

## Prof. Ana Paula PEGO

Plenary Lecture: **Targeting neurons overcoming extra and intracellular barriers with biomaterial-based vectors to promote neuroprotection and neuroregeneration**

*INEB - Instituto de Engenharia Biomédica, Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

*i3S – Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

*Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar, Universidade do Porto, Portugal*

*Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, Portugal*



**Ana Paula Pêgo** got her Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry and Biomaterials from the University of Twente, the Netherlands, in 2002. In 2003 she became a researcher at INEB where she is a Principal Investigator since 2012.

By using nanomedicine strategies her group – the nanoBiomaterials for Targeted Therapies (nBTT) Group - aims at providing in situ and in a targeted manner the required signals to promote nervous tissue regeneration. The research on new biomaterials for application in neurosciences includes the development of new polymers for the design of alternative vectors to viruses for efficient nucleic acid delivery and preparation of nerve grafts for spinal cord injury

treatment. Societal and ethical issues that concern Regenerative Medicine and NanoMedicine are also a topic in which Ana Pêgo is involved.

She has been appointed the Scientific Director of the Bioimaging Centre for Biomaterials and Regenerative Therapies of INEB and she is an Invited Associate Professor at the Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar (ICBAS) and at the Faculty of Engineering (FEUP) of the University of Porto.

Since 2015, Prof Ana Pego is a member elected from the European Society for Biomaterials, currently being the ESB Secretary

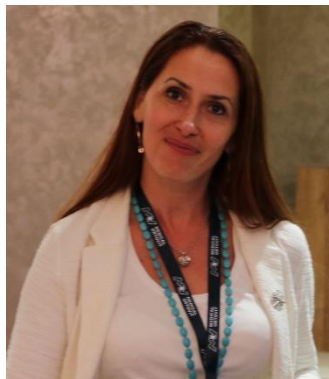
## Prof. Izabela Cristina STANCU

Plenary Lecture: **Naturally-derived hydrogels and nanocomposites as building blocks of scaffolds for tissue regeneration**

*The Advanced Polymer Materials Group - Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania*

*Faculty of Medical Engineering, University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania*

*Department of Bioresources and Polymer Science - Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science, University Politehnica of Bucharest, Romania*



With her PhD in Chemistry from University Politehnica of Bucharest and her PhD in Biological and Medical Engineering from University of Angers, **Izabela Stancu** (France) is full professor and vice dean of the Faculty of Medical Engineering at University Politehnica of Bucharest. She is an experienced principal investigator of R&D including all aspects of scaffolds design and development from concept to pre-clinical trials, with 14 years high-level interdisciplinary post-doctoral experience (in Romania and abroad) in biointeractions and advanced polymer materials mainly focused on polymer-based biomaterials and nanomaterials for tissue regeneration. Research interests span from the

synthesis of bioinspired | biomimetic polymer-based biomaterials and the engineering of biomaterial surfaces to the stimulation and assessment of biointeractions with cells and simulated physiological media. She has extensive skills in hydrogels, biofunctionalization and optimization of interactions between nanostructures (often in situ synthesized) and host macromolecular matrix, porous scaffolds, smart biomaterials, nanoparticles. Izabela Stancu is involved in the development and expansion of new research laboratories at UPB, as technical responsible of the INOVABIOMED structural funds project, including the Laboratory of Nanostructured Surfaces Engineering and Biomimetism. She served as Secretary of the Young Scientists Forum @ The European Society for Biomaterials, as Vice President of The Romanian Society for Biomaterials and Member of the Julia Polak European Doctorate Award – Education Committee.