

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Maria Alexandra Ribeiro**

Work experience

CURRENT WORK POSITION

Since 2004 - Invited Assistant Professor of Physiology, Bioethics and Clinical Research at NOVA Medical School - Faculty of Medical Sciences; New University of Lisbon (NOVA Medical School, UNL).

Other Current working activities/positions

- Since 2021 - Peer reviewer in international journals.
- Since 2024 - Member of the Ethics Committee of the NOVA Medical School, UNL.
- Since 2023 - Expert's evaluator (EX2023D885398) for the European Commission in the field of clinical trials and ethics, ethics in research and innovation, ethics in medical sciences, neurophysiology and neurosciences.
- Since Sept. 2023 - Co-leader of EUREC's Working Group 1- Legal and policy issues related to RECs in medical research, which includes the paediatric research subgroup. [<https://eurecnet.eu/>]
- Since 2023 - Expert's evaluator (EX2023D885398) for the European Commission in the field of clinical trials and ethics, ethics in research and innovation, ethics in medical sciences, neurophysiology and neurosciences.
- Since 2022 - Vice chair of the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC). Since 2021 she is member of the board of the Portuguese Reproducibility Network (RNPT). [<https://www.ptm.pt/>].
- Since 2021 - Member of the board of the Portuguese Reproducibility Network (RNPT). [<https://www.ptm.pt/>].
- Since 2021 - Supervisor of Master's theses in the field of Clinical Research.
- Since 2006 - Has worked in collaboration with a wide range of academic institutions, professional bodies, training programmes, and projects dedicated to regulatory and ethics education in clinical research. Her contributions have encompassed research methodologies, good clinical practice, and the promotion of scientific integrity. She has also taught at master's and doctoral level, delivering courses in clinical research and professional training.

PREVIOUS WORK POSITIONS

(Mainly regarding Ethics Committees & Regulatory affairs and Teaching)

- 2023-2024 - Member of the working group 'More Economy and Health Working Group', established by the Portuguese offices of the Ministers for the Economy and the Sea, Science, Technology and Higher Education, and Health, to implement the recommendations of the report 'Towards the dynamisation of an industrial health policy'.
- January 2021- July 2024 - Chair of The National Ethics Committee for Clinical Research (CEIC)
- 2014- July 2024 - Represented the Portuguese National Ethics Committee (CEIC) in several groups of the European Commission (EC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for the application of the European Clinical Trials Regulation and the use of the European Portal (CTIS), being a member of the following groups: i) Clinical Trials Expert Group (CTEG); ii) Clinical Trials Coordination Group (CTCG); iii) CTCG Ethics Advisory Group, recently supported by the COM as MedEthics; iv) CTCG Assessors Round Table; v) EU clinical trials portal and Union database with Member States. [Former "Ad-Hoc Group of Clinical Trials" at the European Commission, between 2011 and 2014]
- 2017-2023 - Member of the Honour Committee and Jury member of the João Lobo Antunes Prize for Neurosciences, awarded by the Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, representing CEIC. In 2019, held the position of President of the Jury.
- 2011- 2022 - Board Member of the European Network of Research Ethics Committee (EUREC) representing EUREC in some projects funded by the European Union.
- March 2011 -December 2020 - CEIC's Vice-Chair
- 2017 to 2019 - External member and expert evaluator of the 1st Ethics Council of the Lisbon School of Health Technologies of the Lisbon Polytechnic Institute (ESTeSL-IPL).
- January 2009 - February 2011- CEIC's Member
- 2012 -July 2024 - Actively contributed to the review and drafting of Portuguese legislation related with the functioning of the ethics committees and national network in the area of clinical research as well as to the adaptation and implementation of European regulations in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the National Authority of Medicines and Health Products, INFARMED, I.P..
- 2013-2016 - Undertook a teaching role in the unit entitled 'Fundamentals of Neurosciences' at NOVA Medical School - Faculty of Medical Sciences, New University of Lisbon (NOVA Medical School, UNL).

