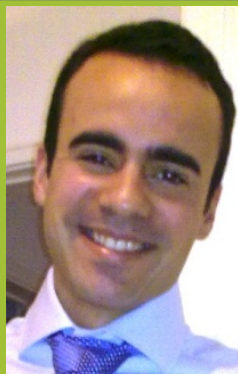


## Chemistry Department

### Mass transfer enhancement by functionalized magnetic nanoparticles

Systems Biology and Engineering Group



## Filipe Ataíde

PhD student since 2008  
faa15909@campus.fct.unl.pt

- 2007, M.Sc. Chemical and Biochemical Engineering
- Scientific articles: 2

## Objectives

The central goal of this study was to develop functionalized magnetic nanoparticles (FMP) to enhance oxygen transport in bioprocesses and provide insight on mass transfer mechanisms using magnetic nanoparticles. An improved magnetic nanoparticles synthesis protocol and purification technique was developed which yields a higher impact of nanoparticles of mass transfer when compared to the highest mass transfer report to date in oxygen transport systems.

## Methodology

Synthesis and purification of functionalized magnetic nanoparticles:

- Silica coating, Oleic acid coating, Oleic acid + Hitenol BC coating

Characterization of magnetic nanoparticles:

- TEM, DLS, Zeta-Potential, ICP, elemental composition

Experimental design for the analysis of  $k_L a$  and  $a$  enhancement

- Reactor stirring: 250-750 rpm and 400-1400 rpm, Aeration: 0-2 vvm, FMP mass fraction: 0-0.12%

Modeling of results and comparison with literature correlations.

## Expected Results

- It was found that our 36nm-sized nanoparticles enhance mass transfer coefficient up to 8.9-fold and the interfacial area up to 10.8-fold.
- The results showed higher enhancement than the literature ( $k_L a$  enhancement of 7.1-fold and  $a$  enhancement of 4.1-fold).
- FMP showed to be stable (constant diameter) for wide range of pH (2-9), which is critical for use in bioprocesses.
- Correlations for both  $k_L a$  and  $a$  were derived with a good agreement (under 10% error).

Funding:

- SFRH/BD/43956/2008 (Ph.D. Grant)
- PTDC/EBB-EBI/103761/2008 (Project)

