

Female Contributions in Nuclear Science: Experiences at the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN/LAPOC)

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Female professional contributions in nuclear science and technology are no longer a novelty. Although society has witnessed high level female achievements as early as in the 1800s, these scientists still face a long journey ahead in empowering themselves into full and equal participation in these areas.

The Poços de Caldas Laboratory (LAPOC) of the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) has its share as facilitator in the search for gender equilibrium.



Female professionals at the institution present a high degree of initiative in all departments, supported by all levels of the institution. IAEA plays a key role in the development of many of these female achievements.

POÇOS DE CALDAS LABORATORY History, Structure and Roles

The Laboratory of Poços de Caldas (LAPOC) was inaugurated in 1974 by the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN). As a pilot plant, it was aimed at the development of technologies related to extractive metallurgical processes applied to uranium and thorium.

Today, incorporated by the Radioprotection and Nuclear Safety Division, LAPOC develops itself seeking excellence at different fronts.



Environmental monitoring of waste facilities



Inspections of mining operations



International intercomparison exercises

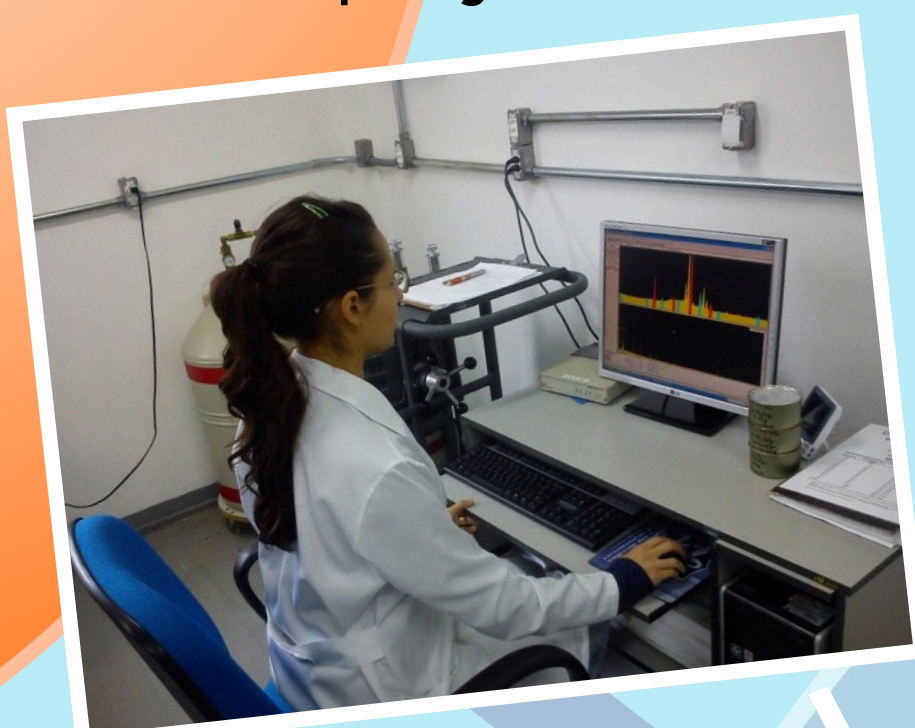
Quality system management



Chemical and radiometric projects analyses



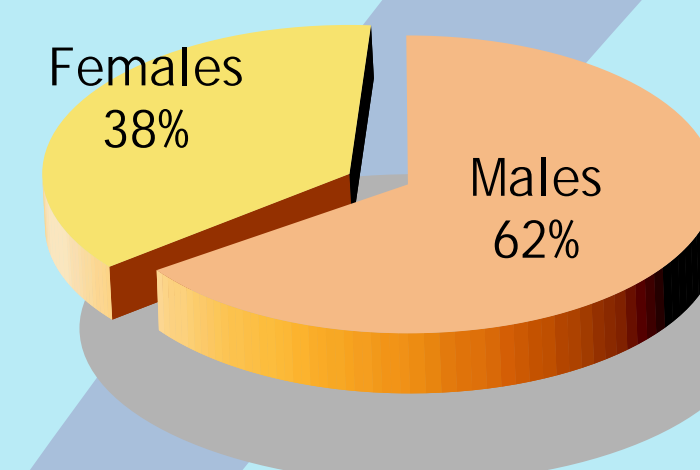
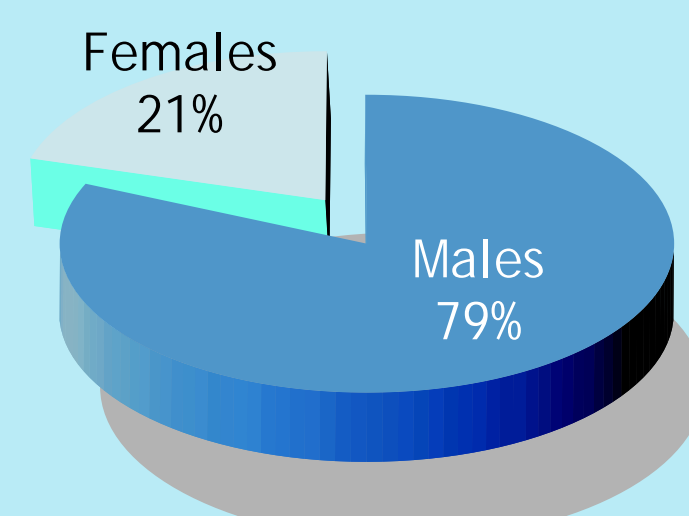
Research projects



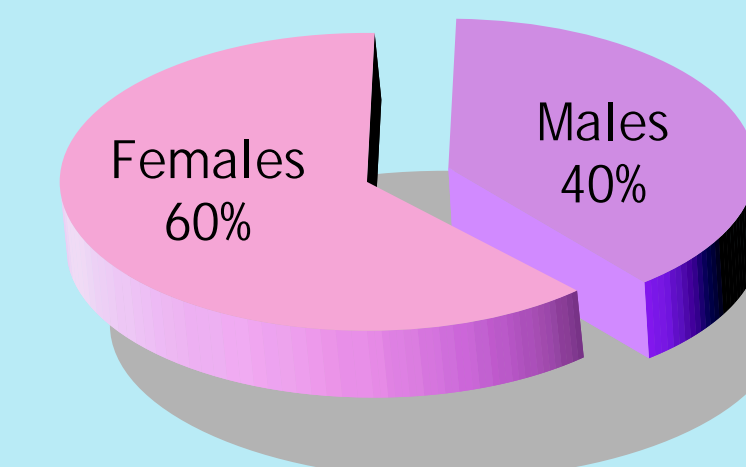
LAPOC Team in numbers