Education and training

ACADEMIC DEGREES

- 2008-2010- Post-graduation in Bioethics, Institute of Bioethics of the Catholic University of Portugal: curricular component of the Doctoral Program in Bioethics.
- 2003-2004 - Post-graduation in Bioethics, Institute of Bioethics of the Catholic University of Portugal: curricular component of the Master in Bioethics.
- 1999 - PhD in Biology: Physiology and Biochemistry, Faculty of Sciences - University of Lisbon. PORTUGAL

- 1989 - Degree in Biology (Scientific Animal branch). Faculty of Sciences - University of Lisbon. PORTUGAL

Selected Training on Research Ethics

- 2024 - Short postgraduate course on Technology, Health and Law, 2nd Edition, . Directors: André Dias Pereira, Inês Godinho, Ana Elisabete Ferreira and Carla Barbosa, Coimbra Centre for Biomedical Law. Portugal. (6 May to 12 June: 18 hours).
- 2024 - Short course on "Ethical and Social Aspects in Clinical Laboratory Genetics" from the Master's Degree in Clinical Laboratory Genetics, Faculty of Medicine, University of Coimbra, (22 and 23 May)
- 2022-2024 - Webinars on Artificial Intelligence in Life sciences and Health - Ethical Ethical issues and Challenges), organized by different Portuguese institutions, and Artificial Intelligence in Paediatrics, from the EU funded Conect4Children Project (c4c).
- 2021 - VIRTUE Training: Virtue-based Ethics and Integrity of Research: Train-the-Trainer programme for Upholding the Principles and Practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (e-format). the embassy of good science.
- Since 2020 - Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard (MRCT) training such as: : i) Achieving Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in Clinical Research; ii) Study Conduct: Recruitment, Retention; iii) Improving Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Clinical Research; iv) Advancing Pediatric Clinical Research— Assent & Consent in the Field: Culture, Context, and Respect; v) Promoting Global Clinical Research in Children: Informing the Future; vii) Returning Individual Research Results and Data to Participants: Experience from the Field, viii) Ethical review of Decentralized Clinical Trials (DCTs): Tools, resources & best practices.
- 2017 - Regulatory Affairs Course. Coordinated by Marta Marcelino, Hélder Mota Filipe and Bruno Gago, INFARMED, I.P. Lisbon. (28 and 29 September)
- 2015 - Brocher Foundation Workshop on " Clinical Trials Recruitment: Problems, Misconceptions, and Possible Solutions", organised by the Petri-Flom Centre for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics, Harvard Medical School. Brocher Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland. (19-21 January).
- 2013 - "Pharmaceutical Symposium" and "Medical Devices Symposium" of "The 10th TOPRA Annual symposium 2013", TOPRA and INFARMED I.P., Lisbon. (16 -18 October)
- 2013 - "4th European Workshop on Training for Research Ethics Committees", European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (EFGCP), Stuttgart, Alemanha. (20th March).

