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AYUDAS RAMÓN Y CAJAL CONVOCATORIA 2014

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Nombre: YESTE OLIVERAS, MARC
Referencia: RYC-2014-15581
Área Científica: Ganadería y Pesca
Correo Electrónico: marc.yeste@obs-gyn.ox.ac.uk

Título:

Reproduccion Animal: Fisiología y criopreservación espermática

Resumen de la Memoria:

The research career of the candidate has covered different topics of animal and human reproduction, and this has relied upon the different laboratories where he has been working, either as PhD student (University of Girona), Visiting Researcher (Institute of Zoolgy, London), Assistant Lecturer (University of Girona) or Post-doctoral researcher (Autonomous University of Barcelona and University of Oxford). While the applicant has been investigating up to 10 different research themes, his interest has mainly been based on the male gamete in pigs. Indeed, applicant's investigations are devoted to boar sperm in 7 out of these 10 research themes: studies into the improvement of boar preservation sperm technology in liquid storage; in vitro studies between and oviductal and epididymal co-cultures; new tests to evaluate the sperm fertilising ability in pigs; study of different factors that affect boar sperm quality, including diet and photoperiod; investigations into the harmful effects of bacterial contamination on boar sperm quality during liquid storage; boar sperm physiology from the role of relevant proteins, in vitro capacitation and calcium's role; and boar sperm cryopreservation. Among these seven research themes, the main research line of the candidate has been the focused on boar sperm cryopreservation. However, the candidate has also been paying attention to the following research themes: the in vitro production, sexing and vitrification of porcine embryos; research in animal species other than pigs (donkeys, horses, cattle, dogs and cats); and human reproduction and infertility. In the case of boar sperm cryopreservation, the applicant has studied the sperm cryodamage resulting from freeze-thawing procedures in boars, with special reference to sperm nucleus and plasma membrane. The candidate also assessed the ability of some molecules to counteract these detrimental effects, as well as their impact on fertilising ability of frozen-thawed boar sperm. The fellow supervised a PhD student who successfully earned his degree in 2014, and he is currently supervising another PhD student (submission expected in February 2015). In addition, it is worth mentioning that the applicant has been invited as a plenary speaker to attend the International Boar Semen Conference, the world-leading conference about boar semen, to be held in Illinois, USA, in August 2015. His conference is to be about recent advances in boar sperm cryopreservation. Not only the applicant has experience in sperm cryopreservation in pigs but also in other species (mouse, human, stallion, bull). This together with other studies that the applicant conducted on mammalian sperm physiology will also contribute to strengthen the applicant's contributions to this realm.

Resumen del Currículum Vitae:

The applicant started his research career in 2003 at Girona University thanks to a PhD studentship funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. While doing his PhD (2003-2007), the applicant visited national and international laboratories (IoZ, ZSL, UK). The candidate successfully passed his PhD (with European Doctorate mention) in 2008. In 2007, the candidate was promoted to Research Manager at TechnoSperm Research Centre and was maintained at this position until the end of 2010. In 2008, he was also appointed Assistant Lecturer at Girona University (Faculties of Sciences and Human Medicine). In 2011, the applicant was awarded with a Juan de la Cierva fellowship and moved to Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery, Autonomous University of Barcelona. At the end of 2013, the applicant was awarded with a Marie Curie Fellowship and joined the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Oxford, in 2014.

The applicant has now almost twelve years of research experience. So far, he has authored 64 SCI/JCR papers (plus nine submitted), most of them in Q1-journals. The applicant is first author in 14 out of these 64 papers and retains the senior author position in 9. He was also author nine book chapters (first author in five), and was senior and corresponding Editor of one book (Boar Reproduction. New Biotechnological Fundamentals and Trends, published by Springer). In addition, the applicant is also co-author of three papers in non-indexed journals and 97 contributions (18 as first author, 8 as senior) to national and international conferences. The fellow has been invited to edit a Special Issue about Swine Reproduction in Theriogenology and to attend to international conferences as a plenary speaker. The candidate has participated in 59 competitive projects and research contracts, being PI or co-PI in 11. In terms of mentoring early researchers, he has supervised 13 undergraduate, 8 MSc and 4 PhD students (plus four PhD visiting students from overseas).

On the other hand, the fellow has been member of two international scientific networks funded by the EU (COST actions) and regular reviewer for 26 journals (most of them JCR/SCI located in the top quartile of their respective research fields). He is also an Editorial Board Member of the Open Access Journal of Science and Technology.

