INcitate knowledge

Vicente Martínez Perea,
Lecturer. Department of Cellular Biology, Physiology and Immunology. Area of Animal Physiology
Neuroinmunogastroenterology and Gut Microbiota

1.- What research are you currently developing?

Today my focus is on the interaction between the intestinal microbiota and its host and how it is able to modulate intestinal neuro-immune functions. Especially I'm interested in the mechanisms of visceral pain and how intestinal barrier function is affected.
Specifically, we are now studying how receptors like Toll (TLRs, involved in the recognition of the microbiota) are involved in the regulation of intestinal barrier function.

2.- How is the day-to-day inside your laboratory?

The truth is that I'm going to the lab less than I would like, my job is mainly desk and computer ... but I still participate in the experiments and helped them whenever necessary.
I am a person "in vivo", over 90% of my work has been developed in the area of animal experimentation (and continues to be based largely on that). So I have to use to "stick up" for animal experimentation. At this time the animal research is a point of attack, we have to think about and be aware of everything that has injected us, and continues contributing to us. Today, the animal research (well done) is an essential component in all biomedical research and we must all defend it by value and social benefits that provides.

3.- What therapeutic applications do you think can your research have?

We do basic research; but I guess as for everyone that makes biomedical research and keep an eye on the possible practical applications. In our case, our work is important in the area of gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases (ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease) and functional (IBS). Therefore we intend to better understand the pathophysiology of these to identify therapeutic targets for treatment. The intestinal microbiota itself is considered a therapeutic target, and is getting a lot of interest both from the pharmaceutical industry and the food industry.

4.- How you encourage future scientists to be part of neuroscience research?

Neuroscience is a very well established but at the same time with a very large road ahead, with implications for virtually all organizational levels discipline. In this sense, it is an area that allows a large professional development, multilevel ... Virtually everything that can interest us can be approached from the perspective of neuroscience ... .the nerves and neurons are in and go everywhere! Therefore, the potential of the area is, nowadays, virtually unlimited, an area ideal for personal and professional development work.