Additional information

Publications

PAPERS

In Ethics, Bioethics and Clinical Research

- **Ribeiro MA**, Batista JPB, Sobrinho C, Patrão Neves MDC. Clinical trials in Lusophone Africa – results from a capacity building training initiative. (Submitted to BMC Medical Education, November 2025; submission ID aa50d31d-75c5-470c-b789-2bd385c3b8a5).
- Batista JPB, **Ribeiro MA**, Soares L, Araújo J, Filipe HM, Patrão Neves MDC. The BERC-Luso project: Legislative, institutional, and educational impact evaluation. *Glob Public Health*. 2025 Dec;20(1):2499094. doi: 10.1080/17441692.2025.2499094. Epub 2025 May 6. PMID: 40328456.
- Dhaenens BAE, Mahler F, Batchelor H, Dicks P, Gaillard S, Nafria B, Kopp-Schneider A, **Ribeiro MA**, Schwab M, Sparber-Sauer M, Leubner J, de Wildt SN, Oostenbrink R. Optimizing expert and patient input in pediatric trial design: Lessons learned and recommendations from a collaboration between conect4children and European Patient-Centric Clinical Trial Platforms. *Clin Transl Sci*. 2023 Jun 30. doi: 10.1111/cts.13547. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37391924.
- Wright, K., Aagaard, N., Ali, A.Y. [**Ribeiro, M.A.**] et al. Preparing ethical review systems for emergencies: next steps. *BMC Med Ethics* 24, 92 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-023-00957-2>.
- **Ribeiro MA**. O Regulamento (UE) N° 536/2014 relativo aos ensaios clínicos de medicamentos para uso humano: oportunidades de inovação e desafios éticos. *Cad. Ibero Am. Direito Sanit*. 2021, 10(3):211-24. <https://doi.org/10.17566/ciads.v10i3.775> [Regulation (EU) No 536/2014 on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use: opportunities for innovation and ethical challenges]
- Ramanan AV, Modi N, de Wildt SN; c4c Learning from COVID-19 Group. Improving clinical paediatric research and learning from COVID-19: recommendations by the Conect4Children expert advice group [**Ribeiro, M.A.**]. *Pediatr Res*. 2021, 7:1–9. doi: 10.1038/s41390-021-01587-3
- **Ribeiro M.A.** (2021) Annex 3: Statement on the guideline for good clinical practice E6(R2), In D5.1: Report documenting elements to open and complement operational guidelines for research ethics committees. Tambornino L., Lanzerath D., Hoevel P, Lindemann T. (Lead coll.), SIENNA Project. pp. 60-65.
- **Ribeiro, M.A.** Conflito de interesses fraude e má conduta na investigação clínica, *Revista Jurídica Luso Brasileira*, 2020, 1:363-390. [*Conflict of interest, fraud and misconduct in clinical research*]
- **Ribeiro, M.A.** (2010) Redes de Comissões de Ética para a Investigação Clínica. *Contributos*. Livro de Documentação I Jornadas da CEIC, pp 45-47. [*Networks of ethics committees for clinical research*]
- **Ribeiro, M. A.** (2007) Eutanásia: algumas reflexões, *Brotéria*, 164: 433-448. [*Ethical reflexions on Euthanasia*]
- **Ribeiro, M.A.** (2007) A Ética na Investigação em Biomedicina, *Revista Portuguesa de Bioética*. *Cadernos de Bioética* 3: 331-351. [*Ethics of Biomedical Research*].
- **Ribeiro, M.A.** (2005) Salas de Chuto": Análise ética na perspectiva da dignidade da pessoa humana, *Cadernos de Bioética* 37: 109-123. [*Drugs Injecting rooms: An ethical analysis from the perspective of human dignity.*]
- **Ribeiro, M. A.** (2005) Comissões de Ética para a Saúde I – Generalidades, *Brotéria*, 161: 127-141. [*Health Ethics Committees- Part I*]
- **Ribeiro, M. A.** (2005) Comissões de Ética para a Saúde II – Ensaio clínico, *Brotéria*, 161: 217-224. [*Health Ethics Committees - Part II*]

In Neurosciences

- **Ribeiro, M. A.**, Cabral, H.O. & Costa, P.F. (2007) Modulatory effect of NO on sodium currents in a neuroblastoma cell line: aspects of cell specificity. *Neuroscience Res*. 58: 361-370. DOI: 10.1016/j.neures.2007.04.007
- **Ribeiro M. A.** & Costa P.F. (2003) The sensitivity of sodium channels in immature and mature rat CA1 neurones to the local anaesthetic's procaine and lidocaine, *Dev. Brain Res*. 146: 59-70. DOI: 10.1016/j.devbrainres.2003.09.011
- **Ribeiro M. A.** & Costa P.F. (2000) Kinetic parameters of calcium currents in maturing rat isolated CA1 cells, *Dev. Brain Res*. 124:11-23. DOI: 10.1016/s0165-3806(00)00099-7
- Costa, P. F., Santos, A. I. & **Ribeiro, M. A.** (1994) Potassium currents in acutely isolated maturing rat hippocampal CA1 neurones. *Dev. Brain Res*. 83:216-223. DOI: 10.1016/0165-3806(94)00140-5
- Costa, P. F., Santos, A. I. & Ribeiro, M. A. (1992) Slow and medium afterhyperpolarizations in maturing rat CA1 hippocampal neurones, *Neuroreport*, 3: 555-558. DOI: 10.1097/00001756-199207000-00002

- Costa, P. F., **Ribeiro, M. A.** & Santos, A. I. (1991) After-potential characteristics and firing patterns in maturing rat hippocampal CA1 neurons in in vitro slices, *Dev. Brain Res.*, 62: 263-272. DOI: 10.1016/0165-3806(91)90174-h

