



INSTITUTO DE HIGIENE E  
MEDICINA TROPICAL  
DESDE 1902

## INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL PARASITOLOGY

### *CU characterization:*

#### *CU name:*

Introduction to Medical Parasitology

#### *Scientific area acronym:*

PA

#### *Duration:*

Semiannual

#### *Working hours:*

41

#### *Contact hours:*

14

#### *ECTS:*

2

#### *Observations:*

Mandatory CU

In this school year, the distribution of classes was as follows: T: 8 hours; P: 2 hours; OT: 4 hours; Evaluation: 2 hours

### *Teacher in charge and respective teaching load in the CU:*

Isabel Maurício - 7 hours

### *Other teachers and respective teaching load in the CU:*

Paulo Almeida – 1 hour

Sandra Antunes – 1 hour

Ana Domingos – 1 hour

Cláudia Conceição – 1 hour

Dinora Lopes – 1 hour

Gabriela Santos-Gomes – 1 hour

Carla Sousa – 2 hours



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*Intended learning outcomes (knowledge, skills and competences to be developed by the students):*

After this unit, students should be able to:

1. Define the discipline of Medical Parasitology and describe the importance of parasites in human health.
2. Describe the main groups of parasites and indicate their taxonomic classification.
3. Use correctly appropriately terms and concepts in parasitology.
4. Use Biosystematic rules correctly.
5. Name and use laboratory instruments, such as the microscope and others.
6. Indicate and identify the main ethical principles of research in humans and other animals in Medical Parasitology
7. Choose databases and search scientific literature.
8. Use correct forms of referencing.
9. Indicate the rules for communicating scientific results in Health in a scientific manner.
10. Use essential molecular biology terms and concepts correctly.
11. Suggest molecular biology methods for specific purposes.
12. Choose important computer resources in parasitology.
13. Discuss a current topic about one or more parasitic diseases of medical importance, including their control.

### *Syllabus:*

- I. Presentation of the UC. Objectives of the UC. Medical Parasitology.
- II. Terminology and basic concepts in Parasitology.
- III. Introduction to the laboratory and laboratory instruments.
- IV. Ethical principles in Medical Parasitology.
- V. Ethical principles in Parasitology - animal research.
- VI. Biosystematics.
- VII. Structure, data presentation and referencing in scientific papers.
- VIII. Good scientific writing practices in Health.
- IX. Bibliographic research.
- X. Basic principles of molecular biology and bioinformatics applied to Parasitology.
- XI. Discussion on the topic of Medical Parasitology.



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### *Teaching methodologies (including assessment):*

This CU is organized in 8 lectures, 2 practical sessions and four tutorial orientations, in a total of 14 hours of contact. Lecture handouts and formative assessment are available in the Moodle platform.

Student assessment will be based on the following elements:

- A written exam note.
- Training exercises on the Moodle platform.

Ratings:

- The evaluative components, including the exam and the training exercises, will have a classification between 0 and 20 values.

Calculation of the final classification:

- exam classification x 0.9 + average classification of training exercises x 0.1

Approval/failure:

- Students with classifications below 10 in the final classification will be disapproved.

In order to improve the grade, or in case of failure, students will have to take a new exam in the 2nd period, or special period (see IHMT Assessment Regulations). The ranking of these periods is based on the exam grade only.

### *References for consultation / mandatory existence:*

- Gordon C. Cook ed. (2003) Manson's Tropical Diseases. 21st ed. Elsevier Science. London.
- Schmidt and Roberts. Foundations of Parasitology, McGrawHill.
- Alberts, B., Bray, D., Lewis, J., Raff, M., Roberts, K. and Watson, J. D. eds. (1994) Molecular biology of the cell. 3rd edition. Garland, NY.
- Scientific writing and publishing results. Tropical Biology Association, UK. 14pg [http://www.bvssp.fsp.usp.br:8080/html/pt/paginas/guia/i\\_cap\\_03.htm](http://www.bvssp.fsp.usp.br:8080/html/pt/paginas/guia/i_cap_03.htm)
- Cantacessi, C., Campbell, B.E., Jex, A.R., Young, N.D., Hall, R.S., Ranganathan, S., Gasser, R.B. (2012) Bioinformatics meets parasitology. Parasite Immunol. 34(5):26575.