

Centro de NeuroCiências e Biologia Celular

UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA

International Courses on Toxicology 2009

Mitochondria: Between Life and Death

University of Coimbra

Theoretical course: May 5-8 2009

Practical course: May 11-15, 2009

- REPORT TO OCC -

The meeting Mitochondria: Between Life and Death, was acknowledged by the lecturers and the attendants a great success in promoting the knowledge and the education in the area of free radicals in Biomedicine, with emphasis on the pivotal role of mitochondria in the regulation of cell life and cell death pathways.

The details can be consulted at the course webpage: <http://cnc.cj.uc.pt/~pauloliv/>

The panel of highly reputable senior scientists comprised:

Enrique Cadenas (USA)

David Nicholls (USA)

Dean Jones (USA)

Fabio di Lisa (Italy)

Mauro Degli Esposti (UK)

Michael Duchen (UK)

Paula Ludovico (Portugal)

Robert Lightowlers (UK)

Victor Madeira (Portugal)

Vladimir Skulachev (Russia).

Overall, the course included 120 registered participants from several institutions around the world, distributed as follows:

Bulgaria: 1

Denmark: 1

France: 1

Italy: 14

Poland: 2

Portugal: 99

Spain: 3

USA: 2

In addition to the lectures delivered by the senior scientists, the program also involved selected short oral communications (15 total) and poster sessions (with 28 posters).

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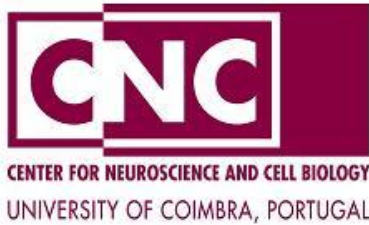
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Coffee breaks and the social program, involving a visit to several highlights at the University and of downtown Coimbra gave an opportunity to increase contacts between participants and lecturers. The meeting was an opportunity for students to become involved in the new discoveries of the field and also to directly interact with top notch scientists, discussing their own research projects.

The theoretical part of the course was followed by 5 days of practical sessions on "integrated approaches for the study of mitochondrial dynamics" which had 20 registered students from Portugal, Italy and Spain.

The experimental sessions were as follows:

1. Evaluation of alterations in mitochondrial function associated with hepatic pathology
2. Modulation of cytochrome c oxidase activity by nitric oxide
3. Drug-induced mitochondrial dysfunction and cell death in cultured cells
4. Real-time quantitative RT-PCR analysis of gene expression
5. Translational alterations in proteins that regulate mitochondrial biogenesis.

Finally, we would like to thank OCC for the generous support to the course.

Sincerely

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(Associate Professor)

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