

2016 Awards

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE 2016 SOCIETY AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD

The 2016 recipient of the ASRM Distinguished Researcher Award is **Carlos Simón Vallés, M.D., Ph.D.** Professor Simón's accomplishments as a clinical scientist, leader, inventor, mentor, and citizen to the scientific community have been outstanding, moving beyond basic endometrial biology to molecular genetics and more recently stem cell research and clinical application of the novel tools that he has invented, while generously mentoring trainees and helping other groups to advance science in our field. Professor Simón's work has focused on three main areas: embryonic implantation; endometrial receptivity; and stem cells in reproductive medicine. In all three, he is the first or last author of landmark papers that have attracted the attention and respect of many colleagues worldwide.



Carlos Simón Vallés, M.D., Ph.D.

In embryonic implantation, he made a breakthrough regarding mechanisms underlying the interleukin-1 system during the adhesive phase of embryonic implantation, as well as the cross-communication between the maternal endometrium and the embryo. He also worked on the molecular characterization of endometrial receptivity in humans, publishing more than 20 papers as first or last author. He pioneered the first derivation of embryonic stem cell lines in Spain, participating in a collaborative study demonstrating the lack of genetic diversity in the most commonly used cell lines worldwide. His lab demonstrated the existence and the functional proof of concept of human endometrial stem cells that now are ready for clinical translation with the promise to restore endometria in women with Asherman's syndrome or "thin" endometria. Recently, he reported the generation of artificial gametes using direct reprogramming with six germ line-related factors in human somatic cells. The promise of his most recent discovery would be transformative to patients with gonadal compromise.

Professor Carlos Simón is the author of 408 peer-reviewed articles. He is a well-trained, creative physician scientist, who is energetic, adventurous in thought, and blends basic research with translational applications. He consistently pushes the envelope, and his studies have been recognized nationally and internationally. His research has been funded as principal investigator through 34 competitive governmental grants from the National Institutes of Health, the European Union, the Spanish Government, and the Valencian Government, and his research governmental funding portfolio in 2016 totals more than \$1.29M direct costs. Furthermore, he is a superb and dedicated mentor who has supervised 33 PhD students, many of whom have earned special recognition and prestigious international awards. Carlos is

generous in spirit and collaborates widely, sharing resources with other laboratories and offering services to the clinical and scientific communities at large. Carlos Simón is an outstanding researcher, teacher, innovator, and colleague. His expertise allows him to integrate clinical data and basic techniques as he teaches students and fellows, and his vast fund of knowledge and experience underlie his excellence in teaching.

Also, he is a careful experimentalist and a team player. In summary, Professor Carlos Simón is one of the true visionaries in our field, and his innovative research contributions to reproductive medicine and science are unparalleled. He is an outstanding researcher, teacher, mentor, innovator, collaborator, and individual.