

Research Summit 2024



Under the theme “50 Years of Research at UAveiro: Challenges for the future”, the latest edition of the Research Summit celebrated half century of University of Aveiro’s history and challenged the participants to discuss the future.

The Research Summit 2024 served as a forum to foster important debates among UA’s research community and to enhance collaboration, advancing the state of the art and boosting research efforts on campus.

With a wider program planned for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary, 6 UAveiro commissioners were invited to organize sessions on 6 topics: Materials and Energy, Information, Communication and Microelectronics, Environment and Ocean, Health and Society, Music and digital cultures and Education for the XXI Century.

The first day started with the session on Materials and Energy, chaired by Luís Carlos (Physics Department), in which themes such as innovative approaches to energy harvesting and storage, sustainability in energy solutions, and the role of materials in human evolution were explored. Invited speakers were Maria Helena Braga (Department of Physical Engineering, University of Porto), Fátima Montemor (Department of Chemical Engineering, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon) and João Rocha (Department of Chemistry, University of Aveiro).

During the session on Information, Communication, and Microelectronics, chaired by Armando Pinho (Department of Electronics, Telecommunications and Informatics), discussions centered on Europe’s role in the global data economy, fostering talent for

technological relevance, the implications of the AI era on technological independence and digitalization with purpose. Invited speakers were Hubert Tardieu (Independent Board Member of Gaia-X), José Epifânio da Franca (Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon), Paulo Novais (Centro ALGORITMI/ LASI, University of Minho) and Mário Campolargo (Former Secretary of State for Digitalisation and Administrative Modernisation).

In the afternoon, sessions started with the discussion on Environment and Ocean, chaired by Helena Vieira (Department of Environment and Planning), featuring perspectives on marine and environmental research at UAveiro, the EU's "Healthy Planet" initiative, and the future of ocean science and blue economy and biotechnology. Invited speakers were Henrique Queiroga (Department of Biology & CESAM, University of Aveiro), John Bell (EU Commission's "Healthy Planet" Director, DG-RTD, Belgium), Margaret Leinen (Vice Chancellor for Marine Science, USCS & Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, USA), Vitor Vasconcelos (Full Professor and Director CIIMAR, UPorto), Tânia Vinagre (Senior Project Manager, Blue Biotech Project, SFMS & Oceano Azul Foundation) and António Baldaque da Silva (Executive Director of the Center for Sustainable Finance, Professor at CATÓLICA-LISBON).

The session on Health and Society followed, chaired by Alda Marques (Aveiro School of Health), with topics on the "One Health" approach to disease control, personalized medicine, and the impact of immersive technologies and robotics on rehabilitation. Invited speakers were (Júlio Pedrosa, former Rector of the University of Aveiro), Raquel Duarte (Centro de Saúde Pública Doutor Gonçalves Ferreira, Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA) & Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar, University of Porto), and Martijn Spruit (Center of expertise for chronic organ failure (CIRO) & Maastricht University, Netherlands).

On the second day, the first session was dedicated to Music and Digital Cultures. Chaired by Susana Sardo (Department of Communication and Arts), the discussion delved into the intersection of music and digital cultures, exploring how digital technologies influence musical practices and cultural expressions. Invited speakers were Miguel A. García (University of Buenos Aires, Argentina), David Trippet (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom), Mónica Mendes (Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lisbon), Miguel Castelo-Branco (University of Coimbra) and João Teixeira Lopes (University of Porto).

The session on Education for the XXI Century followed, chaired by Ana Rodrigues (Department of Economics, Management, Industrial Engineering and Tourism). Discussions focused on the evolution of education in the 21st century, addressing challenges and opportunities in modern educational practices. Invited speakers were Isabel P. Martins (Department of Education and Psychology, University of Aveiro), Luís Sebastião (Department of Pedagogy and Education, Universidade de Évora), Ana Maria Gonçalves Matos (School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and Neuza Pedro (Instituto de Educação da Universidade de Lisboa).

In the afternoon, the research units of the UAveiro had the opportunity to present their forward-looking trans/inter/multidisciplinary research activities, shaping future research paths and showcasing advances in their field.

Over the two subsequent days, PhD students, as well as first and second cycle students, presented their research, fostering an environment of knowledge exchange and collaboration. The event included the final roundtable "From PhD to...", during which invited speakers discussed their academic and professional pathways after concluding their doctoral studies: Francisco Santos (Vice-president of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology), Pedro Ribeiro (Vice-president of Bosch Thermotechnologies), Tiago Brandão Rodrigues (Minister of education of the XXI and XXII governments) and Vera Eiró (President of the water and waste services regulation authority (ERSAR)).

A "Best Communication Award" was presented at the end of the summit to recognize outstanding presentations.

The Research Summit 2024 at the University of Aveiro successfully brought together a diverse community of researchers, students, and experts to reflect on the past 50 years of research at the institution and to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the future. Through a series of plenary sessions, thematic panels, and student presentations, the event highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and the role of research in addressing global challenges.