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**ISR-Connected 3.0
issue #12**

May 2020,

Dear all

We are living in historical moments. The new coronavirus pandemic has forced a massive change in the way we live and work and will produce long-term consequences in our world. In a first moment, researchers and academia contributed to mitigate the emergency situation (e.g producing protection equipment, preparing COVID19-related proposals, and keep communication and encouragement of the teams). We also adapted to this disruptive change and have strived to continue teaching, studying, and numerous other research activities. This capacity for adaptation and resilience was unprecedented.

We are entering a new phase, where we can re-initiate our on-campus research activities and work while remaining cautious. While online technologies have been instrumental to navigate these turbulent times, we know that the university experience, exchange of ideas, motivation, and emotional aspects that require interaction and physical presence, are essential.

Rebuilding universities as a focus rich environment with inspirational interactions and contributing to keep society rolling and mitigate the social and economic pandemics is our grandest challenge ahead. ISR-Lisboa recently did a small step towards that, through the de-confinement of some of our labs.

And in an additional piece of good news, congratulations to Pedro Góis, a collaborator at Taguspark, who recently became a father for the first time. All the best to his family and baby Alice.

*Stay safe and strong,
José Santos-Victor*

What's New



Girls in ICT Day

The International GirlsInICT day was celebrated on April 23, with echoes throughout the whole week. In Portugal, Técnico was one of the partners of a Girls in ITC week of activities, organized in the scope of the project "Engenheiras Por um Dia". Rute Luz took part in the many initiatives worldwide and represented Técnico to a group of young school students. The researcher shared why she didn't shy away from engineering and why it can be anyone's passion, in an effort to provide the young students with a positive example. More [here](#)



Research4COVID Project

The month of May kicked off e-CoVig, a three-month project recently attributed top funding on the FCT call Research4Covid. Coordinated by João Sanches, the project counts on several partners for the creation of an automated system for remote surveillance of COVID-19 symptoms. Low-cost technological solutions will allow the use of an eHealth platform together with biological data acquisition systems based on the cellphones of those who are under clinical surveillance. Learn more in [this](#) news article by the journalistic chain Expresso



SPR Best PhD/MSc Awards

The awards regarding thesis dissertations concluded in 2019 by Sociedade Portuguesa de Robótica for Best PhD Thesis and Best MSc Thesis have been attributed to members of ISR-Lisboa. Congrats to Pedro Lourenço and thesis advisors Prof. Paulo Oliveira, Prof. Pedro Batista and Prof. Carlos Silvestre for their work on the thesis awarded as Best PhD thesis, as well as Pedro Trindade, who was supervised by Prof. Rita Cunha and Prof. Pedro Batista and who received the award for Best MSc Thesis. [More](#)



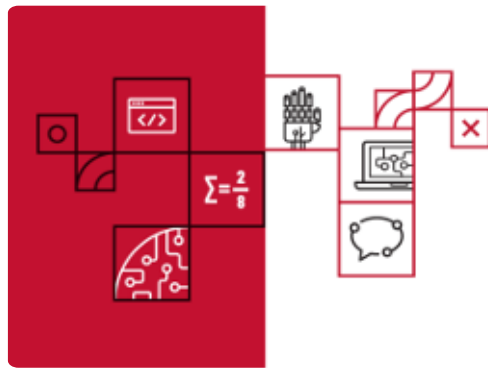
Explain It Like I'm 5 Years Old

The first installment of "Explain it like I'm 5 – talks at Técnico for children and other curious people of all ages" – which will be taking place every two weeks, was live on Instituto Superior Técnico's Facebook page on May 21 with great success. Many people of all ages joined to see Isabel Ribeiro, one of the founding members of ISR-Lisboa and a pioneer in mobile robotics, explain what makes robots work, show many outstanding examples, and answer their questions. If you missed it watch [here](#)



90 Segundos de Ciência

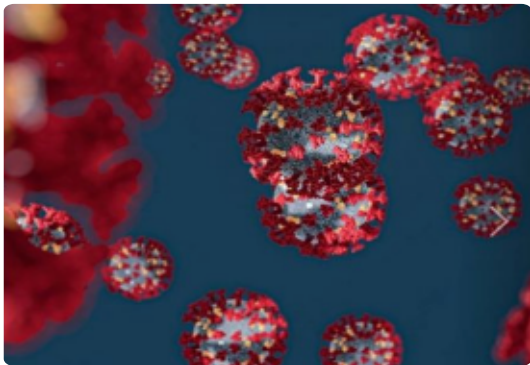
If you missed it on Antena1 listen [here](#) to a recent episode of 90 Segundos de Ciência where Patrícia Figueiredo, coordinator of LaSEEB, our biomedical engineering Lab, explains in just about 90 seconds how virtual reality can be used to learn about the brain and for patient rehabilitation. You may also learn more about this project on an article on the ISR-Lisboa website, with interviews from main researchers, [here](#)



