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Competición celular, apoptosis y cáncer
Cell competition, apoptosis and cancer

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CV

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Dr. Pérez-Garijo did her Ph.D. in Gines Morata's laboratory, studying the intricate communication that apoptotic cells have with their neighbors. She discovered that apoptotic cells can secrete mitogenic signals to instruct neighboring cells to undergo proliferation, providing an unexpected link between death and growth (Pérez-Garijo et al., 2004; Pérez-Garijo et al., 2009). As a postdoc in Morata's lab she found that tumor cells are normally eliminated as a consequence of their interaction with wild-type neighboring cells, uncovering a novel role for cell competition as a tumor suppressive mechanism in *Drosophila* (Menéndez et al., 2010). She joined Hermann Steller's laboratory in The Rockefeller University in 2008, where she currently holds a position of Research Associate. She investigates novel signaling abilities of apoptotic cells, and recently found that dying cells can generate pro-apoptotic signals and propagation of cell death through the TNF and JNK pathways. Furthermore, she established that this mode of signaling is key under physiological conditions of coordinated cell death in vertebrates (Pérez-Garijo et al., 2013). She has received several awards and honors, including an Outstanding Graduate of the Year Award in 2000, an Award for Excellence in Academic Performance in the field of Sciences in 2001, a Fundación Francisco Cobos Award for Young Biomedical Scientists in 2001, a Fundación Ramón Areces Predoctoral Fellowship in 2002 and a Fundación Ramón Areces Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2008.