

José Pereira Leal

Scientist-Entrepreneur | Precision Diagnostics|EU-GCC Health Strategy
 From Diagnostic Discovery to Real-World Impact

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SUMMARY: Scientist, entrepreneur, and institution-builder with 30 years of experience spanning precision diagnostics, biotechnology, health innovation, and health infrastructure. I am looking for the mandate where science and company-building need to come together. Founded Portugal's first clinical oncogenomics laboratory and subsequently led Ophiomics from concept to regulated diagnostics products, raising more than €8M in financing. Co-founder of HealthTech Qatar and contributor to multiple national innovation and infrastructure initiatives including ELIXIR/BioData.pt and P-BIO. Operating across Europe and the Gulf at the intersection of venture creation, capability building, ecosystem development, and healthcare transformation. Relocating to Barcelona in August 2026.

Expertise & Focus: Executive leader with a full-stack track record spanning scientific discovery, translational research, clinical laboratory operations, IVD development, regulatory strategy, fundraising and commercial deployment. Built and scaled successive diagnostics ventures and national scientific infrastructure initiatives. Cross-border operator connecting European biomedical expertise, venture creation and health innovation ecosystems with Gulf healthcare and industrial development priorities. Author of Precision Diagnostics: A Founder's Journey and the forthcoming The Import Condition: Diagnostics, Sovereignty and the Gulf's Industrial Moment (2026).



KEY SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Core Competencies

- Precision Medicine & IVD Strategy
- AI/ML in Biomedical Innovation
- Translational Research & Clinical Validation
- Biotech Entrepreneurship & Fundraising (€8M+)
- Regulatory Affairs (CE, UKCA, ISO9001,ISO13485)
- Cross-Border Ecosystem Development (EU-GCC)
- Board Leadership & Governance
- Strategic Partnerships & Commercialization
- Digital Health & Data Strategy

EXPERIENCE

Managing Partner (Co-Founder)
 HealthTech Qatar (HTQ) | 2026 - Present

- HTQ is a health innovation platform connecting European biomedical expertise with Gulf health infrastructure, focused on venture creation, diagnostics and precision medicine.
- Leading strategy, institutional partnerships and investor relations. Transitioning operational leadership to focus on the Europe-Gulf strategic and partnering role.

Invited Associate Professor (Industry & Innovation)
 NOVA University Lisbon , Portugal | Jun 2026 - present

- Contribute to postgraduate education, executive training and innovation initiatives at the intersection of diagnostics, precision medicine and health technology entrepreneurship.

CEO, Chairman of the Board, Founder
 Ophiomics (V2.0), Lisbon, Portugal | 2020 - Dec 2025

- Founded and led a precision diagnostics company developing AI-enabled IVDs for liver medicine, securing €8M+ in financing including EIC Accelerator support.
- Led HepatoPredict from concept to CE and UKCA-marked product, establishing regulatory, clinical and commercial foundations for European market entry.
- Built the organisational, clinical, regulatory, and commercial capabilities required to translate molecular diagnostics from concept to market readiness.

Vice-President
 P-Bio, Cantanhede, Portugal | 2018 - Dec 2025

- Contributed to national biotechnology and diagnostics strategy, including BioHealth 2030 and the In Vitro Diagnostics Roadmap for Portugal, while supporting industry development, public-private collaboration, and ecosystem-building initiatives.

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SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

67 indexed scientific
publications (PubMed)

> 9550 citations

H Index = 39

i10 index = 57

EDUCATION

▷ M&A Success Strategies,
INSEAD, online 2024

▷ Advanced Program
Entrepreneurship and
Innovation Management
Univ. Católica, PT 2013

▷ PhD BioMedicine
(Bioinformatics)
Univ. of Porto, PT 2001

▷ BSc Biochemistry
Univ. of Lisbon, PT 1996

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE



EXPERIENCE (Cont.)

CEO, Founder

Ophiomics (V1.0), Lisbon, Portugal | 2015 – 2020

- Built Portugal's first clinical oncogenomics laboratory, pioneering liquid biopsy, comprehensive cancer genomics and microbiome-based diagnostics.
- Achieved operational break-even within three years, securing pharmaceutical, research and clinical service contracts.
- Developed and commercialised innovative genomics services, culminating in the acquisition of Ophiomics (V1.0) by the Germano de Sousa group and the subsequent creation of Ophiomics (V2.0).

Scientific Director

Healthcare City (Incubator/accelerator), Oeiras | 2016 – 2020

- Scouted, evaluated, and mentored health-tech startups; designed accelerator curriculum and supported business model development, technology validation, and investor readiness.

President of the Board, Founder

ELIXIR/BioData, Portugal | 2013 – 2021

- Co-founded and presided over ELIXIR/BioData Portugal, establishing national scientific infrastructure for biological data. Secured national and EU funding (€3M+) and drove the strategic integration of national infrastructure into broader European research networks.

Principal Investigator - Computational Genomics Laboratory

Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras | 2006 – 2018

- Led independent computational genomics research group with focus on cancer, evolution, drug-repositioning and multi-omics data integration, graduated 7 PhDs, published impactful research in diverse fields.

Director, Bioinformatics Unit

Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras | 2007 – 2016

- Built and managed a 5-person bioinformatics core facility; secured external funding, built computing infrastructure and provided training to researchers. Oversaw the development of crucial clinical and genomic databases for pathogens, directly supporting infectious disease research and national surveillance efforts. Supported projects in diverse scientific fields.

BOARD, ADVISORY & ECOSYSTEM LEADERSHIP

- Advisory Board Member: Provided strategic insight and guidance to diverse organizations (e.g., technology parks, research institutes, governmental bodies), shaping innovation strategy and ecosystem development.
- Mentor: Guided and supported dozens of early-stage ventures in leading startup incubators and international entrepreneurship programs, fostering innovation and talent development