2015 LAPOC TEAM

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE HOLDERS



YOUNG RESEARCHERS



FEMALE Professionals at the Laboratory

Dr. Maria Helena Taddei - Head of Radiochemistry Laboratory at LAPOC, with extensive experience in radiochemistry, radiotoxicology, geochronology and radiological waste characterization.



Through an involvement with the IAEA Technical Cooperation Project BRA/0/017 "Nuclear Technology Support and Human Resource Development" and a Dosimetry Training Programme conducted at Seibersdorf Labs, implemented new methodologies at LAPOC - helping establish it as a Brazilian reference in radiochemical techniques.

Dr. Heliana Azevedo - Head of Radioecology Laboratory at LAPOC and researcher on the areas of food technology and irradiation, studies on uranium mining radioactive effluents, microbiology and bioindicators. Established the strong scientific and technological research tradition LAPOC holds today.



Helped implement LAPOC's first IAEA BRA Project - "Providing Practical Guidance for the Implementation of a Decommissioning and Remediation Plan for the Minas Gerais Uranium Mining and Milling Production Center" - coordinated by the LAPOC team in 2009.

Young Female Scientists: Empowerment at CNEN/LAPOC

In the current junior scientists team, females today hold or seek postgraduate degrees, retaining the greatest number of publications.

Participation in international workshops and conferences has been observed exclusively in females, with 4 international representations at IAEA and other events in the past 5 years. All grantees who currently hold the longest period (in years) at LAPOC are high qualified female researchers.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

