

Short CV: Daniel Benítez Ribas

Daniel Benítez received his PhD from the University of Barcelona, Dept of Immunology Hospital Clinic, under the supervision of Dr. Ramón Vilella. His PhD topic was the generation of therapeutic vaccines based on allogeneic tumor cell lines and dendritic cells and their clinical application in melanoma patients. Afterwards, in 2004 he moved to The Netherlands as post-doctoral researcher in the group headed by Dr. Carl Figdor and Dr. Jolanda de Vries, in the Dept of Tumor Immunology, Radboud University, Nijmegen. During his post-doctoral research he evaluated and developed a dendritic cells vaccine under clinical grade conditions from circulating plasmacytoid dendritic cells and its therapeutic application in metastatic melanoma patients. In 2008, Dr. Benítez joined as senior investigator to the CIBERehd ascribed to the Dept. of Gastroenterology, at the Hospital Clinic in Barcelona in charge to set up and supervise dendritic cell-based therapies for autoimmune diseases. Indeed, he conducted the “first in human” Phase Ib clinical trial in Crohn’s disease patients with autologous tolerogenic dendritic cells. In 2016, a Phase Ib clinical trial was initiated in Multiple Sclerosis and Neuromyelitis Optica using tolerogenic dendritic cells loaded with myelin derived synthetic peptides. We are also conducting clinical trials using immunogenic DCs in Diffuse Pontine Glioma (DIPG) and recently a combination of DCs plus anti-PDL1 antibody in colorectal cancer. In 2016, he joined to the Dept of Immunology, Hospital Clinic, Immunotherapy section, to expand cell-based therapies for cancer patients (dendritic cells and CAR-T cells) and autoimmune diseases. Currently, several clinical trials based on dendritic cells for cancer patients are ongoing under his supervision. Daniel’s main interests are focused on translation research and clinical development of cellular immunotherapies