The applicant has also been teaching in different degrees (Undergraduate: Biology, Biotechnology, Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine; MSc: Biomedicine, Food Biotechnology, Clinical Embryology), and universities (UAB, UdG, Oxford). All this experience allowed him to obtain the following national accreditations from Agencia Nacional para la Evaluación, la Calidad y la Acreditación (ANECA): Assistant Lecturer (Profesor Ayudante Doctor, PAD), Tenured Lecturer (Profesor Contratado Doctor, PCD), Professor for Private Universities (Profesor de



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Universidad Privada, PUP), and Tenured Senior Lecturer (Profesor Titular de Universidad, TU, equivalent to Reader/Associate professor). The applicant also obtained the regional accreditations by Agència per la Qualitat del Sistema Universitari de Catalunya (AQU Catalunya): Tenure-Track Lecturer (Profesor Lector) and Tenured Associate Professor (Professor Agregat; AQU, Regional Government of Catalonia, Spain).



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Nombre: PRIETO BENAVIDES, NURIA
Referencia: RYC-2014-15623
Área Científica: Ganadería y Pesca
Correo Electrónico: nuriaprieto2@gmail.com

Título:

Study of the relationship between animal production and product quality.

Resumen de la Memoria:

Through a Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science I carried out my Ph.D. Thesis at the Estación Agrícola Experimental (CSIC, Spain), regarding the application of near infrared spectroscopy (NIRS) to estimate beef quality parameters. I was also involved in other projects related to animal production in order to assess the effects of several ingredients (sugar beet pulp and beet vinasses), rearing system and sex on production systems, namely on productivity parameters and carcass and meat quality of fattening lambs. In 2006, I received my Ph.D. by the University of León. I received two awards for my Ph.D. Thesis. In 2007, I joined the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) in Edinburgh (UK) for 27 months, through 2 Postdoctoral Fellowships (Fundación Caja Madrid and MICINN-FECYT). I was involved in projects evaluating the improvement of livestock genetics and management in product quality and sustainability, where new technologies such as NIRS, computed tomography, ultrasounds and image analysis were used to estimate carcass and beef quality. I carried out a research stay in the Public University of Navarra (Spain), through funding from the Mobility Program from MICINN. In 2009, I got a JAE‐Doc researcher contract from the CSIC and the European Social Fund at the Instituto de Ganadería de Montaña (CSIC‐University of León) (Spain). During 3 years, I participated in experiments studying the interaction between nutrition and milking routine in dairy sheep. Likewise, I collaborated in projects to study the use of new strategies or systems of feeding, ingredients (soap stocks) or sources rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids and phenolic compounds (naringin, quercetin, flaxseed and carnosic acid) in the diet of fattening lambs and their effects on animal performance, welfare and carcass and meat quality. I was also involved in experiments evaluating low cost by‐products from the vegetable oil industry and plant secondary metabolites for the reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases (methane) from ruminants in order to improve farm profitability and reduce environmental impact of livestock activity. Through funding from the Mobility Program from CSIC, I carried out 3 international research stays for a total of 10 months length at the Lacombe Research Centre from the Agriculture and Agri‐Food Canada (Canada), where I evaluated the traceability of beef and pork with enhanced levels of functional fatty acids using NIRS. In 2013, I became a Research Associate at the University of Alberta (Canada), where I have participated in projects to predict the relationship between feed inputs and carcass outputs (meat, fat and belly quality) from integrated swine systems through NIRS, to test dual X‐ray energy absorptiometry for rapid and non‐invasive carcass fat and lean predictions in beef, lamb and pig carcasses, and to develop decision making tools for sustainable beef production in Canada. Taking into consideration the approaches stated above, the main research line along my research career has been the study of the relationship between animal production and product quality and the application of new technologies to predict animal and carcass performance and quality of products from animal origin (carcass, meat, adipose tissues, milk) and feedstuff (sugar beet pulp, beet vinasses, fishmeal, forages and feed).

