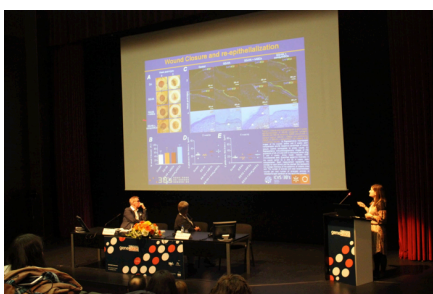
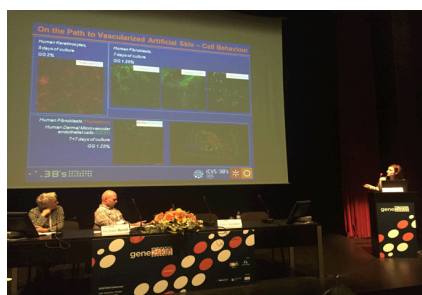


GENE2SKIN CONFERENCE WAS HELD IN GUIMARÃES LAST OCTOBER

The Gene2skin conference was organized by UMINHO and held in Guimarães on in a **back-to-back initiative with the TERMSTEM conference**. This international conference counted with some of the most relevant experts in the field in **skin biology and regeneration that shared recent advances**. It counted with names such as **Claire Higgins - Imperial College, UK; Susan Gibbs – VUMC, The Netherlands; Julie Fradette - Laval University, Canada ; Irma Joosten – Radboudumc, The Netherlands; Fiona Watt - King's College London, UK; Fergal O'Brien - Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Ireland; Michael Rendl – Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA; Marjana Tomic-Canic - University of Miami, USA; Simon Cool, Institute of Medical Biology, Singapore; Magda Ulrich, VU University Medical Center, The Netherlands; Ernst Reichmann, University of Zürich, Switzerland; Alexandra P. Marques, University of Minho, Portugal**. On the other hand, TERMSTEM meeting that is more traditionally focused on industry counted with different companies such as **Novadip (Belgium), Poietis (France) and Cytograft (US)** whose focus coincides with the scientific strategy of UMINHO in the scope of Gene2skin. This allowed the dissemination of top-level breakthroughs and also a critical discussion among the participants.



FIRST GENE2SKIN PROGRESS MEETING WAS HELD AT KCL

The first Gene2skin progress meeting was held at **King's College London** on the **14th and 15th of July of 2016**. Professor Fiona Watt and Simon Broad organized the meeting and welcomed all the partners. There were lengthy but productive discussions regarding scientific and logistic ways to achieve the project's objectives. New activities were planned for the upcoming months.



RECENT AWARDS BY THE CONSORTIUM

3B's Professor Rui L. Reis inducted member of National Academy of Engineering (NAE) in a ceremony held in Washington, USA

Professor Rui L. Reis was recognized “for his contributions to biomaterials and tissue engineering in **regenerative medicine**”. Rui L. Reis is among 22 foreign members elected this year by the NAE, alongside with the 80 new U.S. members, bringing the total U.S. membership to 2,275 and the number of foreign members to 232. Prof. Rui L. Reis is the first member from Portugal to be elected in the National Academy of Engineering. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.



Professor Rui L. Reis, Gene2Skin Project Coordinator, 3B's University of Minho

Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to "engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature" and to "the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing/implementing innovative approaches to engineering education."

Alexandra P. Marques awarded an ERC consolidator Grant

With the project ECM_INK: Cells-self Extracellular Matrices-based Bioinks to create accurate 3D diseased skin tissue models", Alexandra P. Marques was awarded an ERC consolidator grant. The project aims at producing 3D skin models that precisely recreate the structure and complex organization of that tissue, including its vascular component, and that exhibit the pathophysiology of some associated diseases. "It is an unique opportunity to develop a method capable of creating 3D models of human tissues with improved functionality and, therefore, more reliable, allowing the generation of more knowledge regarding incurable diseases with high mortality rates, such as skin cancer, contributing for the discovery of innovative therapies", says the researcher. ECM_INK draws from the fields of cell biology, material science and biomedical engineering to overcome the limitations of currently available clinical solutions for skin diseases.



