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Scientific Interests:

At present, I'm the national microbiologist for sexually transmitted infections (STI) for the ECDC, working at Department of Infectious Diseases of the National Health Institute. The laboratory surveillance of STI, namely the ones caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Treponema pallidum* constitute one of the major concerns for the ECDC. For this reason, we developed a national network of laboratories in order to obtain a collection of the *N. gonorrhoeae* strains that infect the Portuguese; this collection is further subjected to a phenotypic and molecular characterization. Considering the reference laboratory activities, at the National Reference Laboratory of Bacterial Sexual Transmitted Diseases we have been performing the molecular characterization of *T. pallidum* and *C. trachomatis* isolates (including the ones isolated from lymphogranuloma venereum cases). Additionally, we test the most recent laboratory diagnosis techniques for all microorganisms.

My major research concerns are the molecular basis of the biological phenomena and virulence factors of *C. trachomatis*; for studying this we have been using genomics and genetic expression techniques. More recently, we have been applying some of these methodologies to the evaluation of pathogenicity factors in other bacteria, in particular in *Streptococcus agalactiae*.

Publications - PubMed