

LOS MEDIODÍAS DE LA EMBAJADA

Special Edition

COVID-19 response: examples of solutions in Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain

- Spanish Science Diplomacy -

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Webinar

#SpainMeansInnovation

SPEAKERS' BACKGROUND



Boudewijn Catry

Boudewijn Catry is a **researcher** with a special **interest in antimicrobial resistance**. Between 2000 and 2007, he combined ambulatory practice & obstetrics as a veterinary surgeon with laboratory research at the Ghent University (UGent). He started to work at **Sciensano in 2007**, where he integrated **veterinary epidemiological approaches in human research projects**. Since 2009 he is in charge of the service

Healthcare-associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance (www.nsih.be). He is involved in national and international **committees on the prudent use of antimicrobials and infection prevention**. He is **co-founder** (°2013) of the **outbreak support team for multidrug resistant organisms in Belgian hospitals** (MDRO-OST). Since 2018 he is **lecturer** epidemiology at the **Faculty of Medicine** in Brussels (Université libre de Bruxelles, **ULB**).

Adolfo Fernández

Adolfo Fernández Valdés obtained his degree in **organic chemistry** by the **Universidad de Oviedo** (1997). Upon completion of his degree, he joined **INCAR-CSIC**, where he made his **Doctoral thesis** on the study of the **surface properties of carbonaceous materials and its use in methods of separation**. In 2002, he joined the Group of **Nanostructured Materials**, group that constituted the origin of which will be subsequently the **Research Center in Nanomaterials and**



Nanotechnology (CINN). and he completed his studies in the area of materials with a two-year stay at **INSA Lyon**, belonging to the **CNRS**.

In 2006, he returned to **CINN**, where acts as **technical coordinator of the IP Nanoker project**. During four years he was the **head of the Nanomaterials Department at ITMA Foundation**. Since 2013, he is the responsible of the **Development Unit of Multifunctional Materials** within the framework of the **public - private** partnership between **Nanoker Research SL and CSIC**. Since December 2019, he is the **Director of CINN**.

He has been **Principal Investigator of 10 research projects getting a global funding budget >1, 5 M€**. In addition, it has formed part of the research team in **29 R&D projects**. He is the author of **88** scientific publications in **ISI Journals (h = 21)** and **two book chapters**. He has supervised **6 doctoral theses** and is author of **11 patents**, three of them licensed and one under exploitation. He has participated in **70** national and international **conferences** with **30** oral contributions and he has given **7** invited conferences. He has designed and developed two plants of advanced synthesis of nanoparticles.



Belén Cabal

Dr. Belén Cabal holds a **Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry** (University of Oviedo, Spain, 2004) and received her **PhD degree in Materials Science** by **University of Oviedo** (Spain) in 2009. After 2 years **postdoctoral** stay in department of **Biomaterials and Bioinspired Materials at the Instituto de Ciencia de Materiales de Madrid (ICMM) (CSIC)**, in 2012, she was awarded a JAE-Doc research fellowship in the Nanomaterials and Nanotechnology Research Center (**CINN**) (CSIC-UO-PA). In 2016, she was awarded with the governmental fellowship "**Jovellanos**". This is a very specific and competitive concurrence-based **fellowship** aimed to

incorporate **doctorate employees in the company** to perform excellent **R&D project**. The project that she was responsible for was focused on the development of **antibacterial coatings** of long lasting effect **to prevent implant associated infections** at the dental implant site. In 2018, She joined the **department of Nanomaterials and Nanomedicine at CINN**. Since then, she has been leading the line of research of inorganic antimicrobial materials for biomedical and antimicrobial applications. In 2020, she became a **Tenure Scientist of CSIC**.

