

Career Profiles of Early-Career Researchers and Students

Prof. Cecilia ARRAIANO

Chemical and Biological Technology Institute
New University of Lisbon – PORTUGAL

📅 Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

📍 Cam Salon, A Block 6th floor

13:00 – 15:00

Workshop on Career Skills (Open to all Interested)

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00

Designing a Seed Project for Medical Science/Biotechnology (Mentoring Activity)


İZMİR EKONOMİ
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



Organised jointly by the "IEU Researcher Training Coordinatorship" and the "IEU Medical School"

Conference: "RNA Revolution in Medical Science"

Prof. Cecilia ARRAIANO

Chemical and Biological Technology Institute
New University of Lisbon – PORTUGAL

 Friday, May 15th, 2026

 Board of Trustees Hall, A Block 6th floor

10:00 – 10:30

Gathering Together
and Coffee

10:30 – 12:00

The RNA Revolution
in Medical Science


İZMİR EKONOMİ
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

Organised jointly by the "IEU Researcher Training
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CECÍLIA MARIA ARRAIANO- Short Narrative CV (Feb 2025)

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CECÍLIA MARIA ARRAIANO has many years of experience in Genetics, RNA Biology, and Molecular Microbiology. She is **Coordinating Investigator (Full Professor equivalent)** and **Head of the Control of Gene Expression Laboratory at ITQB**, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Portugal.

Cecília Arraiano finished her **Licenciatura in Biology in University of Lisbon** and then was a **Fulbright-Hays Scholar in USA** where she finished her **Ph. D. in Genetics**, in **University of Georgia, USA** and then a post-Doc also in USA.

Her lab at ITQB has been mostly involved in the **discovery and characterization of ribonucleases, focusing on the modulation of all types of RNAs to control gene expression**. She has published in top journals as corresponding author, e.g. Nature, PNAS, NAR, EMBO J, ACS Synth Biol. RNA, mBio, Sci. Rep., FEBS J. etc. Pioneer studies from her lab made relevant discoveries that link RNA degradation to important issues in Health, and Biotechnology.

Cecília Arraiano received **many honors** which highlight her seniority and the quality of her lab research, e.g. in 2023 she received the **“Diplôme d’Honneur” from Federation of European Biochemistry Societies (FEBS)**, she is an elected **member of European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)**, elected **Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (the first Fellow in Portugal)**, elected **Fellow of European Academy of Microbiology, Member of the Portuguese Academy of Sciences**. Till 2022 was an elected **member of the Executive Committee of FEBS-Federation of European Biochemistry Societies**, she has received the Prize C. Pestana/Glaxo Smith-Klein, and was Ambassador of American Society of Microbiology. In 2020 **elected to Advisory Board of European Synthetic Biology Society (EUSynBioS)**. Since 2021 is in the External Advisory Panel of Egas Moniz Research Centre (CiiEM), Portugal. Since 2024 belongs to the External **Scientific Advisory Board of Instituto de Biomedicina y Biotecnología de Cantabria, Santander, Spain**. In 2021 Cecilia Arraiano was invited by the President Max Planck Society to integrate the **Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck Research Unit for the Science of Pathogens, Berlin, for 2022-2028**. The **Director is Emmanuelle Charpentier -2020 Nobel Prize** for her work on CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing tool.

Cecília is PI and coordinator of many national and international competitive grant projects e.g. Coordinator of the Portuguese participation in the **European Commission Horizon 2020 Empower Putida-** project-multidisciplinary international team of nine academic and industrial partners. Coordinator of the Portuguese participation in **European Commission**

ERA-NET Pathogenomics transnational project “Global analysis of antisense regulatory mechanisms in *Staphylococcus aureus*” ERA-PTG/0002/2010, 867437 **Coordinator of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions** under **EU Framework for Research & Innovation** e.g. Horizon 2020 Framework Programme Call H2020-WF-2018-2020 Project number 867437 2019-2021 (Turning Bacteria into factories of Biodegradable Plastics) and also the Call FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IEF, Project RNaseDYNAMICS (Proj number 254183).

Cecília Maria Arraiano has been **active evaluator**: e.g. **Horizon Europe-Pathfinder Challenges, H2020 projects, ERC, EMBO, EU Marie Curie, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, DFG, BBSRC, ANR, FNR, Fulbright Commission, NSF**. For instance, in 2007 was integrated in **the Panel of Evaluators of the European Research Council (ERC)**(LS2 Panel 2009-2013 and LS8). Since 2013 is evaluator of **the European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions individual fellowships**. Evaluator of The Göran Gustafsson Prize 2013 from **The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences**. 2022-2025 **Panel of Evaluators for Horizon Europe-Pathfinder Challenges**. In **2023 she was invited to participate in the in-depth review of the Max Delbrück Center** being part of the Panel of Evaluators for Gene Regulation and Single Cell.

She has **oriented 19 Post-Doctoral Fellows, 30 Doctoral Students and 18 Master students**. Her current group composition counts 3 Assistant Investigators, 1 Junior Researcher, 1 postdoc, 6 PhD students, and 3 Master students.

Peer reviewer of prominent international journals and **organizer of many International Conferences** e.g. 4th and 5th International Conferences on the Long and the Short of Non-Coding RNAs, a FEBS and Aegean Conference (2022, Rhodes, and 2024, Crete, both in Greece); 2022 FASEB Science Research Conference, Post-transcriptional Control of Gene Expression: Mechanisms of RNA Decay, Florida, USA; 2019 EMBO Practical Course on Synthetic Biology, Heidelberg, Germany; 2018 ASM General Meeting Symposium on RNA Biology, Atlanta, USA; 2017 EMBO meeting Eukaryotic RNA turnover, Oxford, UK.

Cecília was resident scientist of the Portuguese TV show 4x Science (4xCiência from RTPN), and has participated in radio programs, Podcasts, interviews, journal articles and TEDx events to transmit Science to the general public. Her lab work on novel therapeutics against COVID-19 was met with a great media response.

Cecília is involved in Gender Issues in Science e.g. for 10 years participated in the L'Oréal/UNESCO evaluation of prizes for young women in science and for 10 years she was **Chair of FEBS** (Fed. European Biochemical Societies) **Working group on Women in Science**, organizing Symposia and participating in the choice of the annual FEBS/EMBO Prize for Women in Science.

Examples of Cecilia M. Arraiano **Laboratory Publications as correspondent:** Frazão *et al* 2006 **Nature** Sep 7,443:110-14; Viegas *et al* 2010 **NAR** 39:2918-30; Malecki *et al* 2013 **EMBO J** 32:1842-54; Dressaire *et al* 2015 **mBio** 6:e02352-14; Saramago *et al* 2017 **NAR** 4:1371-91; Andrade *et al* 2018 **EMBO J** 37: e97631; Viegas *et al* 2018 **ACS Synth Biol.** 7:2177-88; Pobre *et al* 2019 **Sci. Reports** 9:16271; Silva *et al* 2019 **PNAS** 116:3042-3051; dos Santos *et al* 2020 **mBio** e02398-20; Saramago *et al* 2021 **FEBS J.** doi:10.1111/febs.15815, Alves da Silva *et al* 2023 **Microlife** doi: 10.1093/femsml/uqad034; Matos RG. *et al*, 2024; **Int J Mol Sci.** doi: 10.3390/ijms25158048 Alípio; A.F. *et al*, 2024; **J Mol Biol.** doi: 10.1016/j.jmb.2024.168711; Seixas, A.F. *et al*, 2025, **Free Radic. Biol. Med.** doi: 10.1016/j.freeradbiomed.2024.11.038