Resumen del Currículum Vitae:

I completed my Bsc. in Biology at the University of Salamanca in 2000 and received my Ph.D. in Animal Production from the University of León (Spain) in 2006 (A with Honours). I received two awards for my Ph.D. Thesis (Mariano Rodríguez Award for Young Scientists from Fundación Carolina Rodríguez, in 2007, and Real Academy of Veterinary Sciences, in 2008). In 2007, I joined the Sustainable Livestock Systems group from the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) in Edinburgh (UK) for 2 years and 3 months, through 2 Post-doctoral Fellowships (Fundación Caja Madrid in 2007, and MICINN-FECYT in 2008). I carried out a research stay in the Public University of Navarra for 2 months through funding from the Mobility Program from MICINN. In 2009, I got a JAE‐DOC research contract for 3 years from the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the European Social Fund, at the Instituto de Ganadería de Montaña (CSIC‐University of León) (Spain). During 2010, 2011 and 2012, I carried out 3 international research stays for a total of 10 months length at the Lacombe Research Centre from the Agriculture and Agri‐Food Canada (Canada), through funding from the Mobility Program from CSIC. In 2013, I became a Research Associate at the University of Alberta (Canada). As result of my research, I have published 61 articles in peer‐reviewed journals (3 more currently under review), 55 out of them in SCI journals (over 90% published in first quartile journals in their respective area). I am the first author in 22 articles, within the first three authors in other 20, and the last author (principal investigator) in 3 articles. My publications have been cited 518 times (h-index =11) and coauthored by 84 researchers from 52 groups, 41 research institutions and 12 countries. I am the single author of 1 scientific book, the co‐author of 4 chapters of technical books (first author in 2 chapters and the last one in the other 2), 21 technical contributions (13 as first author, 16 international) published in technical journals aimed primarily at producers and 12 knowledge and technology transfer articles in the UK and Canada oriented to the industry sector. My research has been featured 6 times on the public media (3 in Spain and 3 in Canada). I have contributed 71 papers in congresses (60 international and 11 national). I have participated in 39 R&D&I projects (17 funded through Spanish



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organisations and 22 by international institutions; 4 as PI) and in 14 R&D&I contracts (4 funded by foreign companies and 10 by Spanish interests; 1 as PI). I have experience in R&D management as member of the Canadian Meat Science Association and in organising R&D activities (3 national and 3 international). I have been an invited speaker (1) and plenary speaker (3) in international (2) and national (2) congresses, and I held a TV media interview. I have supervised 1 Master Thesis (grade 9/10) and I am currently co-supervising 1 Ph.D. Thesis that will be defended at the end of this year and 2 Master Theses. I have been a reviewer ad hoc for scientific journals of high international impact (9 journals, 61 times), communications to international congresses (4 congresses) and international projects (1), and an international referee for Ph.D. thesis (European doctorate with recognition of quality) (1 from the University of Valladolid and 1 from the University of Cordoba, Spain).



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Nombre: ALVAREZ SANCHEZ, JULIO

Referencia: RYC-2014-15742

Área Científica: Ganadería y Pesca

Correo Electrónico: jalvarez@umn.edu

Título:

Uso de técnicas de análisis epidemiológico para el desarrollo de herramientas aplicadas al control y erradicación de enfermedades infecciosas de los animales

Resumen de la Memoria:

During his period as a PhD student, the candidate research interest was focused on the diagnosis, molecular characterization and epidemiology of the diseases caused by members of the Mycobacterium tuberculosis and M. avium complexes. In his PhD he was trained in the performance of different laboratory techniques in biosafety level 2 and 3 conditions. This period ended with the defense of his PhD in 2008, awarded with the **Premio extraordinario de doctorado** and the SYVA award to the best thesis in Animal health.

As a post-doc, Dr. Alvarez received extensive training to increase his quantitative skills through his post-graduate in Biostatistics in Health Sciences (University Autonomo of Barcelona), four courses on statistics and programming in the Statistics degree in the University Complutense and three training short stays of 10 weeks each on modeling at the University of California, Davis (US) and the Universidad Nacional de Rosario (Argentina). This training allowed the candidate to better analyze the data obtained through the course of his three post-doc positions in Spanish institutions focused on zoonotic infectious diseases. In the first one, at the VISAVET health surveillance center (Sept2008-May2010), he was the head of the Neglected and Emerging disease unit, developed a research line focused on the epidemiology, diagnosis and prevention of animal brucellosis, and acted as PI of a national project. He then moved to the Spanish wildlife research institute (Instituto de Investigacion en Recursos Cinegeticos, IREC) (Jun2010-Dec2011), where he was actively involved in the preparation and management of a European project dealing with the emergence of new human and animal pathogens (ANTIGONE), and included the role of wildlife in the epidemiology of his diseases of interest among his expertise. He then hold a Sara Borrell post-doctoral contract in the Instituto Ramón y Cajal de Investigación Sanitaria (IRYCIS, Jan2012-Feb2014) where he was focused on the Public Health side of the epidemiology of zoonotic diseases.