Dr. Cabal has a long-standing interest and widely experience on research activities related to **inorganic antimicrobial materials**. Since 2010, she has been working in the **design of glass based functional materials**, novel formulations, for **biomedical and antimicrobial applications**. She has a long experience in the **synthesis and characterization** of this type of **advanced functional materials** (nanoparticles, glasses, glass-ceramics, glass-based composites, glass fibers), and also on the development of **bioactive coatings** on metallic or ceramic substrates, surface functionalization of Titanium alloys to promote osteointegration, composites with antibacterial capability and

antimicrobial delivery systems. As for scientific contributions, she has experience in participating in **R&D projects** (14), 4 of them as **IP**, and **industrial contracts** (6). She has co-authored 40 **articles** in peer-reviewed international journals, one of them was chosen as a back cover. She is also coinventor of **3 patents**, one of them licensed by Nanoker Research S.L. (Spain) since 2011. She serves in the **editorial board of a recognized international journal**: Scientific Reports, from Nature Publishing Group.

José María Lagarón

Dr. Jose Maria LAGARON is **Group Leader** and **Founder** of the **group Novel Materials and Nanotechnology** at the **Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology (IATA)** of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (**CSIC**) located in Valencia, Spain. He is **Head of the Joint Unit CSIC-University Jaume I in "Polymers Technology"**. Lagaron is also **Founder** of several **technology-based companies**, the one related to the innovation discussed in this presentation is **Bioinicia S.L.**



Other highlights:

- **PhD in Physical Sciences** (Polymer Physics) at the University of Valladolid (Spain).
- Worked for several years at **DSM Research** (The Netherlands) and **BP Chemicals** (UK) as Research Associate.
- He has published **more than 310 peer reviewed papers, several books and holds over 50 patents** to his credit.
- **Vocal** in the Executive Board of the Valencia Region Biotechnology Association, **BIOVAL**.
- **Coordinator** of two **H2020 European projects, YPACK and USABLE PACKAGING**, in Circular Bioeconomy.



David Gering

David Gering joined **pharma.be** in October 2020 and in his position of **Communications Director** he is part of the leadership team of the federation of the **innovative biopharmaceutical industry** in Belgium. He started his career at the **European Commission** before switching to commercial environments.

David held managing positions within the **TUI Group**, he has served as **Ryanair's** key spokesperson in the Benelux and Portugal for many years, and he was Commercial Director, PR & Communications of **Brussels South-Charleroi Airport** during its most important growth period.

David created and **managed communication solutions for a variety of customers** ranging from agencies and volunteering initiatives to companies in the pharmaceutical industry. He has an extensive experience in **PR, media management and multi-cultural collaboration**, facilitated by his deep interest in exchange, languages

Gérard Schockmel

Dr Gérard Schockmel holds both a degree in **medicine (M.D.) from the University of Vienna**, Austria, and a degree in **science (Ph.D.) from the University of Oxford**, United Kingdom. He is a board-certified specialist in infectious diseases and in internal medicine, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Schockmel devoted an extensive part of his research activities to the study of **RNA viruses**, research he carried out at the Universities of Oxford and Geneva, respectively. At the laboratory of Virology, Geneva University hospitals, he developed an **ultrasensitive assay for the detection of HIV RNA in plasma** that became the **international standard** for the management of antiviral therapy in HIV infected individuals.

Dr Schockmel spent several years of his professional career in the **pharmaceutical industry**, where he held managerial positions both in a large company (**Roche**), and in a start-up biotechnology company (**Basilea Pharmaceutica**), respectively. His R&D activity focussed on drug development at a worldwide level, from the early preclinical stages to clinical phase I-III studies.



At the **Hôpitaux Robert Schuman, Luxembourg**, Dr Schockmel headed the multidisciplinary **Hospital Laboratory and the Infection Prevention and Control Unit**. Currently, Dr Schockmel is **Infectious Diseases consultant** at the Hôpitaux Robert Schuman.

Dr Schockmel is known to the general public in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic due to his regular appearances on **television** and on the **radio**, his contributions in the **written press** and his **webinars** with emphasis on Covid-19 vaccines, prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

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