

Research Summit 2021





Under the theme “Art, Science and Innovation in times of trouble”, the 4th edition of the Research Summit brought the UA's research community together! The event was attended by over 800 participants during 3 days, including an on-site session with the presence of invited speakers and all UA's Research Units and 2 more days with online presentations from students.

The Rector, Paulo Jorge Ferreira, and the Vice-rector for Research, Innovation and 3rd Cycle, Artur Silva, opened the summit on Wednesday, emphasizing the Research Summit's aim to increase collaboration, moving the state-of-art further and boosting on-campus research. The opening session was followed by the intervention of Catarina Resende de Oliveira, President of AICIB – Agência de Investigação Clínica e Inovação Biomédica, presenting her vision on current health challenges, particularly in the context of clinical academic centers. The morning session continued with the first presentations by the Research Units, aiming at fostering the inter-and transdisciplinary work among UA researchers, after which naturally contacts among researchers with mutual interests established. The program included a roundtable, moderated by the Vice-Rector Artur Silva, discussing the research challenges in post-pandemic times, gathering contributions from researchers Carlos Jalali, João Rocha, Manuel Santos, Sandra Soares, Susana Sardo and Susana Sargento. The afternoon session started with the intervention of Stephon Alexander, from Brown University, USA, entitled “The Jazz of Physics: The Link Between Music and The Structure of the Universe”, supported by the American Corner (SBIDM-UA). In this talk, Alexander revisited the interconnection between music and the evolution of astrophysics and the laws of motion. He explored new ways music, in particular jazz music, mirrors modern physics, such as quantum mechanics, general relativity, and the physics of the early universe. Finally, he discussed ways that innovations in physics have been and can be inspired from “improvisational logic” exemplified in Jazz performance and practice. The lecture was followed by more presentations of UA's Research Units, completing the interventions on themes such as environment, epidemics control, public health, technology and music, among others. For the closing session of day 1, the Portuguese Minister of Health, Marta Temido, addressed the participants with a message of acknowledgment regarding UA's research contribution towards the pandemic challenges. Day 2 and 3 were highly attended, with over 800 intervenients, along the 7 simultaneous rooms each day, with 50 doctoral programs, more than 700 PhD students and 75 professors involved in the jury, as all pitches were evaluated by a jury.

For a 2nd edition, the program PIIC-UA (Scientific Research Incentive Program) was part of the presentation sessions. Around 50 students pitched the activities developed under this initiative to promote their enrolment in science during the 1st and 2nd cycle of training.