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National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training

INTERVIEW WITH

Letícia Martins Mota

From PhD student at NIBRT to a Process Development Scientist at APC (*September 2017-February 2022*)

Dr Leticia Martins Mota with her PhD supervisor Prof Mike Butler at CHI Bioprocessing Summit in Boston, August 2023.

Tell me about your role in NIBRT?

I was part of the Cell Technology Group under the supervision of Professor Michael Butler. As a PhD researcher, my role was diverse and encompassed a range of responsibilities, primarily focusing on modifying the glycan profiles of antibodies produced in bioreactors to reduce heterogeneity.

My main tasks included.

- IgG glycan engineering
- Glycan characterization
- Antibody production and purification
- Investigation of IgG Biological Activity

I also carried out experimental design, data analysis, and clear scientific communication.

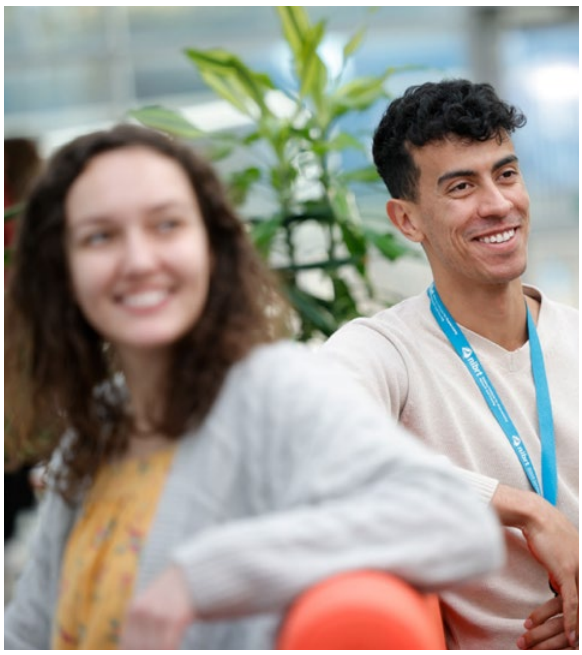
My NIBRT work garnered recognition at international conferences, where I won a presentation prize at Bioprocessing Summit Europe 2020.

NIBRT offered a cutting-edge facility that allowed me to engage with a range of cell lines for IgG production, operate diverse chromatography and bioassay equipment, pioneer glycoengineering methods, and analyze glycan profiles and IgG aggregation.

I benefited from multiple occasions to present my PhD work at various conferences. In this inspiring environment, I was immersed in a community of brilliant scientists with whom I engaged in high-level scientific discussions, receiving invaluable feedback that significantly enriched my PhD research.

What is your current role?

I have taken a role as a Bioprocess Development Scientist at APC LTD. In this capacity, I am deeply immersed in various projects dedicated to downstream process development and investigation. My responsibilities encompass both the creation of innovative purification processes and the application of established methods to protein purification.



Would you recommend NIBRT as a place to work?

I wholeheartedly recommend NIBRT as an exceptional place to work. My experience there was incredibly enriching, providing me with numerous opportunities to learn, develop professionally, and contribute to groundbreaking research in the bioprocessing field. The state-of-the-art facilities, and collaborative atmosphere foster an environment that nurtures both personal growth and impactful scientific contributions. NIBRT's commitment to advancing biopharmaceutical research and training is unparalleled, making it a remarkable institution for anyone seeking to excel in their career and make a meaningful impact on the biopharmaceutical industry.

What are your career aspirations?

My career aspirations involve leveraging the knowledge and skills I gained during my PhD at NIBRT to continue making meaningful contributions in the biopharmaceutical field. Ultimately, my goal is to contribute to the delivery of safe and effective biopharmaceuticals to patients while maintaining a spirit of innovation and continuous learning.

To find out more about careers at NIBRT go to;

https://www.nibrt.ie/careers/

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