



## Maria José Oliveira

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Maria José Oliveira graduated in Biology by the Faculty of Sciences-University of Porto (Portugal) and completed her PhD degree in Health and Medical Sciences at Ghent University Hospital (Belgium). During her PhD, she studied the role of bacteria on cancer cell invasion and tumour progression under the supervision of Marc Mareel and of Joel Vandekerckhove. Her PostDoc training was at Ipatimup (Institute of Pathology and Immunology at the University of Porto) and dedicated to investigate the role of E-cadherin and of *Helicobacter pylori* on gastric cancer progression.

Since 2017, Maria José Oliveira coordinates the *Tumour and Microenvironment Interactions Group* at i3S-Institute for Research and Innovation in Health, at the University of Porto. The group research is focused on the role of the tumor microenvironment (in particular, immune cells, Extracellular matrix components, hypoxia and adipocytes) on cancer invasion/immune escape, dissecting the underlying molecular mechanisms, and using human decellularized matrices and immunospheroids as organotypic models. Recently, the group highlighted the role of radiotherapy on macrophage polarization, and developed immunomodulatory therapeutic strategies to counteract cancer cell invasion and metastasis. Her work was published over 120 manuscripts in international peer-review journals and received several prizes, namely one of the L'Óreal for Women in Science, from Lóreal/UNESCO/FCT in 2009.

<https://www.i3s.up.pt/tumour-and-microenvironment-interactions>