

## Virginia García de Yébenes Mena, PhD

Virginia G. de Yébenes (Detroit, USA 1972) obtained her BS degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in 1995. De Yébenes received her PhD and First Class Honours distinction from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid in 2002. Dr. de Yébenes joined Almudena R. Ramiro's group at the Spanish National Oncology Research Center (CNIO) as a postdoctoral fellow.

In 2009 de Yébenes was awarded a "Ramon y Cajal" research position and her scientific career was acknowledged with an I3 outstanding research trajectory certificate from the Spanish National Evaluation Agency in 2014.

She joined the Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC) in 2011, where she worked as a Research Associate in the B Cell Biology Lab until her appointment as Associate Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) in 2019. During this time as postdoctoral and senior researcher, she developed a new research line focused in the characterization of the role of microRNAs in the regulation of mature Germinal Center (GC) B cell biology and oncogenic transformation processes. Dr. de Yébenes developed new state-of-the-art microRNA gain and loss of function mouse models, including "microRNA sponges" bone marrow chimeras, microRNA transgenics and *knock-ins*, and conditional *knock-outs*. These works showed that microRNAs are key regulators of the GC response and led to the identification of microRNAs that play essential roles in: i) the regulation of GC molecular processes (i.e. miR-181 through AID expression regulation), ii) suppressing GC-derived neoplastic transformation (i.e. miR-28 is a GC tumor-suppressors through BCR signaling regulation) and iii) promoting GC transformation (i.e. miR-217 is a GC oncogene that regulates DNA damage response and Bcl6 expression). As a Research Associate, Dr. de Yébenes directly contributed to the scientific mentoring of some of the students in the B cell Lab laboratory (6 PhD students: 12 collaborative articles and 4 reviews), codirected a Master work (Teresa Fuertes Novella; UAM 2017) and two PhD thesis (Nahikari Bartolomé; UAM 2016 and Teresa Fuertes; UAM 2023). Dr. de Yébenes has published 8 highly cited articles about the role of microRNAs in GC regulation and oncogenic transformation topic (5 as corresponding author) in the most important journals of the field (Journal of Experimental Medicine, cited 198 times; Immunity, cited 123 times; Immunol Rev, cited 71 times; Blood; EMBO Reports; Trends in Immunology and a book chapter in Methods in Molecular Biology). The clinical applications of these works for B cell lymphoma treatment have been patented (EP15382249.9 and EP17382740.3). Dr. de Yébenes obtained an "Investigador AECC" grant in 2018 to develop these research lines and a grant as principal investigator.

Dr de Yébenes is the group leader of B cell physiopathology Group at the Immunology Department of the Faculty of Medicine from the UCM since December 2019. The laboratory is interested in charactering the role of non-coding RNAs in the regulation of B cell responses to use this knowledge for the design of new strategies to modulate immune responses and develop therapies for B cell lymphomas. Dr de Yébenes has directed 2 Master works (Irene Salgado; UCM 2021 and María Laguna; UCM 2022) and is directing a PhD Thesis (Emigdio Álvarez; UCM) with the financial support from the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (I+D+i 2019 call; PID2019-107551RB-I00) and Comunidad de Madrid (CT4/21/PEJ-2020-AI/BMD-18112) and in collaboration with national and international experts. In addition, Dr de Yébenes the scientific co-director of the Lymphocyte Immunobiology Research Group at the Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Hospital 12 de Octubre.

During her research career, Dr. de Yébenes has published 28 scientific articles, 13 as principal author and 6 as corresponding author. These articles have been published in high-impact journals and have had a relevant contribution in the field, as shown by different bibliometric parameters; 1,175 total citations, 91 average citations/year in the last 5 years, high citation percentiles and an H index of 21. Dr de Yébenes contributes regularly to other scientific activities including: (a) peer-

review of research articles and grant applications, (b) participating as member of PhD and master thesis committees, and (c) being part of evaluation committees for research positions at the UCM. In addition, Dr. de Yebenes participates regularly in scientific dissemination activities (i.e. school talks, activities for “*Semana de la Ciencia*” dissemination programs and publication of a science general audience articles in “The Conversation”) and has a regular activity as university teacher of Immunology in graduate and master courses since 2019.