international peer-reviewed journals. She is founder and coordinator of the Brain Tumor Bank at the IMM-Biobanco since 2012 and Co-Director of the IMM-Biobanco since 2018.

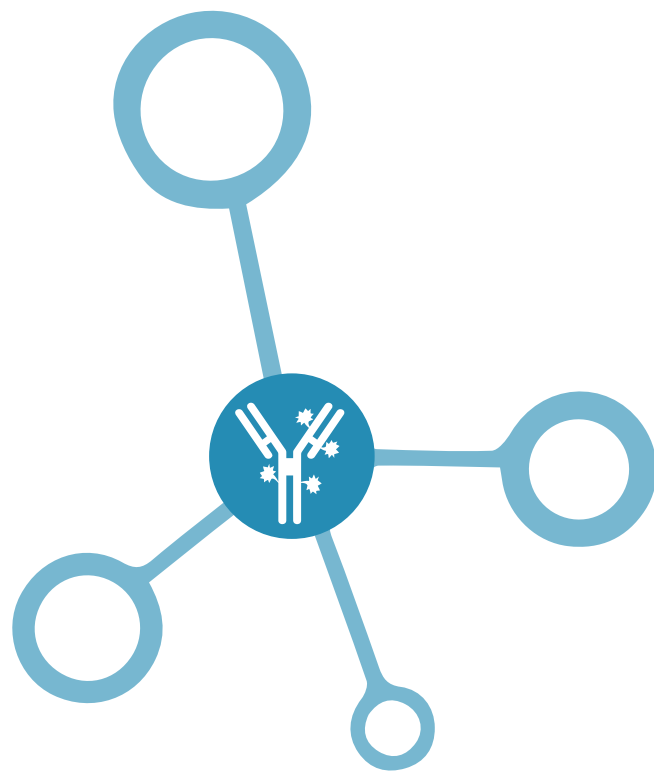


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In 2021 the IMM-Biobanco was able to process 23 353 new samples which represents an increase of 2290 new donors. Recently, the IMM-Biobanco started a new collection in sarcomas each will create a unique opportunity for a deeper characterization and a sharper picture of sarcoma metabolic and microenvironment landscape which may pave the way for diagnostic and staging refinement and identification of new potential therapeutic targets.

The IMM-Biobanco actively promotes the establishment of protocols and consortia in order to enrich their collections and to establish itself as a structure of national and international reference. The SIMICA consortium is proud to announce that our partner Exscientia established an agreement with the IMM-Biobanco to have access to the human samples collection available at our institute. This agreement is expected to increase the visibility of the Portuguese biobank which may enlarge partnerships with other companies working in biomedical research. For further information please contact imm-biobank@medicina.ulisboa.pt

SIMICA news:

- In October we had another SIMICA lecture presented by David Shoultz, PhD MBA. David is the Chief Operating Officer & Co-Founder of Monod Bio, Inc, a startup biotech company dedicated to the development of biosensors for disease diagnostics.
- The SIMICA Summer School was also held in October with great science around protein conjugates.
- Bruno Oliveira participated as mentor in the Integrated Project of the Instituto Superior Técnico to expose students to a research environment.
- SIMICA and AccelBio are both interested in generating new ADCs by developing bioconjugation linkers that provide enhanced efficacy, selectivity and lower toxicity. On this regard, AccelBio is sponsoring SIMICA to further study our reagents for protein modification via cysteine residues.