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**CV**

## **NEREA IRIGOYEN VERGARA**

Nerea Irigoyen has always been captivated by viruses, these fascinating microbes hovering between life and death, invisible enemies that can kill millions of people yet offering insights into the function of our own cells. After obtaining a degree in Pharmacy at the University of Navarra (Spain), she carried out a PhD at the National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB-CSIC, Madrid) under the supervision of Dr José Francisco Rodríguez and Dr José Ruiz-Castón with two short stays at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (Trieste, Italy) and the University of Cambridge, UK. During her PhD, she studied and gained practical knowledge of structural aspects of viral capsids, but wishing to extend her knowledge of all areas of virology, she developed an interest in the mechanisms of viral translation regulation and virus gene expression. Now she is working in Dr Ian Brierley's laboratory in the Division of Virology, University of Cambridge, first as a Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellow and now as part of a MRC project. Her project aims to understand the implication of frameshifting and readthrough in retro- and coronavirus replication, which can lead to a potential selection of antiviral agents that would be able to target these steps.

She is a founder member of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the UK (SRUK/CERU) and the Director of the Cambridge Constituency since summer 2014. In collaboration with Dr Eduardo Oliver, they published in summer 2015 an opinion article in "The Guardian" about the risk in British science of a potential "Brexit".