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Her laboratory focuses on investigating the developmental trajectories of human organs and tissues, with a particular interest for the germline and associated gain-and-loss of potency and epigenetic makeup. She has developed the mathematical algorithm Keygenes to facilitate the comparison of transcriptional data from differentiated human pluripotent stem cells and their in vivo counterparts. Chuva de Sousa Lopes's lab is currently funded by the Belgium Interuniversity Attraction Poles-Phase VII, the Portuguese Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia and the Dutch Bontius Stichting.

She is an elected member of the Special Interest Group "Stem Cells" and the elected Dutch national "basic scientist" representative of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). She is executive editor of the Elsevier journal Gene and associated editor of the Nature publishing group journal Scientific Reports.