

José Pereira Leal

Scientist-Entrepreneur | Precision Diagnostics & IVD Platforms |
EU-GCC Health Innovation

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SUMMARY: Scientist-entrepreneur, 30 years in precision diagnostics, genomics, IVD development. Founded and led Ophiomics from concept to CE-marked product and €8M+ raised; built Portugal's first clinical oncogenomics laboratory. Currently Managing Partner at HealthTech Qatar, a private health innovation platform for the GCC. Operating across the EU-Gulf axis with active institutional relationships in Qatar, Portugal, and Spain. Relocating to Barcelona in August 2026; open to CEO and executive roles in precision diagnostics, IVD platforms, and investment-backed healthtech ventures.

Expertise & Focus: Executive leader with a full-stack track record across the IVD development cycle, translational research, clinical validation, regulatory strategy, fundraising, and commercial deployment. Built and scaled two successive diagnostics ventures; currently developing cross-border health innovation venture in the GCC. Cross-border operator connecting European biomedical expertise with Gulf health infrastructure. 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, FDA Submissions)
- Cross-Border Ecosystem Development (EU-GCC)
- Board Leadership & Governance
- Strategic Partnerships & Commercialization
- Digital Health & Data Strategy



EXPERIENCE

CEO, Chairman of the Board, Founder

Ophiomics (V2.0), Lisbon, Portugal | 2020 - Dec 2025

- Founded and lead a medtech company specializing in AI-driven IVDs for precision liver medicine.
- Secured €8M+ in seed and Series A funding; awarded EIC Accelerator grant.
- Brought HepatoPredict from concept to market readiness in under 2 years; leading global business development and European market entry.
- Recruited, led, and mentored a 15-person cross-functional team (science, engineering, clinical, regulatory, medical) to deliver novel diagnostic solutions.
- Forged 20+ strategic partnerships with key academic institutions and industry leaders, enhancing R&D capabilities and market reach.
- Successfully navigated complex regulatory pathways, securing CE and UKCA marking for HepatoPredict, with initial FDA pre-submissions

CEO, Founder

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

- Pioneered and launched innovative diagnostics in Portugal, including oncogenomics (liquid biopsy, comprehensive cancer panels) and lifestyle genomics (GutHealth microbiome panel), from a newly established clinical laboratory, securing initial market traction.
- Achieved operational break-even within 3 years; diversified business and established key industry collaborations, securing Pharma research and service contracts.
- Strategically conceptualized and drove R&D for next-generation AI and genomics products, culminating in the successful sale of the Ophiomics (V1.0) business to the Germano de Sousa group and the subsequent inception and seed funding of Ophiomics (V2.0).

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SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

67 indexed scientific
publications (PubMed)

> 9500 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.)

Scientific Director

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

- Scouted, evaluated, and mentored health-tech startups; designed and taught accelerator curriculum. Supported startups in business model development, technology/clinical 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, graduating 7 PhDs across diverse scientific fields, publishing 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

- Vice-President, industry association (P-Bio, since 2018): Co-authored and championed national biotech strategy (IVD sector, BioHealth 2030), simultaneously launching and expanding key industry programs (startup mentorship, awards, BioMeet conference) and fostering cross-sector partnerships
- President of the Board ELIXIR/BioData.pt, national data infrastructure, driving strategic definition, implementation, and ensuring future sustainability
- 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