

## Decades of Research for Days of Vaccines – A dialogue with scientists

### International Immunology Day Campaign

#### Portuguese Society for Immunology

2021

Our campaign is aimed at high-school students and teachers, general public and scientists and has already achieved two major goals: 1) the significant engagement of the scientific community with the public on a sensitive matter (+100 scientists in <1week); 2) the organization of 400 public sessions, with ~350 reserved in <48h, revealing the interest from the public in talking to scientists about vaccines against COVID-19. Many sessions were booked by schools. We expect to directly reach 10,000-12,000 people (Figure 1) and indirectly many more. The impact of our campaign will be assessed through polls and surveys, filled in by participants, and through a form collecting feedback from our scientists. As of now, over 1,000 people have filled in the public survey and over 100 the scientist one.

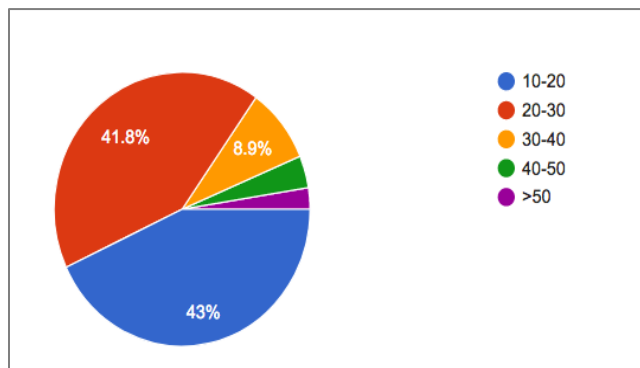


Figure 1: Number of participants in the sessions that took place in April 20-23.

We have prepared a movie to be shown in each session. Because some of the sessions will be in English, the video is subtitled. It can be found in the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JcbshfkHblE>

To ensure similar formats in all sessions and to better equip the volunteer scientists for these public sessions, training and support material (presentation, FAQs, relevant bibliography) were made available. A series of on-line training sessions happened the week before the campaign.

We have also prepared a webpage containing information on how the COVID-19 were developed, the science behind them, why they are safe and also containing a series of FAQs. The webpage is in Portuguese, but we aim at developing an English version of it:

<https://www.cienciaviva.pt/divulgacao-cientifica/vacinas-covid19?fbclid=IwAR16NRPRSFzk-z41m6EWxL5Kaj21adxqXE8ifN2ZW6iibc27Z-FkE1GyvQY>

Our campaign has already attracted the attention of most read media outlets in Portugal. A few examples are provided below:

<https://www.publico.pt/2021/04/20/ciencia/noticia/cientistas-portugueses-esclarecem-online-duvidas-vacinas-1959345>

<https://www.dn.pt/sociedade/task-force-vacinacao-diaria-de-100-mil-pessoas-dentro-de-duas-a-tres-semanas--13593631.html>

<https://observador.pt/2021/04/20/gouveia-e-melo-o-problema-nao-e-vacinar-100-mil-pessoas-e-fazer-os-agendamentos/>

[https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/pais/vacinacao-necessita-de-reforco-de-1700-profissionais-de-saude-task-force\\_n1313778](https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/pais/vacinacao-necessita-de-reforco-de-1700-profissionais-de-saude-task-force_n1313778)

<https://rr.sapo.pt/2021/04/20/pais/vacinacao-segunda-fase-vai-obrigar-a-contratar-mais-1700-profissionais-diz-gouveia-e-melo/noticia/amp/235418/>

<https://www.publico.pt/2021/04/20/sociedade/noticia/vacinacao-diaria-100-mil-pessoas-dentro-duas-tres-semanas-1959376>

<https://www.cmjornal.pt/sociedade/detalhe/gouveia-e-melo-1700-profissionais-vao-reforçar-segunda-fase-da-vacinacao-700-mil-portugueses-ja-com-duas-doses>

<https://sol.sapo.pt/artigo/732052/gouveia-e-melo-diz-que-e-necessario-contratar-mais-1-700-profissionais-para-reforçar-a-segunda-fase-da-vacinacao>

<https://www.sabado.pt/ultima-hora/detalhe/vacinacao-precisa-de-reforco-de-1700-profissionais-de-saude>

Finally, and in addition to the public campaign, we have organized an online research symposium “Advances on the Immune Responses during COVID-19” with international and national speakers to discuss the latest research development on the topic. This symposium will take place on the

International Immunology Day and has at the moment over 150 registrations. More information on this event can be seen here:

<https://www.i3s.up.pt/event.php?v=167>

**29 APRIL 2021  
ONLINE**

**MORE INFORMATION**  
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**I3S**  
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UNIVERSIDADE  
DO PORTO

**INTERNATIONAL  
IMMUNOLOGY DAY**  
**Advances on the  
Immune Responses  
during COVID-19**

**SPEAKERS:**  
Frank van de Veldenk, *Radboud umc,  
The Netherlands*  
Ricardo Silvestre, *ICVS, Portugal*  
Marc Veldhoen, *IMM, Portugal*  
Ana Espada de Sousa, *IMM, Portugal*