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- **Ribeiro MA.** Consentimento Informado, Publicação do Conselho de Ética da FMH, (waiting for publication) [Informed Consent]
- **Ribeiro M.A** e Silva R. (2024) Enquadramento Normativo: a CEIC e a RNCES. In: *Desafios da Ética na Investigação*. M. S. Freitas & A. Mineiro (Cords). Universidade Católica Portuguesa Editora. pp: 125-146. ISBN: 9789725410202. [Regulatory Framework: CEIC and RNCES.]
- **Ribeiro MA** (2024). Avaliação de estudos clínicos em Portugal - o papel da CEIC, Capítulo 11. In: *30 Anos de Dispositivos Médicos no Infarmed*, Editor INFARMED, I.P., Gráfica Unipessoal, Lda., pp 71-73. ISBN: 978-989-8369-18-5. [Evaluation of clinical studies in Portugal – the role of CEIC]
- **Ribeiro M.A.** (2023). Enquadramento legislativo e a sua aplicação, em "A Investigação nas Organizações de Saúde, Margarida Ferreira (Coord.), Ed. ALMEDINA, pp. 41- 47. ISBN: 9789894005193. [Legislative framework and its application, in "Research in Health Organisations"]
- **Ribeiro MA.** (2021) Clinical investigation, innovation and ethics, in: *From Life Molecules to Global Health*; José Fragata (Coord.) Principia Editora, Lda; Cascais; pp: 539-557.

Projects

Ongoing Involvement in EU-Funded Research Projects

- Since 2025, conect4children Stichting (c4c-S) - Member of the Ethical Expert advice group
- Since 2024 - Ethical Expert Advisor of the WHEATBIOME project, a European Union Funded Project. (<https://www.wheatbiome-project.eu/the-project/>)
- Since 2024, Consultant of the project CT- LUSO, an EDCTP3 programme project supported by the European Union. (<https://ct-luso.com/mod/page/view.php?id=2>)

Completed Clinical Research & Ethics' Projects and Initiatives

(Participation in projects already concluded, or personal involvement completed in projects that remain ongoing.)

- 2022-2025 - EFGCP & EPPIA project EU-X-CT (Cross border Access to Clinical Trials). (<https://www.eu-x-ct.eu/>)
- 2022-2024 - EFGCP 'e-Consent Initiative' (<https://efgcp.eu/project?initiative=eConsent>)
- 2020-2021 - EFGCP & EPPIA 'Roadmap Initiative to Good Lay Summary Practices'- The 'Good Lay Summary Practice (GLSP)' Recommendations were adopted by the European Commission (further discusses) and published in the EudraLex 10 -Clinical Trials Guidelines, October 2021.
- 2023 - ACT EU CT - Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU. A collaboration between the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA), and the European Commission, to improve and modernize clinical trials in Europe to make them more efficient, innovative, and patient-centric. ACT EU Workplan 2023-2026 (vs. Nov. 2023)
- May 2023 - 'CTR COLLABORATE' project. Aims to promote interaction between NCAs and ECs in EU/EEA implementing the Clinical Trials Regulation (CTR) and the Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/20 on safety cooperation.
- 2023 - CTR COMBINE Project. An EU initiative to streamline and harmonize the regulatory requirements for "combined studies" that involve both medicinal products (under the Clinical Trials Regulation) and medical devices/in vitro diagnostics (under the MDR/IVDR).
- TRREE- Training and Resources in Research Ethics Evaluation, an online training and certification programme on the ethics and regulation of health research involving human participants, mainly focused on the needs of African countries. (<https://elearning.trree.org/?lang=en>)
- "BERC-Luso- Biomedical Ethics and Regulatory Capacity Building Partnership for Portuguese Speaking African Countries", a project that was part of the EDCTP2 Program and is supported by the European Union and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. (<https://www.berc-luso.com/EN/>)
- 2018-2025 - c4c (conect4children): European Clinical Trials for Children. Work Package 4 on "Scientific advice, feasibility, and innovation", works as expert in Ethics in Paediatrics and collaborate with the "Stand4Kids" in Portugal. (<https://conect4children.org/>) and (<https://www.stand4kids.pt/>)
- 2017- EnprEMA - European Network of Paediatric Research at the European Medicines Agency, representing EUREC in the joint collaboration.
- Sept. 2017-2019 - ENERI: European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity, as a member of the EUREC. (<http://eneri.eu/>)

