

health and wellbeing outcomes but also to inform the commissioning of these programmes. In a collaborative approach, an evaluation protocol of the social prescribing in two primary healthcare units in Lisbon was developed, aiming to assess its implementation and impact at three levels: patients, health system and health-social sector intersection, within a mixed-methods approach. Exploring the social prescribing contribution to enhance patients' quality of life, well-being and activation involves assessing these outcomes throughout a longitudinal perspective. In an exploratory, prospective study, baseline data collection and three follow-ups are included. Secondary data comprise health status indicators collected from patients' medical records as well as referral and social responses elaborated within the intervention. Patients' experiences on the social prescribing activities performed, perceived changes in lifestyle, and perspectives about positive and negative aspects are assessed in semi-structured interviews. The need for further understanding the impact at the health system' level calls for an attentive look at the processes of change in patients' patterns of healthcare services use (appointments in primary healthcare units, hospital admissions and emergency episodes), but also changes in the services' reorganization to better integrative health care. At a broader level, insights will be obtained on the effects on the intersection between the health and social sectors and the experiences of networking, through focus group discussions with all the stakeholders involved. The social prescribing implementation process, barriers, facilitators and suggestions for improvement will also be explored. In this presentation, challenges will be debated, as well as insights for reflection about opportunities for improving evidence development.

## Developing evidence on social prescribing initiative in Lisbon: Challenges and insights for improving

Sonia Dias

S Dias<sup>1,2</sup>, C Figueiredo<sup>1,3</sup>, L Hoffmeister<sup>1,2</sup>, A Gama<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NOVA National School of Public Health, Public Health Research Centre, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

<sup>2</sup>Comprehensive Health Research Centre, Lisbon, Portugal

<sup>3</sup>Central Lisbon Health Center Cluster, Lisbon, Portugal

Contact: smfdias@yahoo.com

Social prescribing is recent in Portugal and evidence is needed on the potential of this complex intervention to improve