



## Champalimaud Foundation

*Champimóvel* arrives in Portugal; Champalimaud Foundation in Nature; General Council convenes in Lisbon



*Champimóvel, the 3D interactive experience that will bring the Future of Science to schools across Portugal and Spain.*

### Champalimaud Foundation begins novel scientific education initiative

On April 10th 2008 the future of science arrived in Portugal! For the first time ever children will be taken on the journey of a lifetime – an interactive tour through the human body. This is a journey like no other! The Champalimaud Foundation's "Champimóvel" is a 3-dimensional, interactive and moveable movie experience that will bring the world's most cutting-edge

medical science into the hearts and minds of children aged from 9 to 14. The host for this unforgettable ride, "Champi", guides the viewer through the body in order to witness many of the most relevant and contemporary issues in medical science such as stem cells, nanotechnology, DNA and gene therapy.

Champimóvel is one of the most unique concepts in science education and will awaken scientific curiosity in thousands of young people. As a 3-dimensional and interactive experience the students become

fully immersed in the workings of the human body on a microscopic level. Their discovery of the underlying scientific issues will be both natural and hugely enjoyable. Moreover, as a transportable roadshow, Champimóvel will bring science to children regardless of their school or area. Science is for everyone and the Champalimaud Foundation will celebrate this by taking this remarkable adventure throughout Portugal and Spain.

Portuguese children had their first glimpse of Champi on April 10<sup>th</sup> when Champimóvel was inaugurated in Lisbon. During this initial session, attended by members of the Foundation's General Council, thirty-five children from the Lisbon area experienced the exhilaration of travelling through the human body with Champi. Also during this session an accord was signed between the Champalimaud Foundation and the Ministry of Education to allow Champimóvel access to schools all over Portugal.

Following the launch in Lisbon, Champimóvel departed for the district of Vila Real where it will begin its tour of schools throughout the country.



With the creation of Champimóvel the Champalimaud Foundation is developing an educational programme that will aid the next generation of scientists and clinicians. There is no doubt that the wonders of science can capture the imagination at a very young age and the Foundation aims to sustain this curiosity and make science careers fashionable and attractive to young people. The Champalimaud Foundation intends to provide a wide range of educational facilities and resources in order to start tomorrow's scientists on a life-long voyage of discovery.

The voyage will begin in April when the first intrepid explorers join Champi on this incredible journey!



*Champi*

## **Nature report on the Champalimaud Foundation**

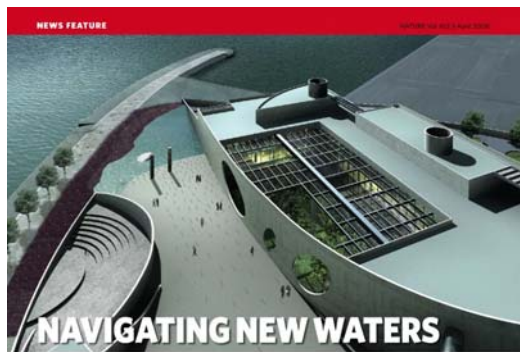
The April 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the leading science journal, Nature, featured a comprehensive report on the Champalimaud Foundation. Titled, "Navigating New Waters" the two page article was a tribute to the scale of the Foundation's ambitions. The report focused on the principal objectives of the Champalimaud Foundation and featured interviews with Leonor Beleza, President of the Foundation, António Coutinho, Member of the General Council, and Zachary Mainen, Principal Investigator in the CF Neuroscience Programme.

The report, written by Alison Abbot, Nature's senior European correspondent, gives a brief history of the Foundation. Taking the reader back to the very first days of the organisation it outlines the motivation behind the choice of scientific activities. The plans and decision making that led to the commission of the Champalimaud Foundation's planned research centre in Lisbon are also discussed.

The exposure gained from appearing in such a high profile journal will further improve the Champalimaud Foundation's standing in the

scientific community. And as Zachary Mainen says in his Nature interview, “this project will plant Portugal’s flag on the research map.” Professor Coutinho added, “this new institute [Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown] will make a huge difference to sciences in Portugal.”

The full article can be viewed on the Champalimaud Foundation’s website at <http://www.fchampalimaud.org/newsroom/detail/navigating-new-waters/>.



