



FERNANDO MENDES

- *Nominated for the position of IFBLS Board Director 2026-2028*
- *Interested in the position of IFBLS President-Elect*

ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PORTUGAL - Associação Portuguesa de Ciências Biomédicas Laboratoriais (BioMedLab)

SPECIAL PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS:

- ISCO
- Research in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences
- CPD
- Harmonization of Biomedical Laboratory Science Education

SUGGESTION(S) FOR FUTURE IFBLS ACTIVITIES AND HOW YOU PLAN TO DEVELOP EACH:

I stand before the global Biomedical Laboratory Science community with a deep sense of responsibility, humility, and purpose. My candidacy to the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science is not merely a professional ambition – it is a commitment rooted in over thirty years of tireless dedication to advancing our profession at every level: clinical, academic, scientific, and associative.

As a Professor Coordinator at ESTeSC - Coimbra Health School, I have shaped the next generation of biomedical laboratory scientists, instilling in them the values of scientific rigour, patient safety, and professional excellence. As a researcher affiliated with the Coimbra Institute for Clinical and Biomedical Research (iCBR) and the Health & Technology Research Center (H&TRC), I have contributed to expanding the frontiers of knowledge in oncobiology, transfusion medicine, and health literacy – areas that sit at the very heart of modern laboratory diagnostics.

My leadership journey in professional associations has been equally defining. As President of BioMedLab – the Portuguese Association of Biomedical Laboratory Scientists – I have championed the rights, recognition, and development of Portuguese professionals. Since 2018, as President of the European Association of Biomedical Scientists (EPBS), representing over 250,000 professionals across 21 national associations, I have led the development of European proficiency standards, safety and education guidelines, and a mentorship programme for newly qualified graduates. The creation of a European Professional Card for Biomedical Scientists remains a central ambition of my mandate – a step towards the proper categorization and free movement of our profession across borders.

Through the ERASMUS programme, I have built bridges with higher education institutions in Austria, Belgium, Finland, Estonia, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Turkey, fostering academic exchange and mutual recognition. I have also served as an expert for professional accreditation bodies in Portugal, Ireland, and Croatia, demonstrating my cross-border commitment to quality standards in Biomedical Science education.

I have also created and implemented the Biomedical Laboratory Science program in Cape Verde.

If elected to the IFBLS, I bring this wealth of experience to a global stage. My vision centres on three pillars: visibility, ensuring Biomedical Laboratory Scientists are recognised as indispensable to healthcare systems worldwide; education, harmonising competency standards internationally and supporting the development of sustainable educational frameworks; and sustainability, embracing the IFBLS 2025/2026 theme by driving greener, smarter clinical diagnostics practices globally.

The IFBLS, founded in 1954 and representing over 240,000 professionals in 38 countries, is the world's most important platform for our profession. I believe I can contribute meaningfully to its mission, bringing the European perspective, a researcher's mindset, and an educator's heart to global advocacy.

I am ready to serve. I am ready to lead. Together, let us elevate Biomedical Laboratory Science to the prominence it deserves.

Suggestion(s) for future IFBLS activities:

ISCO - change of BLS Classification - working with ILO;
Increase BLS visibility working with OMS and social media;
Try to have the IJBLS to be indexed and impact factor;
Minimum Standards of proficiency of BLS - survey and write.
