

## **Biosketch**

Dr. Javier Vaquero obtained a degree in Biology and Biochemistry from the University of Salamanca (Spain) in 2007. He then joined the laboratory of Prof. JJG Marin at the same university and obtained his PhD in 2013 studying the role of FXR in the mechanisms of chemoresistance of liver and intestinal tumors.

In 2014 he moved to the laboratory of Dr. Laura Fouassier at Sain-Antoine Research Center (CRSA, Paris, France) for a postdoctoral stay. During this time, he specialized in the study of cholangiocarcinoma, a very aggressive and desmoplastic liver tumor derived from the biliary tree, focusing on the stromal compartment.

In 2019 Dr. Vaquero moved back to Spain, to join the laboratory of Dr. Isabel Fabregat at IDIBELL (Barcelona, Spain) where he became a Junior PI thanks to the obtention of JIN type grant. His research was focused to identify the reasons why TGF- $\beta$  inhibitors failed in clinical trials in cholangiocarcinoma patients. This research identified a potent suppressor effect of TGF- $\beta$  in cholangiocarcinoma tumor cells that was impaired by TGF- $\beta$  inhibitors, leading to tumor progression. Further research identified alternative molecules downstream TGF- $\beta$  signaling as potential therapeutic targets.

Since 2023 Dr. Vaquero is a Group Leader at the Center of Cancer Research (CIC-IBMC) in Salamanca thanks to a Ramon y Cajal contract. His main interest is still to deepen in the molecular mechanisms involved in the pathobiology of cholangiocarcinoma in search of new therapeutic approaches for this aggressive and deadly disease.