

Short Curriculum Vitae

Pedro M. Matias

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Pedro M. Matias is Head of the iBET Structural Biology for Drug Discovery Unit (part of the Health and Pharma Division) since 2008. He is also a Principal Investigator and Head of the Industry and Medicinal Applied Crystallography Laboratory at ITQB NOVA, Head of the Biological Chemistry Division of ITQB NOVA and Coordinator of Thematic Line 1 of the Molecular, Structural and Cellular Microbiology (MOSTMICRO) Research Unit.

Pedro M. Matias graduated in Chemical Engineering at the Instituto Superior Técnico of the Universidade Técnica de Lisboa (1983) and holds a PhD in Crystallography from the University of Pittsburgh in the USA (1986).

Pedro M. Matias began working in small-molecule crystallography during his graduation studies under the guidance of Prof. Maria Arménia Carrondo and in 1983 he moved to Pittsburgh in the USA for a PhD in Crystallography under the supervision of Prof. George A. Jeffrey. After a post-doctoral period at the University of California at Berkeley in the Lab of Prof. Sung-Hou Kim, he returned to Portugal in 1988 to join the Protein Crystallography Laboratory at the newly formed CTQB - Centro de Tecnologia Química e Biológica in Oeiras, headed by Prof. Maria Arménia Carrondo. Pedro M. Matias is an Independent Researcher and Head of the Industrial and Medical Applications Crystallography Laboratory since 2007, and Principal Investigator of ITQB NOVA since 2008.

CV Highlights: (i) 94 published papers; 5 book chapters; (ii) supervised 7 PhD students (5 with thesis defended, 2 ongoing) and 1 Master theses (ongoing) (iii) Coordinator of the Portuguese Beam Allocation Group for Protein Crystallography at ESRF (iv) referee of several international journals.

Current Research, with funding from Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (Portugal), is directed along two main lines: i) optimization of the oxygen tolerance of [NiFeSe] hydrogenase from anaerobic sulfate-reducing bacterium *D. vulgaris* Hildenborough, a highly active enzyme for H₂ production from biological renewable sources, by rationally designing variants to prevent O₂ attack to the active site; and ii) structural characterization of human AAA+ proteins RuvBL1, RuvBL2 and their complexes with other proteins – these proteins and the complexes under study are relevant for several carcinogenic mechanisms and the ultimate goal is to develop drugs that can effectively target these mechanisms, thus preventing the growth and metastasis of cancer tumors.

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