Dr. Alvarez then moved to the US in March 2014, where he has held a Research Associate position first and, since December 2014, a Faculty position as an Instructor at the University of Minnesota. There, he has maintained his interest on new analytical approaches to study the epidemiology of infectious diseases and its impact on production.

The main research line of Dr. Alvarez has been the epidemiology of infectious diseases affecting livestock, with a special interest on those with a zoonotic component and a worldwide importance from the Public and Animal health perspectives. His main interest has been to focus on the most applied aspects of the epidemiological analysis of data from experimental and observational studies in an attempt to i) understand the transmission dynamics of a given pathogen, ii) develop, implement and optimize diagnostic techniques for early and effective detections, and iii) evaluate and monitor control and eradication efforts against these infectious diseases at the herd, regional or national levels. Information coming from the successful study of these three sub-objectives, targets of most of his scientific papers and research projects, can help to inform the decision-makers and ultimately guide the future approaches aiming at the eradication of endemic diseases and prevention of the exotic ones

Resumen del Currículum Vitae:

Dr. Alvarez got his DVM in 2001, and has been working in zoonotic infectious diseases since then. In 2008 he defended his PhD dissertation on tuberculosis and Mycobacterium avium complex diagnosis and molecular characterization, which was awarded with the Outstanding doctorate award and the Syva award to the best thesis on animal health. After obtaining the PhD degree he served as head of the unit of neglected and emerging diseases in the VISAVET Health Surveillance Center, Spain, for two years. He subsequently took a post-doctoral position at the Spanish wildlife research institute IREC, where he was devoted to the study of zoonotic infectious diseases in wildlife, including the assessment of the performance of novel diagnostic techniques. After that, he held a post-doctoral position at the Research Institute Ramón y Cajal (IRYCIS) in the Microbiology service of the university Hospital Ramón y Cajal. During this second post-doc, his research was focused on the epidemiology of bacterial zoonotic diseases with a focus on factors promoting its emergency in the human/wildlife/livestock interface. He then moved to the University of Minnesota (UMN, US) where he is currently holding a Faculty position as an instructor, and is part of a research program aiming at the development and implementation of near-real time systems for the prevention and mitigation of disease impact.

His scientific activity during his career has been translated into 66 papers published in the peer-reviewed literature, 41 of which have been published since 2010 (last five years). He has co-authored 19 papers as first or last author, and has directed successfully one PhD student (defense in 2014) and is currently directing another three PhD projects. Dr. Alvarez serves as scientific editor in the journal Research in Veterinary Science and The Scientific World, acts as advisor of the European Laboratory for Bovine Tuberculosis and is a founding member of the Epidemiology Working Group of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, as well as a scientific reviewer for 12 indexed journals. Since



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2012 he has participated in two EFSA scientific opinions (one as a hearing expert and another as member of the working group). Throughout his career he has performed scientific training stays of more than 8 weeks in six countries, including 24 months as a post-doc/senior researcher in the US since 2010 (University of California Davis, University of Minnesota) and got a post-graduate in Biostatistics applied to health sciences in 2012.



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Nombre: PEREZ DIZ, ANGEL EDUARDO

Referencia: RYC-2014-15133

Área Científica: Ganadería y Pesca

Correo Electrónico: angel.p.diz@uvigo.es

Título:

Análisis evolutivo y funcional del proteoma de gametos del mejillón (*Mytilus* spp.)

Resumen de la Memoria:

