



ANA GRENHA

DEVELOPED A TECHNOLOGY THAT WON AN HONORABLE MENTION AT THE TECH2MARKET AWARDS PROMOTED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ALGARVE. CONGRATS!

Ana Grenha is a senior researcher at CCMAR who works on drug delivery strategies.

Tell us more about your technology.

It's related to the treatment of tuberculosis. It consists of a carrier, composed of polysaccharide microparticles, that contains the drugs used to treat this disease and it can be inhaled by the patient. These microparticles have high affinity for the host cells of the bacterium that causes tuberculosis - the alveolar macrophages. Upon inhalation, the microparticles enter the patient's lungs, where they will be phagocytosed (digested) by those alveolar macrophages. This way, they can release the drugs that they transport directly into the infection site.

What is the potential of this technology?

It will improve therapeutic efficacy and possibly reduce the doses and duration of the tuberculosis treatment, reducing side effects and improving patient adherence to treatment.

What opportunities does this award bring?

It will continue the product patenting process, which began in 2015, give more visibility to the product and potentially find an interested party to continue the study and for future marketing.