

BIOSKETCH

Ana P. Costa-Pereira, PhD

Non-Clinical Lecturer & Research Team Leader

Ana was born in beautiful Coimbra, in Portugal, where she spend the first 20 years of her life. Mid way through university, she was persuaded to go to Ireland as an Erasmus student, just for a year. She never returned home... She graduated in Biochemistry with an honours degree from the University of Cork in 1995, where she also worked on Fas-induced apoptosis under the supervision of Prof. Thomas G. Cotter towards her PhD. She then joined Dr Ian M. Kerr's group at Cancer Research UK – London Research Institute (former Imperial Cancer Research Fund), where she worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow until September 2005. Ana's main research interests at the time of joining Ian's laboratory were childhood leukaemia and apoptosis, but she was soon 'infected' by Ian's enthusiasm for the Interferons and viruses. Ana believes that the years spent in his lab have been pivotal in shaping her as a scientist and defining her current and future research. She joined Imperial College London in October 2005 as a Team Leader and Lecturer in Cell Signalling. She continues to work on Interferon and cytokine signal transduction pathways, which she uses as signalling paradigms to understand how cancer cells (mis)communicate with other cells. Understanding how signal transduction specificity is achieved will likely help the development of more effectively targeted cancer therapies. Ana is highly committed to teaching and educating future scientists, and she is very passionate about science communication, reason why she is one of Imperial College's "Presentation Skills" tutors.