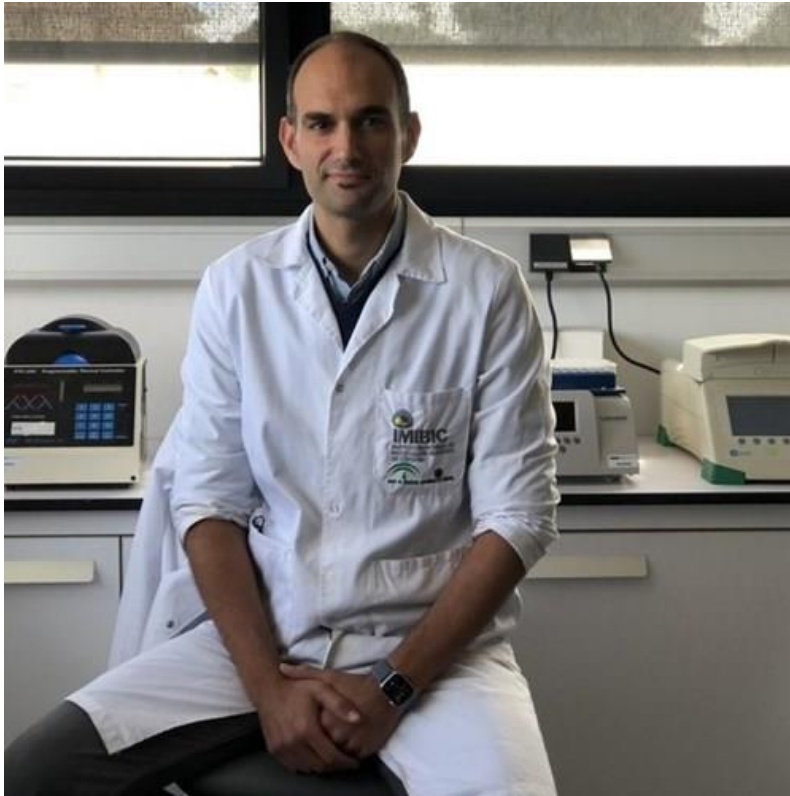


Meet Manuel D. Gahete, our 2023 Jens Sandahl Christiansen Basic Awardee



Professor Manuel D Gahete, from the University of Cordoba, Spain, is our 2023 Jens Sandahl Christiansen Basic Awardee will be delivering a lecture in Istanbul for ECE 2023. Read on to learn more about his career in endocrinology, what he hopes the next big breakthrough will be, and his advice for future endocrinologists.

Tell us a little about your current position and research

I am associate professor at the University of Cordoba (Spain) and Head of the “Molecular Hepatology” group of the IMIBIC (Córdoba, Spain). In the group, we study of the deregulation of gene expression control mechanisms, RNA biogenesis, mRNA metabolism (splicing, NMD, RNA-exosome, etc.) and protein synthesis and maturation in the development and progression of different liver pathologies such as fatty liver disease, cirrhosis, or liver cancer. We also study the involvement of metabolic dysregulation (obesity, diabetes, metabolic syndrome) and, therefore, the associated cellular, molecular, and endocrine systems (somatostatin, ghrelin, adipokines, hepatokines, etc.) in these liver pathologies.

Tell us about your career path so far, and what you’re most proud of

I graduated in Biology in 2005, and obtained my PhD in Sciences in 2010 which focused on the characterisation of novel elements of the somatostatin and ghrelin systems in different

pathologies. I developed my post-doctoral training at the University of Illinois at Chicago using metabolic and whole-body approaches to explore the crosstalk between neuroendocrine and metabolic systems in the control of pituitary gland, liver dysfunction and tumor progression. I then obtained a permanent position as an Associated Professor at the University of Cordoba and consolidated my research in liver pathophysiology, which is likely what I am most proud of during my scientific career.

What are you presenting at ECE 2023?

I have received this year's Jens Sandahl Christiansen Award, so I will be presenting the main lines of research we are developing in the Metabolism field.

What are you looking forward to at ECE 2023?

As in every ESE meeting, during ECE 2023 I am looking forward to learning more about the latest advances made in the field by the most renowned European scientists, as well as meeting colleagues and interacting with some other attendees to share results, ideas, and likely, novel and promising projects. I am also looking forward to seeing the presentations (oral communications and posters) made by the members of my team.

Who has had the most impact on your career?

It is really difficult to choose who has had the most impact on my career. Obviously, as it should be, my mentors have strongly impacted in my scientific career, especially in the first stages. From the initial determination to pursue a research career as a translational scientist to my current research to this day, my mentors (Drs. Justo P. Castaño and Raul M. Luque) and during my postdoctoral training (Dr. Rhonda, D. Kineman) have been significant pillars in my career.

What are the biggest challenges in your field right now?

Endocrine and metabolic diseases, especially liver diseases, are characterized by a multitude of alterations that could be the cause or the consequence of the pathological process. From my point of view, the biggest challenge in the endocrinology and metabolism field is to try to understand how relevant and impactful all these hormonal and metabolic dysregulations are, and to establish a hierarchical organization based on their pathological importance. The idea would be to identify those endocrine/metabolic alterations that could be at the initial stages of the disease and could represent driver events.

What do you think will be the next major breakthrough in your field?

A great research effort is being implemented worldwide to understand the cellular and molecular bases underlying the patient-specific behaviour of the different endocrine and metabolic diseases and, therefore, I think that the next major breakthrough in this field will be related to the identification of personalised diagnostic biomarkers, prognostic predictors or more effective and tailored therapeutic targets capable to change our way to manage the patients towards a real precision medicine.

Could you tell us what you most enjoy about your work?

As a basic/translational researcher, the most enjoyable part of my work resides in the generation of positive results (expected or unexpected) derived from the research work developed by the team members in the laboratory. Our research aims to study novel cellular and molecular events associated to the development and progression of liver diseases, so every new finding associated with the identification of novel processes involved in these pathologies are without any doubt the best part of our work - especially when they have presumably potential to be translated to the clinical practice.

Any words of wisdom for aspiring endocrinologists?

Endocrinology and metabolism are very exciting fields in clinical and translational research, and there's still so much to explore in these specialties! There are many open questions to be resolved in the clinical management of the patients and to understand the biological bases of endocrine diseases. Stay motivated, curious and open-minded. We always need fresh and motivated researchers in our field.