Biography



SANTOS IVO
Rui

Invited Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon
Pharmacist, Specialist in Hospital Pharmacy and Honorary Specialist in Regulatory Affairs
Member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society
European Corresponding Member of the Académie de Pharmacie

Rui Santos Ivo is currently President of INFARMED – National Authority of Medicines and Health Products, I.P. (since July 2019), and Invited Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon in the area of Medicines Regulation (since 2009). At European level, he is the Chair of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) (since March 2025).

Over the years, at the Ministry of Health in Portugal, Rui Santos Ivo held various positions, including: President (2002-2005) and Vice-President of Infarmed (1994-2000; 2016-2019) and President (2014-2016) and Vice-President (2011-2014) of the Central Administration of the Health System, a public institute responsible for the planning and management of the financial, infrastructural and human resources of the National Health System (NHS). He also assumed other executive and advisory functions in various national bodies, committees and working groups in the area of Health.

Rui Santos Ivo has gathered relevant international experience in the area of medicine regulation and health technologies, namely as Administrator at the Directorate of EMA in London (2000-2002) and in the exercise of executive functions in the Pharmaceutical Unit of the Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry in Brussels (2006-2008). He was the first Chairman of the European Union Heads of Medicines Agencies Management Group (2004-2005). Between 2008 and 2011, he was Executive Director of the Portuguese Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry (APIFARMA). Since 2016, he is a member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (EMA), holding the position of Vice-Chair (2024-2025) and Chair (since March 2025). He was the first chairperson of the Heads of Health Technology Assessment Agencies Group (HAG), having been elected by his peers for two terms between 2021 and 2025.

Rui Santos Ivo began his professional career as a hospital pharmacist at the Egas Moniz Hospital in Lisbon (now part of the West Lisbon Local Health Unit) and in 1993 joined Infarmed, where he began working in the Licensing and Inspection Department. Rui Santos Ivo graduated in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Lisbon in 1987.

Rui Santos Ivo graduated in Pharmaceutical Sciences by the University of Lisbon in 1987. Specialist in Hospital Pharmacy by the Ministry of Health (1992) and the Pharmaceutical Society (2006) and in Pharmaceutical Regulation, honorary, by the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society (1997). Postgraduate education on Health Law and Pharmaceutical Legislation (by the University of Lisbon Faculty of Law and National School of Public Health, 1997), Pharmaceutical Medicine (by the University of Basel, 1999), Regulation (by the London School of Economics and Political Science, 1999) and on Health Management (by the Portuguese Catholic University, 2000, and by AESE Business School, 2015).

He was twice awarded the Almofariz 'Personality of the Year' Award in the Portuguese pharmaceutical sector, in 2004 and 2025. In 2014 he was appointed European Correspondent Member of the Académie de Pharmacie, France. In 2015 he received the Gold Medal for Distinct Services by the Ministry of Health.

In 2023, he was honoured as an Honorary Member of The Organisation for Professionals in Regulatory Affairs (TOPRA). That same year, he received, on behalf of Infarmed, the insignia of Honorary Member of the Order of Merit from the President of the Republic.

In 2024 he was honoured by the Council of the College of Speciality in Hospital Pharmacy of the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society with a Career Award (Prémio Pegadas) and was distinguished with the Lifetime Achievement Award by TOPRA. In 2025, he received the Top Personality Award at the TOP Health Awards.