Dr. Diz got his PhD. at Vigo University in 2005 after developing several evolutionary and population genetic studies by using DNA-molecular markers in order to assess gene flow and genetic differentiation levels between populations of marine mussels (*Mytilus* spp.), this being useful to develop a conservation genetic plan of this important marine resource in aquaculture. In 2005, he moved to Swansea University (UK), as a postdoctoral researcher (European fellowship), and became a member of a European Network of Excellence in Marine Genomics (MGE). He developed research work in the proteomics field in non-model marine organisms. This postdoctoral research on proteomics was funded by two European sub-projects that were set up within the MGE network, a network where Dr. Diz participated and played a very active role (steering committee in EU congress and participation in Fish & Shellfish node meetings). The success of this postdoctoral step is reflected in some high impact papers published for the last years. Dr. Diz came back to University of Vigo in 2009, thanks to a five-year contract (I. Parga Pondal research fellowship), and has developed a solid research line in genomics and proteomics focused on different marine organisms. It includes an international collaboration with Prof. Skibinski (Swansea University, UK) and Prof. Swanson (University of Washington, USA) devoted to address some timely evolutionary and reproductive biology questions by using transcriptomics and proteomics approaches on sperm and egg samples of marine mussels (*Mytilus* spp.). This collaborative work is framed in a research project funded by Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, headed (PI) by Dr. Diz. He is supervising a PhD student, 1 Postdoc, 1 Master and 1 degree students, in relation to this research project. He previously supervised two MSc students and lab work/training of several PhD/MSc students from different nationalities. Dr. Diz published about 20 papers (12 as 1st author; 10 in Q1 and 4 in top10 journals, e.g. Mol. Cell. Proteomics, Mol. Ecol.,...) and 4 book chapters. He has presented 47 communications, mostly in international congresses, 27 of these as oral presentation (11 as invited), and participated in 14 research projects/networks (1 as PI, 3 funded by EU). He has applied for a COST action (EU), as PI of the Spanish group, in order to set up a European network about mitochondrial (mt) biogenesis, unusual mt inheritance mechanism, DUI, marine organisms, aquaculture,...etc. He has served as an Associate Editor in the Journal of Integrated OMICS, Review Editor in Frontiers in Genetics and external reviewer for several SCI journals and National Science Foundation (USA). Finally it is worth to mention that Dr. Diz has been teaching at University since 2003 (total: 600h) different subjects related to Marine Science and Biology Degrees, two different Master courses and also at University of Swansea (UK), under a LLP/Erasmus Programme. He has recently got an habilitation to teach in English (Master in Biological Sciences) at University of Vigo.

Resumen del Currículum Vitae:

Dr. Diz got his PhD. at Vigo University in 2005 after developing several evolutionary and population genetic studies by using DNA-molecular markers in order to assess gene flow and genetic differentiation levels between populations of marine mussels (*Mytilus* spp.), this being useful to develop a conservation genetic plan of this important marine resource in aquaculture. In 2005, he moved to Swansea University (UK), as a postdoctoral researcher (European fellowship), and became a member of a European Network of Excellence in Marine Genomics (MGE). He developed research work in the proteomics field in non-model marine organisms. This postdoctoral research on proteomics was funded by two European sub-projects that were set up within the MGE network, a network where Dr. Diz participated and played a very active role (steering committee in EU congress and participation in Fish & Shellfish node meetings). The success of this postdoctoral step is reflected in some high impact papers published for the last years. Dr. Diz came back to University of Vigo in 2009, thanks to a five-year contract (I. Parga Pondal research fellowship), and has developed a solid research line in genomics and proteomics focused on different marine organisms. It includes an international collaboration with Prof. Skibinski (Swansea University, UK) and Prof. Swanson (University of Washington, USA) devoted to address some timely evolutionary and reproductive biology questions by using transcriptomics and proteomics approaches on sperm and egg samples of marine mussels (*Mytilus* spp.). This collaborative work is framed in a research project funded by Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, headed (PI) by Dr. Diz. He is supervising a PhD student, 1 Postdoc, 1 Master and 1 degree students, in relation to this research project. He previously supervised two MSc students and lab work/training of several PhD/MSc students from different nationalities. Dr. Diz published about 20 papers (12 as 1st author; 10 in Q1 and 4 in top10 journals, e.g. Mol. Cell. Proteomics, Mol. Ecol.,...) and 4 book chapters. He has presented 47 communications, mostly in international congresses, 27 of these as oral presentation (11 as invited), and participated in 14 research projects/networks (1 as PI, 3 funded by EU). He has applied for a COST action (EU), as PI of the Spanish group, in order to set up a European network about mitochondrial (mt) biogenesis, unusual mt inheritance mechanism, DUI, marine organisms, aquaculture,...etc. He has served as an Associate Editor in the Journal of Integrated OMICS, Review Editor in Frontiers in Genetics and external reviewer for several SCI journals and National Science Foundation (USA). Finally it is worth to mention that Dr. Diz has been teaching at University since 2003 (total: 600h) different subjects related to Marine Science and



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Biology Degrees, two different Master courses and also at University of Swansea (UK), under a LLP/Erasmus Programme. He has recently got an habilitation to teach in English (Master in Biological Sciences) at University of Vigo.