Research Activities in Bioethics and Neurosciences

- 2009-2011 - Member of the 'Anthropology and Health' research group at the Institute of Bioethics of the Catholic University of Porto. Developed empirical studies on 'How is death and dying perceived and experienced?' in Portugal among the general population and in certain professions in particular -"An Essay on Death and Dying from an Anthropological Perspective" in collaboration with the Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon (ICS).
- 1988- 2011 - Extensive experimental research in neurophysiology and cellular electrophysiology has been carried out, with a particular focus on ion channel function and neuronal maturation. The work has encompassed the study of sodium, calcium, and potassium currents in hippocampal CA1 neurons, neuroblastoma cell cultures (N1E115), and breast cancer cell lines (ZR-75-1), exploring their roles in neuronal development and cell proliferation. The effects of pharmacological agents, nitric oxide, and endocannabinoids such as anandamide on ion channel activity have been characterised, contributing to a deeper understanding of regulatory mechanisms in both immature and adult neurons. These investigations employed advanced electrophysiological techniques, including voltage-clamp and current-clamp recordings, combined with pharmacological approaches, to elucidate the dynamics of ion channel sensitivity and maturation. (Faculty of Medical Sciences of the NOVA University of Lisbon: FCM-UNL - now The NOVA Medical School, NOVA University of Lisbon).
- 1989 Acoustic characterisation of the singing patterns of three species of the Grillydae family, applying spectral analysis (Faculty of Sciences of Lisbon, FCL).

Memberships

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANTS

- Oct. 1995 - Sept. 1996 -JNICT - Praxis Programme (BD/5414-95); FCM-UNL
- Oct. 1992 - Sept. 1995 - JNICT - Science Programme (BD/2241/92-ID); FCM-UNL
- Oct. 1990 - Sept. 1992 - JNICT Scientific Research Grant (BIC No. 8); FCM-UNL
- Sept. 1991 -ESFP-ETPBBR - European Science Foundation Grant. European Training Programme in Brain and Behaviour Research; Cambridge.
- Oct. 1988 - Sept. 1990 - INIC (Young Researcher Grant: no. 28258); FCM-UNL

Selected articpation and presentations at Scientific Conferences (last 10 years)

- 2024 - "Decentralized elements in pediatric trials", na reunião anual do projeto STAND4Kids, Portuguese Society of Pediatrics. Lisbon. (May, 28)
- 2023 -"Challenges for new trial methodologies: IRB/ECs approval challenges", WORKSHOP ERA4Health: Analysis of the bottlenecks and challenges in designing and conducting multicounty InvestigatorInitiated Clinical Studies Pillar 2B, ERA4Health Partnership, Paris, França (14-15 September)
- 2023 -"Important ethical issues in paediatrics", Ethics Expert Group Meeting representing EUREC), conect4children (c4c Project), (11 September)
- 2023 - "Be ready for EU CTR: strategy, systems and lessons learned", Annual European RAPS Conference - EURO Convergence 2023, Amesterdam. (May, 10).
- 2022 - "Experience of ethics review during COVID-19: Portugal", WHO Satellite Event 13th Global Summit of National Ethics Committee - "Facilitating Research Ethics Review During Outbreaks: taking stock", Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon. (14 September)
- 2022 - "Increasing trust: Priority activities for successful implementation of GLS", Workshop "Implementing Good Lay Summary Practice", representing CEIC and the Expert Group on Clinical Trials (CTEG). (21, Feb.)
- 2021 -Interview as part of the Pfizer Talks initiative dedicated to the topic "Clinical Research. What are the horizons and ethical limits?" (8, Oct) [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UK7kAH2cMco>]
- 2021 - "Challenges and opportunities of clinical trials in intensive care situation", International Clinical Trials Day (17 May)
- 2020 - "Impact of Covid-19: Research and development", at the Annual Meeting of the College of Regulatory Affairs of the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society – "Regulatory affairs in the context of the pandemic: lessons learned and future prospects", (15 Dec.)
- 2018 - "From Research to Citizens" as part of Panel II "Innovation in Health: New Opportunities in Research. The ethical perspective," at the Annual Meeting of the College of Regulatory Affairs, Lisbon. (27 november)
- 2016 - "Basic and Clinical Research", Symposium on Genetics and Personal Data Protection, European project "Genetics Clinic of the Future (GCOF)" (7 June)
- 2016 - "Investigação Básica e Clínica", Simpósio sobre Genética e Proteção de Dados Pessoais projecto europeu "Genetics Clinic of the Future (GCOF)"(07/06/16)
- 2016 - "Mandatory requirements in training in Good Clinical Practice" at the symposium Commemoration of International Clinical Trials Day@PT, organised by PtCRIN, Tomé Pires Auditorium, INFARMED, I.P., Lisbon (25 May)
- 2015 - "Ethics and Clinical Research" at the Seminar launching the First Competition to support the capacity building of National Ethics and Regulatory Affairs Committees in Africa, organised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and EDCTP, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon. (09 March)

Other Relevant Information