

## María de la Fuente Freire

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## Academic Background

Dr. de la Fuente has a degree in Pharmacy (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2001) and obtained her PhD degree in 2006 at the same institution, in the field of nanomedicine and nanotechnology, under the supervision of Prof. Alonso. She performed several research stages at the University of Angers (Prof. Benoit, France), University of Valladolid (Dr. Dielbold, Spain), University of Kuopio (Prof. Urtti, Finland), Institute of Biomedical Research "Alberto Sols" in Madrid (Prof. Cano, Spain), and at the University College of London - School of Pharmacy (Prof. Schätzlein and Prof. Uchegbu, UK). During her predoctoral and postdoctoral studies, she was recipient of a number of fellowships in competitive calls, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education (FPU), and private associations, the Fundación Alfonso Martín Escudero and the Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer (AECC). In 2013, she got her current research position, as a full time researcher at the Servizo Galego de Saúde (SERGAS), and established the Nano-Oncology and Translational Therapeutics Unit with the purpose of improving current treatments in cancer making use of nanotechnology.

## Professional activities

Dr. de la Fuente is principal investigator of the Nano-Oncology and Translational Therapeutics Unit of the Health Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela (IDIS), Clinical University Hospital of Santiago de Compostela (CHUS), and also belongs to the cancer research area of the CIBER (CIBERONC), the biggest network of biomedical researchers across Spain. Dr. de la Fuente currently leads a team of 11 members, composed by chemists, pharmacists and biologists. Her research is devoted to develop innovative nanotools to provide solutions to confront one of the biggest current challenges in oncology, metastases, and to advance towards the concept of precision oncology and personalized medicine.

She is the Principal Investigator of several national and international projects, and leads them at all steps of development. She is also involved in translational activities that aim to transfer the generated scientific knowledge to the society in the form of products, for the ultimate benefit of cancer patients.

## Main achievements

She is the author of more than 50 scientific articles, books and book chapters, and has about 150 contributions to national and international congresses.

She is inventor of 5 patents related to nanotechnologies with application in biomedicine, one of which has been licensed to Advancell S.L., one patented with Advancell S.L., and one with Roche Farma S.A. She has additionally been involved in the transfer of knowledge to Nanomerics Ltd, a spin-off funded by Prof. Schätzlein, CEO of the company, at the time of María's postdoctoral stay at his lab.

She has been directly involved in 28 research projects, being principal investigator in 14 of them, granted by national (AECC, ISCIII, GAIN, La Caixa), and international (Interreg Atlantic, EraNET Euronanomed) bodies and funding agencies, having raised more than 3 M€ since she become an independent researcher in 2013. Three of this projects, funded by the Axencia Galega de Innovación (Ignicia Program, GAIN, Xunta de Galicia), La Caixa (Caixaimpulse Validate), and the ISCIII (Technological Development Project), aim to the valorization and exploitation of the innovations that have been generated at the Nano-Oncology Unit through the development of specific assets and constitution of a spin-off company.

She is also a member of the Scientific Advisory Board and Steering Committee of the Roche-CHUS Joint Unit (a PPP with Roche Farma S.A.), member of the Advisory Board of the Atlantic KET MET project (Interreg Atlantic Area), member of several scientific and professional societies (ETPN, CRS, Executivas Galicia, AADIIT), Vice-Chair of the Clinical Translational and Social Impact Working Group of the ETPN, and Vice-Chair of the Focus Group in Nanomedicine and Nanoscale Delivery of the Controlled Release Society.