**Short Bio**

**Dr. Maria Gomes-Solecki**



Dr. Gomes-Solecki is Professor of Microbiology, Immunology and Biochemistry at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis, TN, USA.

She is also President and CEO of Immuno Technologies, Inc.

Dr. Gomes-Solecki laboratory at UTHSC focuses on host-pathogen interactions of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the causative agent of Lyme disease, as well as some pathogenic *Leptospira* species that cause leptospirosis.

Dr. Gomes-Solecki is known in the field of Lyme disease research as an expert developer of oral vaccines based on commensal bacteria (i.e. *Lactobacillus spp.* and *E. coli*). Her major accomplishment to date is the development of an oral vaccine based in *E. coli* for prevention of Lyme borreliosis for wildlife application. These are referred to as transmission blocking vaccines or vaccines that work by interrupting the enzootic cycle of the targeted pathogen. This technology was licensed to US BIOLOGIC Inc in 2012. She has also contributed to the development of diagnostic assays for both Lyme disease and leptospirosis.

Dr. Gomes-Solecki has been consecutively funded by the NIH NIAID SBIR/STTR program since 2004. She is the founder of Immuno Technologies, Inc (ITi, 2012) and is a co-founder of US BIOLOGIC, Inc (USBI, 2012). ITi’s mission is to do pre-clinical research to develop vaccines and immunodiagnostic assays for Lyme disease and for leptospirosis. ITi’s most recent SBIR Phase II award (July 2022) is to develop an intranasal vaccine for human Lyme disease. US BIOLOGIC Inc (USBI) develops orally delivered vaccines based on the platform licensed to the company by Dr. Gomes-Solecki.

Dr. Gomes-Solecki has raised >21MM from NIH and CDC since 2004 to support her research efforts both at the University and at the Company.