

Industry Advisory Board - iMM

David Braga Malta



David Braga Malta is a Life Sciences Entrepreneur, Inventor and Investor. David founded LiMM, Cell2B and BoostPharma, where he serves(ed) as manager. Cell2B focused on the development of cell therapies for the cure of immune and inflammatory diseases. The leading program of the company, for acute Graft versus Host Disease reach first in man with promising results. From there David is acted as Venture Consultant for Caixa Capital, helping to establish a Life Sciences investment policy for Portugal.

Now, David is Venture Partner at Vesalius Biocapital. David holds a PhD in Bioengineering from the MIT Portugal Program and a M.Sc. Degree in Biological Engineering, Instituto Superior Técnico, Portugal (class valedictorian). During his master David attended the Imperial College of London as a visiting scientist working on stem cell based regeneration of lung tissue, his work focused on the derivation of type 2 pneumocytes from stem cells.

For his PhD, David worked at MIT on stem cell based therapies at the Koch Institute. David developed high-throughput platforms for the study of cell and extracellular matrix interactions. His academic career focuses on the field of regenerative medicine with different publications and patents in the field.

One of his greatest passions as always been entrepreneurship. David has participated and been awarded in different competitions as a graduate student and translated this passion into the companies he founded.

In parallel and committed to improving the state of the world, David was nominated a World Economic Forum Global Shaper having served as the curator of the Lisbon Hub.

Currently, David is involved in the inception of new bio-ventures actively scouting for disruptive technologies to build transformative companies around.

Daniela Couto



Daniela Couto joined BioGeneration Ventures Fund in 2015 and is a Principal at BGV. Daniela is the managing director of Staten Biotech and serves on the board of Catalym. Daniela previously was CEO at Cell2B, a life sciences company that she co-founded dedicated to treat immune and inflammatory diseases.

Daniela holds a M.Sc. degree with honors in Biomedical Engineering from Universidade do Minho and a PhD degree with the highest honors in Bioengineering from Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) – Technical University of Lisbon and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT-Portugal Program).

Miguel Forte



Currently the CEO of Zelluna Immunotherapy, Managing Director of mC4TX (modified Cell for Therapeutics) and visiting Professor at the Lisbon University in Portugal. Currently also serving as a member of Board Of Directors of the International Society of Cellular Therapy (ISCT) and of the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine. From February 2006 to January 2010 was VP of Global Medical Affairs at UCB. In 2004, joined Nabi Pharmaceuticals as the VP of Clinical, Medical and Regulatory Affairs in Europe. After several clinical, academic and regulatory positions in the public sector in Portugal and at the EMA, spent six years with Bristol-Myers Squibb in various positions including Country Medical Director, Executive Director of Infectious Diseases, Immunology and Dermatology and VP of International Medical Organization in Portugal and Belgium. Holds an M.D. from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, Portugal, and a Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Birmingham, UK, an accreditation as Specialist in Infectious Diseases and a certificate on Health Economics of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Technologies (HEP).

Isabel Ferreira



Isabel Ferreira joined Versameb in August 2019 as Chief Business Officer. Previously, she served Roche Partnering since 2015 as Director Global Business Development. In this role, she had broad responsibility across Pharma Business Development including strategy, search, evaluation, senior stakeholder management, leading cross-functional due diligence and negotiation teams to deal closure. Before joining Roche, Isabel served as Senior Director Business Development at Prosensa. During this time, she was instrumental in establishing transformative licensing transactions, supporting non-dilutive and private financing events, project management of Prosensa's IPO launch at NASDAQ and supporting Prosensa's acquisition by BioMarin. Earlier in her career, Isabel has been exposed to different aspects of the biopharmaceutical industry at Janssen-Cilag (Portugal), OctoPlus (The Netherlands) and Theravance (USA) in commercial, drug development and scientific roles. Isabel holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Groningen (The Netherlands) and an MBA from the Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Erasmus University (The Netherlands).

Pascale Redig



Pascale is the director at the R&D Global Government Grants Office (G30), where she focuses on building relationship with nongovernmental organizations for the Janssen Pharmaceutical companies within Johnson & Johnson. After obtaining a Master's degree in Biology, Pascale started her Ph.D. research at the University of Antwerp in the field of plant physiology and biochemistry. While qualifying for her PhD, she obtained an additional Master's degree in Biotechnology at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). She subsequently started working as a senior researcher at the biotech start-up company Plant Genetic Systems, currently Bayer BioScience NV. In 2001, she joined the tech transfer office of Ghent University where she was responsible for negotiating research collaboration agreements with industry. In 2006, she transferred to the University Antwerp to head the newly created tech transfer office. Next to setting up the office, she

was actively involved in patenting academic findings, managing industry-academia interactions and spinout ventures. In June 2012, Pascale returned to industry and took up the position of category manager for research and academic partnerships at Janssen Pharmaceutica, a Johnson & Johnson company, where she was part of the team responsible for sourcing, negotiating and contracting with biotech, CRO and academia for services and collaborations in the R&D discovery space.