





**Charity**



✦ Graça Franco, Laborinho Lúcio, Manuel Braga da Cruz, António Leuschner and António Lobo Antunes. “Live Longer, Live Better” Conference, Gulbenkian Health Forum, April 2009.



✦ António Lobo Antunes and Eduardo Lourenço. “Live Longer, Live Better” conference, Gulbenkian Health Forum, April 2009.

## Health and Human Development Department

The activities of the Health and Human Development Department were designed to contribute towards improving knowledge of diseases and their treatments, increasing professional qualifications, promoting initiatives leading to organisational innovation in healthcare provision, as well as encouraging reflection on interface themes from the world of medicine and participation in activities that form part of the global health paradigm.

	Amounts in euros
Personnel costs	532 517
Operating costs	93 576
Subsidies and grants	2 248 785
Departmental activities	195 081
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 069 959</b>
Receipts	18 138

The following areas of intervention were given priority in the support provided to the promotion of healthcare, which is also understood as representing an expression of human development and individual well-being:

- › research;
- › technological modernisation;
- › humanising healthcare;
- › training professional healthcare providers;
- › global health.

### Activities undertaken

#### Research

[€939 407]

The largest amount of financial investment was afforded to support for biomedical research. Besides the continuity that was given to projects begun in 2007 and 2008, two new competitive application processes were launched for funding in the areas of clinical microbiology (five projects) and the so-called “neglected tropical diseases” (four projects), the latter being included in a programme of intervention that involved four other European foundations.

A final assessment was made of those competitive funding application processes that had already been completed (Oncology and Public Health, both begun in 2004). This procedure was seen as being indispensable for monitoring this distributive activity and for reflecting on the importance of this initiative within the context of the activities undertaken by the other public and private funding agencies.

The projects begun in 2005, relating to competitive applications for the funding of research projects in the areas of cancer and the environment, neurodegenerative diseases (ageing), environment and health, and the prevention and control of influenza and hospital infections, continued to be closely monitored, with assessments being made on an annual basis.

A partnership was begun with the Portuguese Observatory of Health Systems. This is planned to last for three years and is designed to promote reflection on health governance, its impact on public opinion and its implications for professional organisations, as well as to monitor the evolution of health indicators in general.

## **Modernisation and technological innovation**

**[€431 570]**

Support was granted for the acquisition of diagnostic equipment at hospital departments, to be used in vanguard medical practices.

The new organisational and management models adopted at hospitals were the reason for the reduced levels of investment made in this area on the part of the Health and Human Development Department.

In 2009, significant support was also given to the Thoracic Surgery Department of the Santa Marta Hospital, the Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Transplantation Centre of the Curry Cabral Hospital and the Thoracic Surgery Centre of the São João Hospital.



## **Humanising healthcare**

**[€361 476]**

The Department strengthened its activities in areas seeking to identify improved access to and the strengthening of back-up and end-of-life care. Special attention was paid to supporting initiatives for patients suffering from incurable diseases, through the funding of palliative healthcare projects, home healthcare and continuous care, with particular emphasis being given to those projects that were integrated into networks and reinforced innovative interventions of civil society.

Emphasis should also be placed upon the support given to the creation of two palliative home care units, which, at the end of a three-year period will be integrated into the National Continuous Care Network of the Portuguese National Health System. Two non-hospital experimental schemes were set up in the inland region of Portugal (Planalto Mirandês – the region around the town of Miranda do Douro – and Mértola). This intervention provides continuity for earlier investments made in the field of palliative healthcare, which were centred on the training of human resources.

In an intervention that was aimed at the relatives and carers of terminally ill patients, the Bioethics Centre of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon was provided with funding for the development of the project entitled “Intervention in Mourning in Palliative Healthcare”.



Paediatrics Department of the Caldas da Rainha Hospital, 15 December 2009.



✚ Mobile Home Care Support Unit of the Gil Foundation, December 2009.

In a partnership set up with the Anouk Foundation and the Banco Espírito Santo, support was given to the Paediatrics Department at the Caldas da Rainha Hospital in the form of a mural decoration project, replicating other similar experiments that are to be found at both foreign and Portuguese hospitals, and designed to humanise the environment encountered by hospitalised sick children.

The Gil Foundation was provided with equipment for two mobile support units providing home care for chronically ill patients experiencing social difficulties after their discharge from hospital. These units will operate in association with the Paediatrics Department of the São João Hospital (Porto) and the Coimbra Paediatric Hospital/Bissaya Barreto Maternity Hospital.

