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João O'Neill graduated in Medicine at Faculdade de Medicina de Lisboa (1975) and continued his PhD studies on human morphology at Faculdade de Ciências Médicas (FCM- NOVA) under the coordination of Professor José António Esperança Pina (1983).

At the present time, he is Cathedric Professor of Anatomy at FCM-NOVA, Director of the Department of Anatomy of FCM – NOVA and researcher in the Biomedical Engineering area at the Centre of Physics and Technological Research, Department of Physics of FCT - NOVA (CEFITEC).

In the recent years he has coordinated several PhD students of Biomedical Engineering. Furthermore, he has also coordinated more than 40 post-graduate courses of specialisation in surgical specialties since 2009.

He is the author of more than a hundred scientific works, among which are several scientific articles and chapters of Anatomy and Medical Specialties text books. He was guest speaker at more than two hundred scientific meetings abroad. In 2011, his peers elected him President of the Portuguese Society of Anatomy for the 2012-2013 biennium.