

PROGRAM

CAR T - MATTERS PROJECT

In-person mid project review meeting

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CELL THERAPIES

LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

NOVA FCT

Caparica Campus
Portugal

28th May, 2026

09:45 – 13:00

PROGRAM

- 09:45-10:10 **Opening remarks:**
Welcome from NOVA FCT, UCIBIO | Zélia Silva
- 10:10-10:20 **Presenting CAR T-Matters**
Stemmatters | Rui Sousa
- 10:20-10:35 Cell therapy in lymphomas: circuit management, opportunities, and limitations
Maria Gomes da Silva (IPO Lisbon)
- 10:35-11:15 **Coffee break and poster session**
Group photo
- 11:15-11:25 **Presenting CAR T-Matters**
IPOP | Susana Roncon or Beatrice Mainoli (TBC)
- 11:25-11:35 The role of ECRIN and PtCRIN in supporting investigator-initiated clinical trials
Joana Batuca (ECRIN)
- 11:35-11:50 Tissue context dependent engineered T-cells: can we outsmart the TME?
Markus Maurer (Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon)
- 11:50-12:00 Futurology or reality? What Portugal is still lacking
Tomás Lamas (Batazu Advanced Therapeutics)
- 12:00-12:10 The SHARP Initiative: Shaping a Strategic Agenda for CAR-T Access in Portugal
Mariana Castro (NOVA IMS)
- 12:10-12:20 Advancing the Manufacture of Cell Therapy Products: bridging cell biology and engineering
Margarida Serra (iBET)
- 12:20-12:30 Developing Off-the-Shelf CAR-T Cells for Dogs
Vasco Barreto (UCIBIO, NOVA FCT)
- 12:30-13:00 **Public Debate with Speakers**
NOVA FCT | Zélia Silva



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Maria Gomes da Silva is Professor of Haematology at NOVA Medical School and Senior Consultant in Clinical Haematology at the Portuguese Oncology Institute of Lisbon (IPO Lisboa), where she heads the Haemato-Oncology Unit. Her clinical and research work focuses on lymphoid malignancies, lymphoma biology, and advanced hematologic therapies. She has led multiple international clinical trials and authored over 90 peer-reviewed scientific publications.



Tomás Lamas is a Physician and the founder of BataZu Advanced Therapies, an initiative dedicated to accelerating access to advanced cellular therapies in Portugal. Motivated by his family's personal experience with pediatric leukemia, he actively promotes innovation, awareness, and translational progress in advanced therapy medicinal products.



Margarida Serra is Head of the Stem and Immune Cells Bioengineering Lab at iBET, where she leads research on scalable manufacturing processes for advanced cell therapies, including CAR-T cells, stem cells, and extracellular vesicles. Her work bridges bioengineering and cell biology to accelerate the clinical translation of next-generation cell therapies.



Markus Maeurer is Head of Immunotherapy/ImmunoSurgery and Director of the Cell Center at the Champalimaud Foundation. A physician-scientist with international expertise in cancer immunology, his research focuses on cellular immunotherapy, neoantigen-targeted therapies, and translational immuno-oncology.



Mariana Parreiras de Castro is a Research Assistant at NOVA Information Management School (NOVA IMS), where her work focuses on the application of data science, health analytics, and innovation management to healthcare and biomedical research ecosystems.



Joana Batuca is the Portuguese European Correspondent for ECRIN and manager of Pt-CRIN, the Portuguese Clinical Research Infrastructure Network. With a PhD in Pharmacology from NOVA University Lisbon, she has extensive experience in translational and clinical research, including investigator-initiated clinical trials and research infrastructure coordination.



Vasco M. Barreto is Assistant Professor at NOVA FCT and Research Group Leader at UC-IBIO, where he heads the Gene Editing Lab. His research focuses on gene editing technologies, CRISPR/Cas systems, V(D)J recombination, and immunogenetics, with applications in biotechnology and advanced therapies.