



Simposio Internacional: Las enfermedades parasitarias en la era post genoma
International Symposium: The parasitic diseases at the post genome era

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I am currently a tenure track researcher from the Ramón y Cajal Programme of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competivity at the University Institute of Tropical Diseases and Public Health of the Canary Islands at the University of La Laguna, Spain. My career in Parasitology started In 2001 with my PhD studies in the Department of Parasitology, Ecology and Genetics of the University of La Laguna working on free-living amoebae of *Acanthamoeba* genus. In 2003 I started collaborations with the School of Medical Sciences of the University of Edinburgh working on serine proteases of *Acanthamoeba*. In 2004 I was accepted as an Honorary Research Fellow at the Department of Life Sciences of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and I was also granted a PhD grant from the Canary Islands government for this stage until the end of my PhD studies. In Jamaica, one of my supervisors was granted a project on the Epidemiology of *Acanthamoeba* in this region and thus as a member of this research project I was able to carry on working on free-living amoebae and their pathogenicity. After this stage, I returned to the University of La Laguna in order to carry on with my PhD studies and research. During this period, in 2005, I started to get interested in RNA interference (RNAi) and I developed siRNAs molecules against extracellular serine proteases of *Acanthamoeba*. In order to improve my molecular biology techniques I also visited the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for 2 months during this year 2005. In 2006, I visited the Malaria and *Leishmania* Research Centre from the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Pajim, Goa, India to gain experience in these pathogens for 2 months. In June 2006, I defended my PhD thesis and after that I started a series of postdoctoral positions at the Centre for Integrative Physiology, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Edinburgh (24 months) working on different aspects of the cytoskeleton and therapy against *Acanthamoeba*. I also started to collaborate with the recently created University Institute of Tropical Diseases and Public Health of the Canary Islands (IUETSPC) at the University of La Laguna. I have also been involved in a series of projects that have been granted to IUETSPC including the Spanish national network of Tropical Diseases. In December 2009, I was granted a new postdoctoral position at the University of Edinburgh for 14 months. After that I was granted in December 2011 a Ramón y Cajal Tenure Track Fellowship and thus close the cycle and returned to the University of La Laguna. During the years of my career I have published 44 peer-reviewed articles included in JCR and 3 book chapters. I have supervised one PhD thesis that was defended in June 2012 and I am currently a supervisor of two PhD students and one MSc Student. Our laboratory is focused on novel approaches to validate new therapeutic targets against parasitic protozoa. I have also collaborated with Ophtecs Corporation, Japan a contact lens solution manufacturer. Finally we have also been granted a patent for a novel drug against *Acanthamoeba*