New CMU Portugal Projects

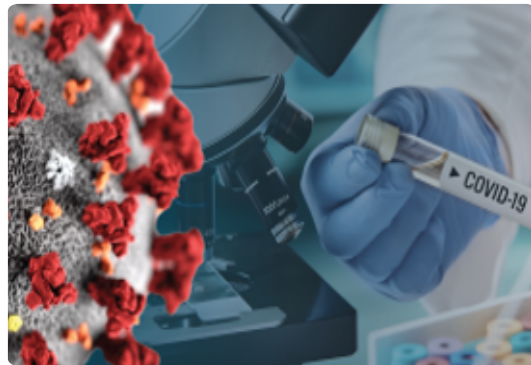
Among the 10 new research projects chosen for investment under the [CMU Portugal](#) Program, there are two which will involve collaboration between our ISR researchers and leading ICT companies. IntelligentCare aims to develop an intelligent health management system, while iFetch will focus on optimizing conversational agents for the online fashion marketplace. Learn more about these projects and initiative [here](#)

Opportunities & Events



AI 4 COVID-19

The central objective of this action, within the scope of the National Digital Skills e.2030 Initiative, Portugal INCoDe.2030 (namely in Axis 5 - Research), is to promote the presentation of R&D projects in the field of Data Science that contribute to improving the response of Public Administration bodies to the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics, in line with the provisions of the National Plan for Preparing and Responding to Disease due to new coronavirus (COVID-19) of DGS. Learn more [here](#)



Calls for Solutions

Several calls for solutions remain open and are accepting proposals from any type of organization assessed by the European Network of Health Authorities. The European Commission has also launched research projects and initiatives to tackle the spread of coronavirus and preparedness for other outbreaks. Also, in reaction to the Covid-19 crisis, several H2020 calls have been extended to give more time for applicants to prepare their proposals. Confirm if this has affected you [here](#)



Early Stage Researcher

The MULTITOUCH project will train a cohort of 6 ESRs that will conduct haptic research in Human-Computer Interaction to improve the accessibility of new devices and applications with touch user interfaces. This is part of an EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action (H2020-MSCA-ITN) in the Machine Intelligence and Information Visualization Laboratory of the MANSiD Research Center at University Stefan cel Mare of Suceava, Romania. Applicants must satisfy the eligibility requirements for an ESR under the H2020 ITN Programme. [More](#)



PhD Candidate Openings

Three candidates with a strong background in control systems are required, to perform high-quality and innovative theoretical and experimental research on resilient autonomous vehicles and cooperative robotics. As graduate assistants they are expected to start working at the beginning of August 2020, if interested, please send an email to both [Tansel Yucelen](#) (AP of Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Florida) and [K. Merve Dogan](#) (AP of Aerospace Engineering at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University)



Research positions

Available projects include the development of regulatory networks in a cancer context, analysis of alternative splicing switches in tumorigenesis, analysis of RNA-seq. data using bioinformatics and machine learning approaches, the establishment of computational models for optimized time-dependent treatment in cancer. More information and applications (CV, motivation letter) per email to [Angela Relógio](#). More about their work [here](#)



SR&TD Portugal-India

In order to support and encourage cooperation between research institutions, universities and R&D centers in India and Portugal, the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and Department of Science and Technology of India (DST) hereby announce that a call is open to fund of Scientific Research and Technological Development Joint Projects, developed in close collaboration by Portuguese and Indian research teams. [Apply](#) until June 30, 2020, 5 PM (Lisbon)

Media & Culture



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Twitter's Contribution

At a time when online communications are inevitably being boosted, this opinion article defends that the platform facilitates an informal connection between scientists. *"Getting a more human perspective on the big shots we look up to can be refreshing...By having a more personal line of communication with each other, rather than relying on e-mail correspondence, scientists can connect and form fruitful relationships more easily."* Read it [here](#)



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