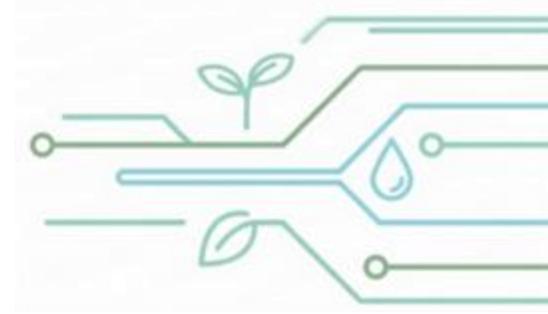




Invited Speakers



Cristina Branquinho

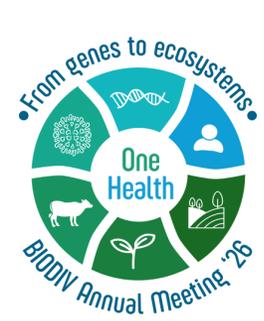


Maria João Feio



Joana Abrantes





Cristina Branquinho



Cristina Branquinho (CB) is a Full Professor of Ecology at Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (FCUL), and a researcher at the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, where she leads the “Systems Ecology” research group, which aims to understand complex ecological systems and promote resilience and sustainability in the face of Anthropocene challenges. CB is a vice president of the Biology Department at FCUL. She is a corresponding member of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences (since 2023) and a Foreign Academic Correspondent of the Royal National Academy of Pharmacy of Spain (Academy of Sciences) since 2016.

Her research focused on understanding ecological patterns at the ecosystem level in response to environmental changes such as air pollution, climate change and eutrophication: i) evaluating and modelling the structure and functioning of ecosystems; ii) developing, testing and tracking ecological indicators based on biodiversity at different spatial and temporal scales; iv) restoring ecosystem structure and functioning; iii) understanding the role of biodiversity on ecosystem functioning and ecosystem services delivery.



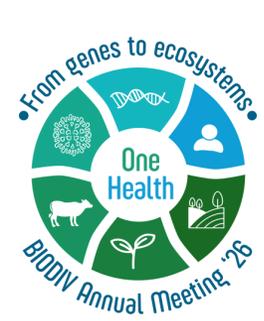


Maria João Feio

Maria João Feio holds a PhD in Biology with specialization in Ecology (University of Coimbra) and an Aggregation in Biology (University of Aveiro). She coordinates the research group Freshwater Ecology, and the MARE research center at the University of Coimbra; and the Associate Laboratory Aquatic Research Network; and is in the board of the Iberian Society of Ecology.

Maria João Feio is a freshwater ecologist who investigates the impact of global changes on the structural and functional integrity of freshwater ecosystems; the importance of urban aquatic ecosystems' biodiversity and ecosystem services for cities sustainability; and the connection between ecosystems' health and human health. She has been engaged in the development of novel tools for river bioassessment, namely through as predictive modeling and molecular approaches. She coordinated the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the Mediterranean basin; she is presently the coordinator of the interdisciplinary Horizon Europe project OneAquaHealth – Protecting Aquatic Ecosystems to Promote One Health (2023-26); and of the environmental education project CresceRio, among other.





Joana Abrantes



Joana Abrantes (CIBIO, Universidade do Porto) studies host-pathogen co-evolutionary processes by using lagomorph species and their viral diseases as research models. The study of host-pathogen co-evolution requires characterising the evolutionary patterns of change in the host and pathogen resulting from their interaction. For that, she studies the mechanisms driving viral evolution (e.g., recombination, mutation, natural selection) that may be involved in viral evasion of the host immune response. In parallel, she is interested in the evolution of host genes that may play a role in resistance against viral infections (e.g., chemokine receptors, TLRs, GBPs, etc).

