

## **FLAD and PAPS**

Vasco Rato,  
President of the Luso-American Development Foundation

The goals of the Portuguese-American Post-graduate Society (PAPS) align very closely with those of the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD), it therefore makes a lot of sense for FLAD to support the development of the new website of PAPS.

It is also an honor for me, as President of FLAD, to accept the invitation from PAPS President Silvia Curado, to write these celebratory words.

Founded in 1998, PAPS is an independent non-profit organization, without political affiliations, created with the goal of supporting and promoting Portuguese or Portuguese-American students, researchers, and entrepreneurs working in the United States.

FLAD, a private and financially independent Portuguese institution, was born in 1985 with the mission of contributing to the development of Portugal, through the strategic and financial support of innovative projects and by stimulating the cooperation between the Portuguese and American civil societies.

Similarly to FLAD, PAPS aims at being a transatlantic bridge, connecting the United States and Portugal, in a close relationship with Continental Portugal, the Azores and Madeira.

The Portuguese-American Post-graduate society established a network that connects Portuguese or Portuguese-American graduates, Master's and Ph.D. degree holders, and post-docs - all working or studying in America, but with their hearts and minds in Portugal. It is fundamental for FLAD to be able to contribute to promoting this exchange of national knowledge.

Amongst several initiatives and programs created during our mandate, the [FLAD Life Science 2020](#) program awards two project grants to teams of Portuguese researchers and scientists working in Portugal collaborating with researchers based in America. Curiously, this year, one of these grants was awarded to a Portuguese scientist who is working in Portugal in collaboration with a Portuguese-American scientist based in the United States.

We believe that the sharing of knowledge will be the basis of dialogue in the 21st century. Contributing to bringing together Portugal and the United States is a hard endeavor, but one that we have proved to be possible.

We want that Portuguese who live in Portugal get to know the United States increasingly better, but also, that Portuguese, Portuguese-American and even Americans living in America can be closely in touch with Portugal.

This is exactly what FLAD tries to do, namely at the [Luso-American Legislators' Dialogue](#) that had its second edition in April 2016, bringing together again 12 Portuguese-American legislators elected in the United States with Portuguese politicians and governing bodies.

More recently, in October 2016, as described in the last edition of the FLAD magazine [WE](#), the dialogue “Decisão 2016” has brought together two of the most influential Portuguese-American politicians in the United States, republican Devin Nunes and democrat Tony Cabral, for a discussion on democracy in America.

We need to bring Portugal and the United States closer together. FLAD is counting on PAPS to significantly increase this interaction and bring the two sides of the Atlantic ocean even closer. PAPS and all Portuguese-Americans can always count on FLAD.

We will be by PAPS' side and hope that you all also visit FLAD's website: in [English](#) or [Portuguese](#) - you are our guests of honor.