Portugal's spending on research is near the lowest in western Europe. Can a single-minded lady with half a billion euros change things, asks Alison Abbott.

These years ago, everyone seemed to want neuroscientist Zachary Mainen. Inside Farnam Research Center, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's prairie-gone-wild in Ashburn, Virginia, had just made a generous offer to recruit him and his frontier studies on decision-making. His current employer, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, made a more tempting counter offer. But it was a flimsy, unexciting proposal that he couldn't refuse. Even though the research center in question did not yet exist. And even though it was in Portugal.

Never in his most fanciful moments had Mainen imagined shifting his career to this small, relatively poor corner of Europe. Yet last July he became one of the first scientists to be signed up by the Champalimaud Foundation Research Centre in Lisbon. When completed in 2010, the centre will be the most grandiose and expensive life sciences research project the country has ever seen.

The architect has been master-minded almost single-handedly by a force of lady named Anneu Helena. Helena knew little about science until 2004, when she founded her own named president of a half-billion euro endowment for biomedicine left by Portugal's richest man, Antonio de Gusmão Champalimaud, in

his death. Helena spent a year or so consulting with the world's scientific elite before deciding how to spend it — literally, as it turned out. The Champalimaud Foundation Research Centre will have everything money can buy: a striking US\$120 million building designed by renowned architects, top-of-the-range equipment and at least 300 scientists. It will also have a waterfront location on the very spot from which Vasco da Gama and other fifteenth-century navigators departed to discover the unknown world.

What convinced Mainen to move there was the opportunity to pursue his research — on how animals use experience and sensory input to make decisions — in any direction he chose, and without undue pressure to secure additional funding. “We got the backing to be a world-class research institute,” he says from his temporary laboratory at the Gulbenkian Institute of Science in Oeiras, where he is working on the new building in Lisbon.

It is an bold a project as can be imagined in a country that for some time has had one of the lowest investments in science and research in the European Union outside the former communist member states. In the past few

**This new institute will make a huge difference to life sciences in Portugal.**  
— Antonio Coutinho

**Generous tycoon**

Champalimaud began building his Gulbenkian fortune in the 1930s with a cement factory. Portugal a dictatorship since 1926, was a friendly country for the determined capitalist at the time. But after the 1974 Carnation revolution, the new secular regime forced Champalimaud nearly penniless into exile. Undaunted, he rebuilt his wealth in Brazil and, with the restoration of Portugal's democracy, Champalimaud was able to return home in 1992 and buy back many of his former companies.

renown. In addition to his political career he is held in high esteem in the field of academia and has previously held the position of Professor of Political Science at the University of São Paulo. He is currently a member of the Institute of Advanced Study at Princeton University and an honorary foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Since leaving public office, Professor Cardoso has dedicated much of his time to the institute in Brazil which bears his name.



Fernando Henrique Cardoso (right) with Simone Veil during the meeting of the General Council

Fernando Henrique Cardoso brings a wealth of international experience to the Champalimaud Foundation’s General Council. He stressed his enthusiasm for his new position by saying that, “the Foundation will have an important role and be a centre of reference in both its own research programmes, and also in the stimulation of researchers and scientists around the world”

Simone Veil (pictured above), former French Minister of Health and President of the European Parliament, was also present as a Member of the General Council. Ms. Veil had been in Lisbon also the previous week, on April 1<sup>st</sup>, to receive the 2008 North-South Prize at the Portuguese Parliament. This was awarded jointly with Kofi Annan in recognition for their outstanding work in the fields of human rights and the upholding of democracy.

[www.fchampalimaud.org](http://www.fchampalimaud.org)

## General Council meets in Lisbon

This year’s first meeting of the Champalimaud Foundation’s General Council took place in Lisbon on April 10<sup>th</sup>. An eventful five months had passed since the previous meeting and the Council took the opportunity to discuss this as well as looking forward to the next period of Foundation activity.

All members of the Council were in attendance and the occasion was marked by the first appearance of Fernando Henrique Cardoso at a General Council meeting.

Professor Cardoso, former President of Brazil who was appointed to the Council in 2007, is an international figure of great