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Neuroprotection and Neurogenesis in Brain Repair
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**Research Activity**

Currently an investigator in the team of Dr. Joao Malva at the centre for neuroscience and cellular biology (CNC) of Coimbra, I have developed, since October 2005, a new thematic of research on stem cells, derived from the subventricular zone of mice, and brain repair. During the first year of my postdoc, Dr. Bernardino, Dr. Malva and I developed a technique allowing the functional identification of neurons, glia and immature cells in SVZ cell cultures. This method was then used to characterize the effects of the neuropeptide Y (NPY) and the tumour necrosis-alpha (TNF- α) on SVZ neurogenesis. We are now working on the development of a similar method allowing the functional identification of SVZ-derived oligodendrocytes. Sofia Grade, a PhD student, is working on this project under my co-supervision.

Since February 2008, I am developing a new project aiming at elucidating the interplay between angiogenesis and neuro/gliogenesis in the SVZ of the intact and the injured mouse brain, in order to design new brain repair strategies based on stimulating neuro/gliogenesis and subsequent cell replacement by modulation of angiogenesis. Alexandra Rosa, a PhD student, is working on this project under my co-supervision.