

## **Franco Simini as a BABEL visiting academic to Porto University, October 2014**

It is not common to find an academic group with which a full synergy is discovered and grows all along one month of collaborative work. It was my case with Professor Joaquim Gabriel and his group at the Faculty of Engineering of Porto University (FEUP).

I gave lectures and seminars for different audiences: Prof. Gabriel's research group, a graduate class, Biomedical Engineering undergraduates and the Anesthesiology Department staff at Santo Antonio Hospital. We established a collaboration to jointly develop intraoperative temperature related imaging instruments. We also agreed on joint Tutoring of graduate students on biomedical instrumentation topics. I read papers in progress, authored by the group. It was very interesting for me to see from the inside the dynamic and brilliant way Professor Gabriel runs an interdisciplinary group of young scientists and engineers who tackle diverse projects, from anesthesia indicators to new bicycles, from digital electronic instruments to infrared image processing.

At FEUP I was exposed to the Bologna university scheme, established at FEUP 2006, changing an Engineering syllabus, quite similar to our own today. I was received by two University Technology Transfer (TT) Offices, at Aveiro and FEUP, deepened contact with an English TT office and visited a Business-Academia Fair at Santa Maria da Feira. I visited hospitals (Santo Antonio, São João, São Sebastião) and Engineering groups (ISEP, Dept Física U. Coimbra). I also attended the Chinese Medicine Congress in Porto October 4 to discover new approaches and imaging techniques.

And on week-ends I was delighted to walk during hours in the old districts of Porto, flew to Nimes, France, and was introduced to the most remarkable town of Guimarães, living History in every stone.

It all started 2011 at an Industrial Fair in Brazil when UP TT officials (Pedro Coelho) visited me, while showing biomedical prototypes at the Uruguay stand. After a first invitation in 2012, BABEL granted support for an academic visit in 2014 to Porto within Erasmus Mundus Program.

I am very grateful to all whom I met at FEUP, at the UP *Reitoria*, and other institutions of the north of Portugal for such a rich, fertile and inspiring experience, given to me so warmly.

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