

“Advances in Oncology Seminar series”

Prof. MARIA BLASCO



Telomeres and Telomerase *Group leader*

(CNIO, MADRID)

Title

**“Targetting Telomeres in
cancer and aging”**

20th May 2016, 14.00h

Biodonostia Health Research Institute

Donostia - San Sebastian

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Maria A. Blasco (Alicante, 1965) obtained her PhD in 1993 for her research on viral DNA polymerases at the *Centro de Biología Molecular* in Madrid (Spain) under the supervision of Prof Margarita Salas. That same year, Blasco joined the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York (USA) as a Postdoctoral Fellow under the leadership of Prof Carol W. Greider. In 1997 she returned to Spain to start her own research Group at the *Centro Nacional de Biotecnología* in Madrid. She joined the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) in Madrid in 2003 as Head of the Telomeres and Telomerase group and Director of the Molecular Oncology Programme. She served as CNIO Vice Director from 2005 to 2011 and she is the current CNIO Director (since July 2011).

To date (February 2016), Maria A. Blasco has contributed a total of 219 scientific papers, including those published in high-ranking journals (8 in *Cell*, 6 in *Nature Genetics*, 5 in *Nature Cell Biology*, 4 in *Nature*, 2 in *Cell Stem Cell*, 2 in *Nature Reviews Cancer*, 2 in *Nature Genetics*, 2 in *Science*), totaling over 21.000 citations. Her h-index is of 75. Maria A. Blasco also has three granted international patents, one of which was licensed to the company Life Length, SL (www.lifelength.com), a Madrid-based biotech company, which now operates in more than 30 countries to provide telomere length analyses for biomedical uses.

The work of Maria A. Blasco has been recognised both internationally and nationally. Among the international distinctions she has received the Josef Steiner Cancer Research Award (2003), the EMBO Gold Medal (2004) and the Körber European Science Award (2008). Also, in 2014 she became runner-up for the prestigious EU Women Innovators Prize. Blasco is an elected EMBO Member since 2000, and served on its Council from 2008 to 2011. At the national level, Blasco has been distinguished with the *Rey Jaime I* (2007) Award, the *Alberto Sols* for Excellence in Research Award (2009), the *Fundación Lilly Precilical 2010 Research Award*, the Spanish National *Santiago Ramón y Cajal* Research Award in Biology (2010), and the *Career Achievement Miguel Catalán Award* (2015) from the Regional Government of Madrid. Maria A Blasco also received a Doctorate Honoris Causa from *Universidad Carlos III* (Madrid, Spain) in 2014. That same year Blasco was elected Fellow of the Royal Academy of Pharmacy of Spain.

Advances in Oncology Seminar Series

La Comunidad Autónoma Vasca está realizando un indudable avance en Innovación e Investigación en todos los campos. En particular, la Provincia de Gipuzkoa está sentando las bases para ser un área de referencia en el área de la Oncología. Esto ha sido posible gracias a la inversión que los distintos Estamentos e Instituciones están realizando en este campo en los últimos años.

La OSI Donostialdea, el Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Biodonostia, la fundación Onkologikoa junto con la inestimable ayuda de la AECC Gipuzkoa consideran que es necesario seguir dando pasos adelante en el objetivo de ser un referente en investigación y para ello han organizado el Programa “**Advances in Oncologyseminar series**”, una serie de seminarios que se realizará de manera mensual en la que va a participar lo más granado de la ciencia y medicina mundial en la lucha contra el cáncer. El objetivo es debatir los avances recientes y dirigir la investigación y tratamientos futuros que ha de realizarse en nuestra comunidad.