A public competitive application process was launched to select ten projects designed to support patients' associations and their relatives, resulting from their own initiatives developed in terms of social intervention. The projects will be undertaken in 2010, and an assessment will be made at the end, with the conclusions being presented at a workshop.

### Training and information in healthcare

[€304 960]

The aim of this activity was to promote the qualification of healthcare professionals in new forms of training in clinical gestures and communication. The most important subsidies were those granted to:

- › The Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon: support given to the Institute of Clinical Semiotics to acquire various models to be used for training in clinical practices; to the Centre of Bioethics for the organisation of the course "From Communication to Relationship – Effectiveness of a Programme of Blended Learning in Communication Skills", aimed at doctors and nurses; and to the Surgery Department I for the development of the programme "System for the Clinical Integration of Oncological Data and Surgical Risk".
- › Portuguese Association against Leukaemia, with a strengthening of the funding given to the Support Programme for Advanced Training in Haematology/Oncology, a protocol that has already been under development for three years.

› Forty-three grants were awarded to enable medical and healthcare professionals to attend courses abroad, for the organisation of lectures, conferences, symposiums, training and information courses, as well as for the publication of manuals and the creation of websites.

## Global health

[€154 901]

The pathologies associated with climate change, the emergence of new and “old” communicable diseases, the growth in “poverty-related diseases”, the influence of the new international markets in health economics, the interdependences of health policies and their governance, all call for new responsibilities to be assumed in the discussion of the values that are projected both in health and in society, as well as in the application of the policy decisions related with these. Various activities were supported in this field:

- › Creation of the Global Health Europe website, recognising its relevance as a central driving force in Europe for this new paradigm of public health.
- › A public competitive application process for the funding of research projects in the field of Neglected Tropical Diseases, with four applications being selected for funding.
- › A project for “Monitoring and Analysing the Social Response to the Pandemic Threat – Influenza Pandemic – New H<sub>1</sub>N<sub>1</sub> Virus”, to be developed by the National School for Public Health. The conclusions of this project are due to be presented in 2010.
- › Clinical internships in Tropical Medicine for 12 students from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon (Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Mozambique), whose work will be gathered together in the form of a publication and afforded a public presentation.



❖ Book of the clinical internships in Tropical Medicine.



❖ Session of the “STOP TB” international conference in Tropical Medicine, 19 March 2009.

› The “Stop TB” international conference, held on 19 March, to mark World Tuberculosis Day, organised in partnership with the Directorate-General for Health and José de Mello Saúde. This conference was held under the high patronage of the United Nations Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis, Dr. Jorge Sampaio.

## Departmental activities

[€117 774]

Discussion and reflection were promoted on themes considered relevant for modern-day society. The Department promoted the following initiatives:



### Conference cycle on “Medicine: Life Styles” (January-May)

In partnership with the Lisbon Society of Medical Sciences and the Champalimaud Foundation. This cycle consisted of four lectures on the lives and careers of doctors and medical scientists and their contribution to the progress of medicine. Aimed above all at young doctors and students of Medicine, the purpose of these lectures was to enrich their training and inspire them in their future activities.

### Gulbenkian Health Forum on “The Time of Life”

Programmed for the two-year period from 2008 to 2009, the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of the Forum was dedicated to the theme of ageing, with two sessions being held in 2009.

✦ Closing Session of the Gulbenkian Health Forum on ageing 2008-2009  
“The Time of Life”, 28 September 2009.

In April, the “Live Longer, Live Better” conference discussed the issues of loneliness, poverty and violence in old age, with an ethical reflection being made about situations in which people are forced to spend the end of their lives in an institutionalised environment.

The Closing Session, held on 28 September, debated the role of the information and communication technologies in improving the quality of life of the elderly and their carers, in supporting the fight against social isolation, and in the promotion of mobility and family links.

Four books were published:

- › *Forum Gulbenkian de Saúde Comemorativo dos 50 Anos da FCG* (edition of the “Gulbenkian Health Forum Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation”);
- › *O Tempo da Vida*, which provides a summary of the speeches made during the Gulbenkian Health Forum, 2008-2009 – this book was launched during the Gulbenkian Book Festival, being presented by Professor João Lobo Antunes.
- › *Saúde e Comunicação numa Sociedade em Rede*;
- › *Sida em Meio Prisional*.