

## UFMG is Brazil's Best Federal University

On March 28th, The Brazilian National Institute on Research Education Anísio Teixeira (INEP) announced Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) as Brazil's best Federal University. This award is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our researchers, faculty members, non-academic staff and students. The award recognises the university's commitment to research excellence, demonstrated through the significant number of publications, patents, and grants obtained in recent years. Our researchers have tackled pressing challenges facing society, addressing global health issues and making significant contributions to advancing knowledge in their respective fields.

We take pride in our research culture, which encourages collaboration, innovation, and academic freedom. UFMG is constantly investing in new initiatives and partnerships to advance its research agenda. This award is a testament to the caliber of our research programs and the exceptional talent of our faculty, researchers, staff and students. We are honored to receive this recognition and will continue to strive for excellence in education and research as we contribute to the betterment of society through knowledge creation and dissemination.



Picture: Lucas Braga: UFMG

## Summer School on Human Rights

The Association of Montevideo Group of Universities (AUGM) and The Federal University of Minas Gerais hosted the third edition of the Summer School on Human Rights in February. The program included lectures, workshops and seminars exploring the topic's relevance to contemporary issues and the challenges it faces today. Professors from AUGM's Chair on Human Rights addressed issues like gender equality and race, democracy, people with disabilities and special needs, deprivation of liberty and public security. According to Professor Sandra Goulart de Almeida, AUGM's president, it is essential to educate people on the issue of Human Rights. She stressed that "universities have a particular role in raising people's awareness about their rights and feeling empowered not to let anyone violate them." Students from different courses and places attended the course, and this diversity enriched their experience in this year's Summer School.



Picture: Foca Lisboa

## UFMG researchers at Oxford University for an exchange visit

A delegation, including UFMG's Research Dean, Fernando Reis, and the researchers: Ana Paula Fernandes, Helton Santiago, Caroline Junqueira and Santuza Teixeira from UFMG's vaccine center (CTVacinas), visited Oxford University at the beginning of 2023. The aim of the visit was to meet the researchers responsible for the first immunising against COVID-19 authorized in Brazil, the Oxford/AstraZeneca. The group had the opportunity to learn in one of the few academic places in the world where there is a laboratory authorised to produce vaccines for clinical trials. Caroline Junqueira, associate researcher and one of the founders of CTVacinas, explains that in Oxford, they have a Good Manufacturing Practice Lab (GMP) to produce vaccines for phases 1 and 2 of clinical trials. This is commonly the case in the Pharmaceutical industry that produces on a large scale. The group also engaged in dialogues with members of the academic staff to discuss possibilities involving teaching collaboration in postgraduate programs from UFMG's Medical School. This visit was important for

establishing links with Oxford researchers and proved to be a step further in transforming UFMG's CTVacinas into a National Center of Vaccines under construction in UFMG's Technological Park.



Source: <http://www.ctvacinas.ufmg.br/>

### UFMG's researchers in a global platform

Professor Deborah Carvalho Malta was recognised by the website research.com as one of the top scientists in the world. The platform ranks researchers by considering the impact and the number of citations in studies related to specific fields. The main aim of the platform is to serve as an inspiration to women who want to start their academic careers. Dr. Deborah holds a teaching position at UFMG's Nursing School, where she researches Non-Transmissible Chronic Diseases. She explains that initiatives like this one are essential for inspiring young scientists, particularly women who usually face adverse conditions in their academic life. She observes that "we live in a competitive society that values male work over the work done by a woman. Thus, to see the efforts of a woman being celebrated is a joy".



Source: <https://www.hojeemdia.com.br>

## Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)

Another member of our academic staff made headlines in the academic field. It is with pride that we announce that Professor Eufrânio Nunes da Silva Júnior from our Chemistry Department is now a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC). The RSC was founded in 1841 and concedes the title of fellow to its members who have made significant contributions to the advancement of chemistry. Dr. Eufrânio is a researcher in the area of organic chemistry, concentrating on electrochemistry, organocatalysis, homogeneous and heterogeneous catalysis, and nanocatalysis. Currently, he is involved in researching the synthesis of molecules with the potential to become a medicine against *Trypanosoma cruzi* which causes Chagas disease and projects related to clean energy. He explains that "fellows are expected to work to consolidate the foundations of a better science, more diverse, friendly and collaborative. "We are incredibly proud of our researchers for their dedication and contribution to their research fields and we will continue to support them, ensuring our researchers have the resources they need to carry out their work.



Picture: personal archive

## UFMG's students international experience

Following the steps of our academics, UFMG students are also in the spotlight. Pedro Lucas, undergraduate student from our Law School, was among the few Brazilian students selected to participate in this year's Summer Program Study in the United States. He has been approved to study in the Institute for Global Student Leaders on Climate Change and the Environment (SUSI). This program aims to promote scientific and cultural exchange between the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais and the United States of America giving students the opportunity to have an international experience at the University of Nevada. During this period the student will have classes and engage in academic activities related to the issue of climate change. Lucas is excited with the opportunity that, according to him, will contribute to his future career.



Picture: personal archive

## UFMG's PhD student selected to meet former Nobel Prize winners

Thomaz Pinotti Barbosa, UFMG's PhD student was selected to join a group of international young researchers that will meet and interview former Nobel Prize winners. Usually the program encompasses Medicine, Chemistry and Physics, and this year the discussions will revolve around the Nobel Prize of Medicine. Thomaz is currently doing part of his research in the University of Copenhagen on Genetic studies in a cotutelle modality. He is supervised by Professor Fabrício Rodrigues dos Santos who works in the Department of Genetics, Ecology and Evolution at the Institute of Biological Sciences and also by Professor Eske Willerslev from the University of Copenhagen. Since his Master's degree, Thomaz has been studying the genetic history of native American population, particularly those of South America using ancient DNA to understand what happened before 1492, when the Europeans arrived in the region. According to Thomaz, participating in this event with former Nobel laureates is a unique opportunity to gain invaluable insights from researchers who are references in science. For sure, this experience has the potential to inspire the next generation of scientists in their respective fields.



Picture: personal archive

**Our mailing address is:**

[ufmggoesglobal@dri.ufmg.br](mailto:ufmggoesglobal@dri.ufmg.br)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

[Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais](#) - Office of International Affairs

Av. Antônio Carlos, 6627, 31270901 Belo Horizonte - Tel.: +553134095550