

José Pereira Leal

Scientist-Entrepreneur-Executive | Precision Diagnostics | EU-Gulf
 From Diagnostic Discovery to Real-World Impact

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PROFILE

Scientist, entrepreneur and executive with 30 years of experience across precision diagnostics, biotechnology and health innovation. Founded Portugal's first clinical oncogenomics laboratory and subsequently led Ophiomics from concept to regulated diagnostic products, securing more than €8 million in financing. Experience spans scientific discovery, algorithm development, clinical laboratory operations, IVD + AI product development, validation, regulation, fundraising and commercial deployment.

Combines company-building experience with investment assessment and institutional strategy: leading diagnostics businesses, evaluating opportunities and developing the clinical, industrial and policy capabilities needed to translate promising science into real-world impact. Co-founder of HealthTech Qatar and contributor to national scientific infrastructure and biotechnology initiatives, including ELIXIR/BioData.pt (national data infrastructure) and P-BIO (Industry Association). Based in Barcelona, with experience across Europe and the Gulf. Author of 'Precision Diagnostics: A Founder's Journey' and of the forthcoming 'The Import Condition: Diagnostics, Sovereignty and the Gulf's Industrial Moment'.



KEY SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Core Competencies

- Company Leadership & Venture Development
- Precision Medicine & IVD Strategy
- AI/ML in Biomedical Innovation
- Translational Research & Clinical Validation
- Diagnostics Investment Assessment & Fundraising
- Regulatory Strategy & Quality Systems
- Board Leadership & Governance
- Strategic Partnerships & Commercial Development
- Diagnostics Policy & Sovereignty
- EU-Gulf Partnerships & Capability Development

EXPERIENCE

Co-Founder

HealthTech Qatar (HTQ) | 2026 – Present

- Developing a Europe-Gulf health-innovation platform focused on diagnostics, medtech and precision medicine, contributing to strategy and partnership development.

Invited Associate Professor (Industry & Innovation)

NOVA University Lisbon , Portugal | Jun 2026 – present

- Contribute to postgraduate education, executive training and innovation initiatives at the intersection of diagnostics, precision medicine and health technology entrepreneurship.

CEO, Chairman of the Board, Founder

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

- Founded and led a precision diagnostics company developing AI-enabled IVDs for liver medicine, securing €8M+ in financing including EIC Accelerator support.
- Led HepatoPredict from concept to CE and UKCA-marked product, establishing regulatory, clinical and commercial foundations for European market entry.
- Built the organisational, clinical, regulatory, and commercial capabilities required to translate molecular diagnostics from concept to market readiness.

Vice-President

P-Bio, Cantanhede, Portugal | 2018 – Dec 2025

- Contributed to national biotechnology and diagnostics strategy, including BioHealth 2030 and the In Vitro Diagnostics Roadmap for Portugal, while supporting industry development, public-private collaboration, and ecosystem-building initiatives.

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SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

67 indexed scientific
publications (PubMed)

> 9700 citations

H Index = 40

i10 index = 58

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.)

CEO, Founder

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

- Built Portugal's first clinical oncogenomics laboratory, pioneering liquid biopsy, comprehensive cancer genomics and microbiome-based diagnostics.
- Achieved operational break-even within three years, securing pharmaceutical, research and clinical service contracts.
- Developed and commercialised innovative genomics services, culminating in the acquisition of Ophiomics (V1.0) by the Germano de Sousa group and the subsequent creation of Ophiomics (V2.0).

Scientific Director

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

- Scouted, evaluated, and mentored health-tech startups; designed accelerator curriculum and supported business model development, technology 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, graduated 7 PhDs, published 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

- 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