

### Propostas sem candidato identificado

<b>Title</b>	The zoonotic potential of Rotaviruses - molecular characterization of strains circulating in companion animals (dogs and cats) and pediatric Portuguese population
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<b>Keywords</b>	rotavirus, children, cats, dogs, Portugal
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<b>Summary</b>	Rotavirus is a major etiologic agent of severe gastroenteritis in young children and animals, worldwide [1]. Although represents a public health priority and two vaccines were licensed for human use, few reports exist from Portugal [2-4]. The rotavirus genome consists of 11 segments of dsRNA and genome rearrangements have been observed both <i>in vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> [5]. Animal rotaviruses can infect humans, either by direct transmission or by contributing with one or several genes to reassortments with human rotavirus strain, interspecies transmission of strains and/or genes being described [6]. Within the scope of this proposal, we aim: a molecular characterization of rotavirus circulating strains in children and companion animals thus getting an insight on rotavirus evolutionary mechanisms (e.g. reassortments, mixed infections), to perform a clinical and serological monitoring of rotavirus in dogs and cats and assess the potential risk in the transmission of the virus to the human population.
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<b>Supervision</b>	
Supervisor	Claudia Istrate (CIISA, FMV-UL) <a href="mailto:claudiaistrate@fmv.ulisboa.pt">claudiaistrate@fmv.ulisboa.pt</a>
Co-Supervisor	Yolanda Vaz (CIISA, FMV-UL)