

Pr. Marcelo Távora Mira, PhD

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Short bio:

Dr. Mira is a full professor and a principal investigator based at the Graduate Program in Health Sciences of the School of Medicine of the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, located in Curitiba, south of Brazil. Dr. Mira obtained his PhD from McGill University (Montreal, Canada) in 2004 and since then has been dedicated to the study of genetic risk factors contributing to the control of complex diseases, with focus on leprosy and vitiligo. Dr. Mira's research group applies modern technologies for generation of genetic data, including high throughput genotyping and next generation sequencing, combined with different strategies of genetic analysis – from linkage to association – to investigate the molecular basis of our target diseases, mainly vitiligo and leprosy, the latest still a major public health problem in Brazil. Recently, Dr. Mira's group has been applying the expertise accumulated on host studies to the investigation of leprosy from the perspective of the pathogen, *Mycobacterium leprae*. For that, Dr. Mira's group have access to a very particular, highly endemic population of an isolated, former leprosy colony located in the outskirts of the Amazon, north of Brazil. The initiative, which includes leprosy studies from different perspectives, counts with the collaboration of groups at FIOCRUZ, ILSL (Brazil), McGill University (Canada) and the University of Paris V (France). The Mira Lab results have been published in high impact scientific journals such as Nature, Nature Genetics, Clinical Infectious Diseases, The Journal of Infectious Diseases and The Journal of Investigative Dermatology, among others. The Mira Lab has been continuously supported by grants offered by agencies such as the Brazilian CAPES, CNPq and Fundação Araucária, as well as international agencies such as the Leprosy Research Initiative, The Order of Malta Grant for Leprosy Research and the WHO/TDR. Dr. Mira is a National CNPq-Productivity scientist, level 2. In 2018, Dr. Mira has been appointed by the Brazilian Ministry of Education as the coordinator for professional graduate programs in Medicine at the Brazilian *Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior* (CAPES), the national regulatory agency for graduate programs of the Ministry of Education, Brazilian Federal Government.