

Rafael Moreno-Luna PhD.

Research Scientist

I graduated with a degree in Biology in 2002. I completed my doctorate between 2002 and 2007 in the Lipids and Arteriosclerosis Unit (UHRF), Cordoba (Spain). My PhD thesis was supervised by Prof. Francisco Perez-Jimenez and Dr. Jose Lopez-Miranda and was unanimously qualified as Excellent Cum Laude and received the Extraordinary Doctorate Prize of the year 2007-2008 from the University of Cordoba. In 2008 I joined Prof. Jose Villar's group in the Clinical and Experimental Unit of Vascular Risk at the UHVR in Seville (Spain), supported by a post-doctoral fellowship "Sara Borrell" granted by the Spanish Carlos III Health Institute for the period 2008-2012. Since I was the first basic scientist to join the group, my main objective was to establish a link between basic and clinical research in the context of vascular pathology. To improve my knowledge of the biology of endothelial progenitor cells, their relationship to other cell populations (mesenchymal stem cells, monocytes, macrophages, neutrophils) and blood vessel formation I spent two years as research fellow in Dr. Melero-Martín's laboratory in the Department of Cardiac Surgery at Boston Children's Hospital, and Department of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. In 2013 to complete previous studies in the field the molecular mechanisms involved in vascular injury I joined Dr. Barderas's group in the Vascular Pathophysiology lab, National Paraplegic Hospital (SESCAM) in Toledo (Spain). Very recently, I moved to Dr. Molina-Holgado's laboratory of Neuroinflammation also in Toledo because this group provides me with a reasonable space and infrastructure for my research and an ideal scientific atmosphere to develop my career. As research scientist, one of my main goals has been the study of the molecular and cellular mechanisms with therapeutic potential. My current objective is continue this research, focussing on the identification of the mechanisms involved in spinal cord injury in order to develop therapies useful in our patients.

Throughout my research career I have published 34 articles and 2 reviews in international journals and 1 in a national journal. I have edited a book and published two book chapters. I have been the Principal Investigator in a research project as well as the coinvestigator on 8 other occasions. I have patented a methodology, supervised a Ph.D. thesis and two Master's degrees. Additionally, I have also actively participated in academic work and serving as a lecturer.

For a complete list of publications, please visit the following link:

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