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Prior to WHO, Dr Pessoa-Silva was an Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases for 12 years at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

She is also the main author to several abstracts and publications including:

- Reduction of health care associated infection risk in neonates by successful hand hygiene promotion. *Pediatrics*, 2007.
- Behavioural considerations for hand hygiene practices: the basic building blocks. *J Hosp Infection*, 2007.
- The WHO policy package to combat antimicrobial resistance. *Bull World Health Organ* 2011;89:390–392.
- Control of community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in neonatology. *J Hosp Infect.* 2006;63:93-100.
- Epidemiology of endemic extended-Spectrum beta-lactamase producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* at an intensive care unit in Rio de Janeiro. *Microb Drug Resist.* 2006;12:50-8.
- Genetic relatedness among extended-spectrum β -lactamase producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* outbreak isolates associated with colonization and invasive disease in a neonatal intensive care unit. *Microb Drug Resist.* 2005;11:21-5.
- Extended-spectrum beta-lactamase-producing *Klebsiella pneumoniae* in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: Outbreak Description and Risk Factors for Infection and Colonization. *J Hosp Infection.* 2003;53:198-206.

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