Dr Alexandra P. Marques, 3B's University of Minho

Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology awarded Rogério Pirraco a FCT Investigator grant for five years

The project intends to develop a simple, fast and cost-efficient prevascularization strategy for osteogenic CS constructs based on the stromal vascular fraction of adipose tissue (AdSVF).

FCT

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR



Professor Fiona Watt received a *Doctor Honoris Causa* from Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Professor Watt was delighted to be invited to Spain recently to receive a Doctor Honoris Causa from UAM (Autonomous University of Madrid), an award which also honours their institution.



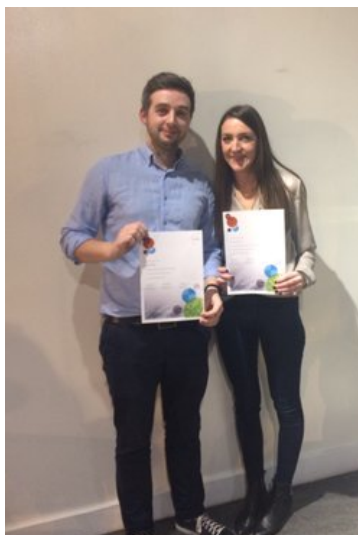
Mr Arsenio Huergo (the Social Council's first Vice President), Rector Professor José M Sanz and Professor Watt



RCSI

DR. Eimear Dolan and Mr. David Walsh received an Innovation Award from the Advanced Materials and BioEngineering Research (AMBER) Centre

Eimear is a Research Fellow, currently working on both the DRIVE and AMCARE programmes and David is a PhD student, supervised by Prof. Sally-Ann Cryan (School of Pharmacy and TERC PI), Prof. Fergal O'Brien (Head of TERC) and Prof. Andreas Heise (Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry).



DR. Eimear Dolan and Mr. David Walsh



RCSI

Ms Emily Ryan wins Donegan Medal Award by the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI)

Ms Emily Ryan, who was awarded the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) Donegan Medal for her oral presentation at the Biomedical Sciences Section of RAMI's annual meeting on June 23rd, held in University College Cork. Emily's talk was entitled 'Novel antibiotic-free scaffold for the

treatment of infection and regeneration of bone'. Emily's research is funded by the Irish Research Council and supervised by Head of TERG, Prof Fergal O'Brien, and TERG PI, Dr Cathal Kearney.



Ms Emily Ryan being presented with the RAMI Donegan Medal

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS BY THE CONSORTIUM



Silva, L. P. da; Pirraco, R. P.; Santos, T. C.; Novoa-Carballal, R.; Cerqueira, M. T.; Reis, R. L.; Correlo, V. M.; Marques, A. P., Neovascularization Induced by the Hyaluronic Acid-Based Spongy-Like Hydrogels Degradation Products, ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 2016, 0 (0), acsami.6b11684.

M Costa, RP Pirraco, MT Cerqueira, RL Reis AP Marques, Growth factor-free pre-vascularization of cell sheets for tissue engineering, Stem Cell Dynamics and Heterogeneity: Methods and Protocols, Methods in Mol Biol., Volume 1516 of the series Methods in Molecular Biology pp 219-226



Weissman IL, Watt FM. 'CIRM and UKRMP: Different Ways to Invest in Regenerative Medicine.' Cell Stem Cell. 2016 Jul 7;19(1):19-22. doi:10.1016/j.stem.2016.05.011. PMID: 27392224

Rognoni E, Gomez C, Pisco AO, Rawlins EL, Simons BD, Watt FM, Driskell RR. 'Inhibition of β -catenin signalling in dermal fibroblasts enhances hair follicle regeneration during wound healing.' Development. 2016 Jul 15. pii: dev.131797. PMID: 27287810



RCSI

Next generation bone tissue engineering: non-viral miR-133a inhibition using collagen-nano-hydroxyapatite scaffolds rapidly enhances osteogenesis. Mencía Castano I, Curtin CM, Duffy GP, O'Brien FJ. Nature Scientific Reports 2016 6 27941; doi: 10.1038/srep27941.