



## Champalimaud Foundation

### ***Prime Minister of Portugal launches work on the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown at an historic ceremony in Lisbon***



***Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates, lays the first stone of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown with Leonor Beleza, President of the Champalimaud Foundation***

#### **Construction begins on multidisciplinary centre of translational research**

October 5th 2008 marked an historic occasion not only for the nation of Portugal but also for the Champalimaud Foundation. As Portugal commemorated the anniversary of the creation of the

Portuguese republic, work began on the Champalimaud Foundation's new centre for cutting-edge translational research.

At an historic ceremony held in Lisbon the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates, laid the first brick of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown. Prime Minister Sócrates said that "this centre will be a Portuguese Centre that hosts scientists from all over the world" and he went on to

affirm that “this project will fill Portuguese people with pride.” Also in attendance at this symbolic event were the Minister of Health, Ana Jorge, the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Mariano Gago, the Minister of Public Works, Mário Lina, the President of the Municipal Council of Lisbon, António Costa, and the Indian architect, Charles Correa, who designed this state-of-the-art facility.

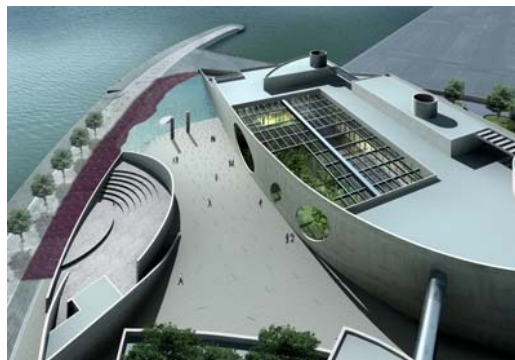


***From right: Prime Minister, José Sócrates, Minister of Science, Mariano Gago, Minister of Public Works, Mário Lina, and Indian architect, Charles Correa***

The Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, comprising 60,000m<sup>2</sup>, will be a multidisciplinary centre for translational research, focusing on the fields of neuroscience and cancer research. The centre will include laboratories for basic and clinical research, an ambulatory care centre, a vivarium, an auditorium, conference rooms and other teaching facilities and also an exhibition area. The state of the art facilities for basic and clinical research and for teaching will foster front line research in molecular biology, genetics, immunology, neurosciences and behaviour, and oncology, as well as post-graduate and doctorate programmes, and the diagnosis and treatment of neurological and cancer patients. The Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, which will be based in a historic location of Lisbon, will serve as a hotbed of scientific talent. The Centre will host outstanding facilities and conditions in order to attract the best researcher, clinicians and doctors from Portugal and around the world.

The Centre, itself, will comprise 3 buildings: Building A will house the diagnostic and treatment units in the lower levels and the basic research laboratories in the upper levels. Building B will host the Auditorium, the Exhibition Area, and a Restaurant on

the entrance level, and on the upper level the offices of the Champalimaud Foundation that are connected to building A by an elegant glass bridge. Finally, Building C is an open air amphitheatre, facing the river.



In order to honour the historical relevance of the site and to promote the relationship of the citizens with the sea and the “unknown”, the Champalimaud Centre will allow free access of the public to the waterfront through wide landscaped areas around its buildings.



***Prime Minister, José Sócrates, lifts the first brick of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown.***

The project of the Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown expresses the objectives of fostering scientific excellence and of celebrating the historic maritime Portuguese “discoveries”. The Centre will open on October 5th 2010 to coincide with the centenary celebrations of the Portuguese Republic in what will be a significant day in remembering Portugal’s past and looking forward to its bright scientific future.