

SPAIN

María Blasco

Biology

María Blasco has led the Spanish National Centre for Oncologic Research since 2011.

Her major achievements are the discovery that telomeres (sections of DNA found at the ends of each of our chromosomes) are the determinants of our longevity and the origin of ageing diseases; the isolation of the telomerase gene in mammals and the demonstration of its role in cancer and ageing.

She was the first woman scientist in the world to obtain the Josef Steiner Award, obtaining one million Swiss francs for cancer research. She has also received the Rey Jaime I Prize and the EMBO Women in Science Award.

Recently, Blasco has developed a therapeutic strategy to slow the progression of degenerative diseases such as pulmonary fibrosis that is based on telomerase activation.



MEDNIGHT

Mednight has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 101036107

