

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Data

Name: Inês Margarida Lourenço Figueira

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Academic Degrees

2009: Degree in Biochemistry at FCUL (Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa) – 15 values

2011: Master in Molecular Biology and Genetics at FCUL – 17 values

Previous and Current Scientific and/or Professional Activities

- From 2008 to 2009: English Course at Cambridge School – level C1 (CERC) with attainment of Certificate in Advanced English (CAE)
- From 08/2009 to 10/2009: Pejene 2009 Internship at Udifar II – Distribuição Farmacêutica S. A.
- From 09/2010 to 09/2011: Master student at Disease and Stress Biology lab – ITQB
- From 10/2011 to 03/2012: researcher at Disease and Stress Biology lab – ITQB, in collaboration with the project “Conservation and recovery of threatened endemic flora in Portugal – EDP Fund for Biodiversity”
- Since 04/2012: researcher at Disease and Stress Biology lab – ITQB, in collaboration with the project “Polifenóis como agentes protectores em modelos celulares de alfa-sinucleinopatias, em particular na doença de Parkinson”, Ref. PTDC/BIA-BCM/111617/2009, funded by FCT

Area of Scientific Activity

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Present Research Interests

Investigate the potential biomedical applications of plant secondary metabolites in degeneration cell models, implemented at the Disease and Stress Biology lab. Experience in animal cell culture, namely with SK-N-MC neuroblastoma cells. Interest in analysing biochemical parameters to evaluate the cellular redox state of biological samples, such as lipid peroxidation, carbonylation (Western blot) and glutathione measurement (HPLC). Experience in HPLC-DAD profiling of polyphenol enriched fractions of endemic plants.

Publications

Thesis

Figueira I (2011) *Oxidative stress and neuroprotective effect of metabolites of Blackberry digestion using a neurodegeneration cell model*. Master thesis in Molecular Biology and Genetics. FCUL, Lisbon.

Papers in international scientific periodicals with referees

Tavares L, Figueira I, Macedo D, McDougall GJ, Leitão, MC, Vieira HLA, Stewart D, Alves PM, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2012) *Neuroprotective effect of blackberry (Rubus sp.) polyphenols is potentiated after simulated gastrointestinal digestion*. Food Chemistry. 131(4): 1443-1452.

Tavares L, Figueira I, McDougall GJ, Vieira HLA, Stewart D, Alves PM, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2012) *Neuroprotective effects of digested polyphenols from wild blackberry species*. European Journal of Nutrition. DOI: 10.1007/s00394-012-0307-7.

Fortalezas S, Figueira I, Pimpão R, Miguel C, Aguiar C, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2012) *In vitro micropropagation of endangered Antirrhinum lopesianum and production of phenolics and flavonoids* (in preparation)

Pimentel C, Caetano S, Menezes R, Figueira I, Santos CN, Carreto L, Ferreira RB, Rodrigues-Pousada C. *The role of the yeast transcription factor Yap1 in cobalt detoxification* (in preparation)

Matias A, Nunes S, Poejo J, Figueira I, Mecha E, Santos CN, Ferreira RB, Serra AT, Bronze MR, Duarte CMM. *Opuntia ficus indica polyphenolic-rich extract as potential modulator of intestinal inflammation – A nutritional approach for Inflammatory Bowel Diseases?* (in preparation)

Serra AT, Nunes S, Figueira I, Santos CN, Ferreira RB, Bronze MR, Matias AA, Duarte CMM. *Protective effect of a Polyphenol-rich extract derived from Sweet Cherries culls against oxidative cell damage in Human Intestinal epithelial cell-model* (in preparation)

Oral Communications

Santos CN, Tavares L, Figueira I, Alves M, Stewart D, Pimpão R, Willianson G, Ferreira RB (2011) "Plant-derived compounds and neurodegenerative diseases". EPSO Workshop, Plant Pigments and Human Health, Gerona, Spain 24-26 May.

Santos CN, Tavares L, Alves M, Macedo D, Pimpão R, Figueira I, Fortalezas S, Ferreira RB (2011) "Fitoquímicos das plantas como agentes neuroprotectores." XII Semana das Ciências Agrárias, Bragança, Portugal, 16 March.

Santos CN, Tavares L, Figueira I, Alves M, Pimpão R, Macedo D, Pinto P, Ferreira RB (2011) "Pequenos frutos e seus efeitos benéficos para a saúde humana." Fórum 4 – Alimentação, Tecnologia, Qualidade, Segurança, Santarém, Portugal, 16 November.

Tavares L, [Figueira I](#), McDougall GJ, Stewart D, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2012) “Amoras, o segredo para um envelhecimento saudável?” IV Colóquio Nacional da Produção de Pequenos Frutos, Faro, Portugal, 20-21 April.

Posters in conferences

Tavares L, [Figueira I](#), McDougall GJ, Stewart D, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2011) *Health benefit effect of berries polyphenols after simulated gastrointestinal digestion*, 2nd Management Committee & Working Group Meetings of COST ACTION FA1005, Le Croisic, France 19-21 October.

Tavares L, [Figueira I](#), Macedo D, McDougall GJ, Leitão MC, Vieira HLA, Stewart D, Alves PM, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2011) *Neuroprotective effect of blackberry (Rubus sp.) polyphenols is potentiated after simulated gastrointestinal digestion*, 5th International Conference on Polyphenols and Health, Sitges - Barcelona, Spain 17-20 October.

Tavares L, [Figueira I](#), McDougall GJ, Vieira HLA, Stewart D, Alves PM, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2011) *Neuroprotective effects of digested-derived polyphenols from wild Portuguese Rubus sp.*, 5th International Conference on Polyphenols and Health, Sitges - Barcelona, Spain, 17-20 October.

Pimpão R, [Figueira I](#), Oliveira P, Williamson G, Ferreira RB, Santos CN (2012) *Biodisponibilidade em humanos dos compostos bioativos de pequenos frutos*, IV Colóquio Nacional da Produção de Pequenos Frutos, Faro, Portugal, 20-21 April.