

Invited Chairs



CHAIR CGD - MARINE STUDIES

The region of Aveiro has a strong maritime culture and tradition due to its natural conditions, namely, its lagoon, coastline and sea. Being the University of Aveiro (UA) an institution highly committed with the region, its socio and economic development, the coastal, marine and maritime research has become a foremost topic within the UA. In order to reinforce the development and impact of this scientific area, several measures have been implemented by UA in the recent years. In 2010, the Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) and the UA signed the memorandum of understanding that established a Chair dedicated to marine studies - the Chair CGD - Marine Studies.

With the implementation of this Chair, both institutions expect to reinforce the scientific knowledge on marine sciences, by strengthening internal synergies between the existing research areas in UA and by creating opportunities to align the undertaken research with the regional, national and international priorities in this area and, thus, to contribute to the valorization and preservation of marine resources, to support policy makers and to develop the maritime economy.

The official presentation of the Chair CGD-Marine Studies, attributed to Professor Graham John Pierce, occurred last February 22 and counted with the interventions of Professor Manuel António Assunção, the Rector of UA, and Dr. Rui Soares, Representative of the CGD.

Professor Graham John Pierce concluded his PhD in 1985, in the University of Aberdeen, UK, with the thesis "The foraging behaviour of the common shrew *Sorex araneus*". He is a Full Professor at the School of Biological Sciences of the University of Aberdeen and one of the leading experts in Marine Biology and Fisheries. Professor Graham Pierce develops his research mainly in marine biology and fisheries, particularly on the biology and ecology of marine mammals and cephalopods, but also on biodiversity, coastal zone management, and modelling habitat use in marine animals. The geographical focus of his work includes Scottish waters, the Iberian Peninsula, the Mediterranean and the SW Atlantic.



CHAIR NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORK - TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The history of the scientific area of telecommunications in the University of Aveiro (UA) starts with the history of the University itself. The educational and scientific activities of our University began, in 1974, with the course of Telecommunications with its first 46 students. The UA, a new university "stuck" between two great national universities like Porto and Coimbra, needs to make an extra effort to affirm itself in the national and international plans. In this sense, since the very beginning, the focus is to create and develop innovative areas, not explored by the traditional higher education institutions, and that match with the regional and national productive structure. This scientific field has a great importance within UA and is one of the foremost recognized scientific areas in the international plan.

In 2008, the UA, together with the National Foundation for Science and Technology and the Nokia Siemens Networks, Portugal SA, signed a memorandum of understanding that established a Chair dedicated to the telecommunications field with the aim of promoting emerging areas of knowledge and fostering the growth of research and development activities and advanced education in fields of common interest both to the UA and to NSN, as it is the optical networking and the high speed optical communications for access and core networks areas.

The Chair NSN was attributed to Professor Gokhan Sahin, an Associate Professor of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department of the Miami University, Oxford Ohio, EUA, at the time of the selection. Professor Gokhan Sahin concluded his Ph.D. in 2001, in the University of Washington, Seattle, with the thesis "Service and restoration routing and wavelength assignment, and restoration signaling in optical networks". His research interests are in computer and communication networks, with a focus on optical and quantum communications, sensor and wireless networks, and network security. Professor Sahin's inventions are currently used in DARPA CORONET, a major American initiative aiming to design the next generation Internet, by a consortium consisting of Telcordia, AT&T, Nortel, and USC.

