



João Paulo Gomes

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João Paulo Gomes is a PhD in Molecular Biology and is a researcher of the Department of Infectious Diseases of the Portuguese National Institute of Health. His team, working at the National Reference Laboratory of Bacterial Sexual Transmitted Diseases comprehends one senior researcher, one post-doc, two PhD students, two research fellowships and two laboratory technicians.

Research Interests:

Genomic and transcriptomic studies of several pathogens responsible for infectious diseases. Special relevance is given to the study of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which is the world leading cause of bacterial sexually transmitted diseases, as well as the main cause of preventable blindness. His leading research interest is to understand of the molecular basis for the biological differences among the 15 *Chlamydia trachomatis* serovars, mainly the cell-appetence, virulence and ecological success.

Briefly, the research is oriented to:

- Genomic, phylogenetic, and bioinformatic studies on *C. trachomatis* strains (prototype strains and strains recently isolated from patients). Special relevance is given to the study of inter-strain recombination events and to the genomic comparison between laboratory adapted reference strains (prototype) and the ones isolated from patients;
- Study the evolution of strains and the host-selective pressure, by analyzing different loci categories (cell envelope protein genes, housekeeping genes, hypothetical protein genes, and intergenomic regions);
- Transcriptomic studies on putative antigens, virulence genes, Type III effectors, and Orphan genes, using both reference strains and clinical isolates.

Publications - see [PubMed](#)