



IMMUNOHUB ERA CHAIR

D4.2

Implementation of the ImmunoHUB seminar series and Annual Meeting



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ImmunoHUB Deliverable D4.2

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1. Implementation of the ImmunoHUB seminar series and Annual Meeting

Several activities are being implemented to promote the dissemination of the ImmunoHUB ERA Chair Project to the research community, and the national and international visibility of the research of the ERA Chair holder and team. With these actions we aim to raise the critical mass for research and excellence at IBMC/i3S, leveraging its position in the global roadmap of Immunology. Furthermore, these activities will foster internal and external collaborations, enhancing mobility and scientific development of researchers, and the dissemination of the produced scientific knowledge.

In articulation with the coordination and the communication team, the ImmunoHUB ERA Chair holder and project manager are implementing a series of seminars and meetings, including the ImmunoHUB Seminar Series, the Immune Crosstalk, and the ImmunoHUB Annual meeting.

1.1. Maria de Sousa Seminars | ImmunoHUB Seminar Series

ImmunoHUB seminars will be held every 3 months at the i3S. Principal Investigators, postdocs, and PhD students from IBMC/i3S, and in particular from the Host Interaction and Response (HIR) Integrative Program, the scientific program that harbours the research group of the ERA Chair, will be actively encouraged to suggest speakers for the ImmunoHUB Seminar Series to promote the institute's community involvement.

The IBMC/i3S research community will have the opportunity to meet and chat with the speaker following the seminar. In addition, a lunch with the speaker will be organized and the participation of junior researchers (PhD students and postdoc researchers) will be prioritized. Moreover, following a suggestion from the ERA Chair Holder, we will approach other institutions (including IGC- Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência; Champalimaud Foundation; IMM-Instituto de Medicina

Molecular João Lobo Antunes; ICVS- Life and Health Sciences Research Institute) to set up a collaborative initiative to broadcast Immunology seminars. We aim to lead and coordinate this activity, to not only allow external researchers to virtually attend the ImmunoHUB seminar series but also to allow the reciprocal participation of IBMC/i3S researchers in other institutions' seminar series. With this, we intend to maximize the attendance and outreach of the ImmunoHUB seminars and foster collaborations between different research groups with an interest in Immunology (both internal and external).

The inaugural ImmunoHUB seminar (October 28th 2022) entitled "Tuberculosis: from basic research to rational design of novel diagnostic and preventive measures," will be presented by a world leader in the fields of Immunology and Tuberculosis, Prof. Dr. Stefan Kaufmann from the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology (Berlin, Germany).

1.2. Immune Crosstalk | ImmunoHUB Internal Immunology Forum

The Immune Crosstalk | ImmunoHUB Immunology forum is being reactivated, to take over similar activities previously implemented at IBMC/i3S aiming to foster networking, boost research quality, and engage PhD students and early career researchers in scientific discussions. Once a month a PhD student or a postdoc from one of the IBMC/i3S research groups with an interest in Immunology (approximately 15 labs) will have the opportunity to present and discuss their ongoing research projects and prospective proposals, in an informal setting where all the participants are encouraged to contribute to the discussion. Occasionally, we aim to additionally invite an IBMC/i3S core facility member or a company representative to showcase new and state-of-art technologies. Each session will have a chairperson, typically a PhD student or postdoc, to guide the scientific discussion. The assigned chairs and presenters will be members of different i3S research groups to maximize interaction.

1.3. ImmunoHUB Annual Meeting

Following the celebrations of World Immunology Day, which takes place on April 29th, the first ImmunoHUB ERA chair Annual Meeting will be held on May 4th and 5th, 2022 (tentative dates).

The first half-day will be dedicated to a career development workshop tailored for postdoc researchers and young group leaders. The second half and the consecutive day will be fully dedicated to an Immunology scientific topic. Invited keynote speakers will present, followed by short communications selected from submitted abstracts.

All the coordinators and group leaders of the IBMC/i3S, in particular the ones within the HIR Integrative Programme, will support and promote this event. Through our active institutional event management unit, we aim to enroll all stakeholders to attend this annual meeting (from research collaborators to clinicians, pharmaceutical companies, and regulatory authorities).

The ImmunoHUB Annual Meeting keynote speakers will be invited to take part in different initiatives to actively interact with the IBMC/i3S PhD students and postdocs (e.g., career development), including participation as a lecturer in the Advanced Immunology course. With this, we hope to allow students to learn from and interact with world-class scientists, contributing to the excellence of the PhD training at the i3s and fostering the University of Porto's academic standards.