Title: On The Assessment of Exposure to Airborne Ultrafine Particles in Urban Environments

Author(s): Pereira Gomes, João Fernando\textsuperscript{1,2}; Moura Bordado, João Carlos\textsuperscript{1}; Silva Albuquerque, Paula Cristina\textsuperscript{3}

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Abstract: The aim of this study was to contribute to the assessment of exposure levels of ultrafine particles in the urban environment of Lisbon, Portugal, due to automobile traffic, by monitoring lung deposited alveolar surface area (resulting from exposure to ultrafine particles) in a major avenue leading to the town center during late spring, as well as in indoor buildings facing it. Data revealed differentiated patterns for week days and weekends, consistent with PM2.5 and PM10 patterns currently monitored by air quality stations in Lisbon. The observed ultrafine particulate levels may be directly correlated with fluxes in automobile traffic. During a typical week, amounts of ultrafine particles per alveolar deposited surface area varied between 35 and 89.2 µm²/cm³, which are comparable with levels reported for other towns in Germany and the United States. The measured values allowed for determination of the number of ultrafine particles per cubic centimeter, which are comparable to levels reported for Madrid and Brisbane. In what concerns outdoor/indoor levels, we observed higher levels (32 to 63%) outdoors, which is somewhat lower than levels observed in houses in Ontario.

Author Keywords: Ambient Air-Polution; Surface-Area; Hospital Admissions; Number; Kaohsiung; Taiwan; Mass

Reprint Address: Gomes, JFP (reprint author) Univ Tecn Lisboa, Inst Super Tecn, Inst Biotecnol & Bioengn, Av Rovisco Pais, P-1049001 Lisbon, Portugal

Addresses:
1. Univ Tecn Lisboa, Inst Super Tecn, Inst Biotecnol & Bioengn, P-1049001 Lisbon, Portugal
2. ISEL, Area Dept Engn Quim, Lisbon, Portugal
3. Inst Politecn Lisboa, ESTESL Escola Super Tecnol Saude Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

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