



SPEAKER PROFILE

Elisa Izquierdo



Elisa Izquierdo is a specialised Molecular Biologist in Paediatric Oncology. She has developed her research career mostly at the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London UK, ranked in the top five higher education institutions in the world for research. During this time, Elisa developed and validated multiple assays, using Next-Generation Sequencing, to identify genetic alterations in paediatric patients which have been directly translated into the clinic. This methodology is currently being used for clinical decision making in every child with a solid tumour in the UK, as part of the National Health Service diagnostic service (www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mib133).

In addition, Elisa has a broad experience in liquid biopsy in neuroblastoma and paediatric high-grade glioma (pHGG). In this context, she used plasma and cerebrospinal fluid from the HERBY clinical trial and other studies and identified molecular alterations in circulating tumour DNA in patients with pHGG, DIPG and neuroblastoma. Moreover, in an international, prospective biopsy-stratified, phase II clinical trial (BIOMEDE), Elisa was able to establish patient-derived *in vitro* models identifying biomarkers of response to bespoke compounds as well as undertaking parallel resistance modelling to further inform novel treatment strategies at tumour relapse. Elisa has recently joined the Hospital Niño Jesus in Madrid to initiate the OncoGenomics Unit with the aim to establish a molecular profiling programme for children with cancer.