

M Leonor Cancela

Current research

Molecular, environmental and epigenetic determinants affecting transcription regulation of genes expressed during onset of skeletogenesis in vertebrates. Vitamin K dependent proteins and their effect on cell differentiation and tissue mineralization in normal and pathological conditions. Development of in vitro and in vivo models for human skeletal diseases

Career/Academic Appointments

- April 06 to present: Full Professor, University of Algarve
- Jan/April 2000: Visiting Associate Project Scientist, Department of Biology, UC San Diego, CA, USA.
- Nov 92/Mar 06: Assistant / Associate Professor, University of Algarve
- Jul 91/Oct 92: Assistant Research Biologist, Dept of Biology, UC, San Diego, CA, USA.
- Feb 88/Jun 91: Post Graduate Research Biologist, Dept of Biology, UC San Diego, CA USA.
- Jan 86/Jan 88: Post Graduate Research Biochemist, Dept of Biochemistry, UC Riverside CA, USA.
- Jul 85/Dec 85: Post Graduate Research Biochemist, INSERM/U18, Hôpital Lariboisière, Paris, France.

Recent Awards

-2018-2019: Awardee of the Million Dollar Bike Ride Funding for Rare Diseases- L. Cancela coordinator \$51,382. Zebrafish as model to analyze CDKL5 function. Award Number: MDBR-19-104-CDKL5

Professional societies & Network

- Member of European Calcified Tissue Society
- Portuguese representative in the COST Action CA16115 / A European Network for Connective Tissue Calcifying Diseases.
- Coordinator in Portugal of BIOMEDAQU / International Innovative Training Network. Funded by the European Commission- MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS (2018-2022):500,000 € for UALG. Aquaculture meets Biomedicine: Innovation in Skeletal Health research.

Major Recent Grants

- OSTEOMAR - 16-02-01-FMP-0057 (Coordinator: ML Cancela; Funded by the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF/FEAMP)/MAR2020 from 11/2017 to 12/2019; Budget: 269,449 €
- BLUE HUMAN - EAPA/151/2016 (Coordinator at UALG: LCancela; Funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF/FEDER)/ Transnational Cooperation Programme Atlantic Area; 01/2018 to 12/2020; Budget UALG 125,789 €)BLUE biotechnology as a road for innovation on HUMAN's health aiming smart growth in Atlantic Area

Recent Publications

- 1 V.P. Roberto, P. Gavai, M.J. Nunes, E. Rodrigues, **M.L. Cancela**, D.M. Tiago. *Evidences for a new role of miR-214 in chondrogenesis*. **Scientific Reports**, 8:3704, 2018
2. D.M. Tiago, N. Conceição, H. Caiado, V. Laizé, **M.L. Cancela**. *Matrix Gla protein repression by miR-155 promotes oncogenic signals in breast cancer MCF-7 cells*. **FEBS Letters**, 590(8):1234-41, 2016
3. V. Laizé, P.J. Gavaia, **M.L. Cancela**. *Fish: a suitable system to model human bone disorders and discover drugs with osteogenic or osteotoxic activities*. **Drug Discovery Today: Disease Models**, 13: 29-37, 2014
4. **M.L. Cancela**, V. Laizé, N. Conceição. *Matrix Gla protein and osteocalcin: from gene duplication to neofunctionalization*. **Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics**, 561: 56-63, 2014
5. I. Fernández, A. Santos, **M.L. Cancela**, V. Laizé, P.J. Gavaia. *Warfarin, a potential pollutant in aquatic environment acting through Pxr signaling pathway and γ -glutamyl carboxylation of vitamin K dependent proteins*. **Environmental Pollution**. 194:86-95, 2014