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# Interview of the EuCARE partners

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## Q01

**Interviewer:** You are the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental (CHLO). Tell us a little bit about yourself. Why are you involved with CHLO and why is CHLO involved in this project?

**Cristina Toscano:** Thank you Mafalda for your question. Well, talking about **myself**, I'm a **medical doctor, head** of the **Microbiology Laboratory** of a **tertiary hospital** in **Lisbon**, the **CHLO** (Centro Hospitalar de Lisboa Ocidental). In **Portugal, Microbiologists** are **not clinicians** so, I'm at the **laboratory, not** at the **ward**. When the **pandemic** started, naturally nobody knew much about the disease, and I was very much **involved** in **diagnosis** of **SARS-CoV-2** and much in **touch** with **clinicians**, dialoguing about **test results and their interpretation**. That gave me a lot of **experience** on **COVID-19 diagnosis**, and that was **why** I was **contacted** to **participate** on the **EuCARE project**. When I presented this study to **my institution**, it's **importance** was immediately **recognized** and we all considered it was a **privilege** to **participate**. That's how it all begun.



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## Q02

**Interviewer:** Besides yourself, who else participates in this project from CHLO?

**Cristina Toscano:** Most participants are from the **Microbiology Laboratory** because there is a lot of **work** related to **samples** that are **collected** from **participants**. Several **medical doctors** participate in **data collection** of **hospitalized patients** and **technicians** participate in **sample collection, processing, storage** and **shipment** to central laboratories. **Medical doctors** from the **Occupational Health Service** participate in the **enrollment and data collection of health care workers (HCW)**. For the **long COVID cohort** (post-acute sequelae SARS-CoV-2 infection - **PASC**), patients are **recruited** at another **institution** by a **medical doctor** from that institution.

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## Q03

**Interviewer:** The final question: the EuCARE project is divided into eight workpackages (WP). In which ones is the CHLO involved and what has been done already?

**Cristina Toscano:** We **participate** in almost **all, except** in **WP4** that is about **schools** and **WP5** that is related to **artificial intelligence (AI)**. Most of the work done until **now** relates to **data and sample collection (WP3)** from **hospitalized** patients, **healthcare workers** (HCWs) and **PASC (long COVID)** patients. Also, I'm the **team leader** of the **HCWs cohort**. **Summarizing** what has already been **done**: we are at the **point** of **producing results based on clinical data uploaded** into the **database**, having also the **contribution of statisticians** and people from the **AI. Immunological studies** on samples are **beginning** now (**WP2**). We can say that there has been a great **commitment** from all **partners** and we are **confident** that our **goals** will be **accomplished**.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Cristina.

**Cristina Toscano:** Thank you very much!



If you want to know more about the  
EuCARE project or our partners

Contact us:

<https://eucareresearch.eu/contact-us/>

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