

CURRICULUM VITAE: DR. ELVIRA LARQUÉ

ADDRESS:

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Dr. Elvira Larqué Daza was born in Granada (Spain) in 1971. She obtained the Pharmacist degree by the University of Granada (Spain) in 1994, and the Ph D. in Pharmacy by the University of Murcia (Spain) in 1999. She works in the Department of Physiology of Murcia University from 1994, where she is Professor of Physiology by the University of Murcia (Spain). Dr. Larqué participates in international research collaborations from 1999, obtaining competitive grant funding by the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (Germany), which supported her post-doctoral stay in the University of Munich in 2001. Her research is focus mainly in early metabolism and nutrition, with important contributions to paediatric research. She has co-authored about 40 original papers published or accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals, many of them in the last five years in high standards journals such as American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, Journal of Nutrition, Pediatric Research, Journal of Lipid Research,... These publications deal with most relevant and pertinent questions in child health, lipid metabolism and nutrition, addressing both clinical and pathomechanistic aspects of health and diseases.

The research of Dr. Larqué is based on high quality laboratory methods based particularly on insights into the physiological and pathophysiological roles of metabolic factors in development. She was primarily involved in a research project evaluating the effects of dietary *trans* fatty acid on tissue composition and functionality. She reported a negative effect of maternal dietary *trans* fatty acids consumption in the long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acid (LC-PUFA) levels in several rat tissues including placenta, fetal and maternal liver as well as maternal and cord blood. She also reported a partial inhibition in the activity of the delta-6-desaturase enzyme of liver microsomes by *trans* fatty acids during gestation. She also evaluated *in vivo*, in humans, the mechanisms involved in the placental transfer of fatty acids using fatty acids labelled with stable isotopes and quantifying the mRNA expression of several placental fatty acid carriers in humans. Actually, she is leading a research project on placental fatty acid transfer in women with gestational diabetes, with a perspective on neurodevelopment of the respective infants, proposing new tools for such evaluation as the maturation of the circadian rhythms in the neonates.

Her research has received numerous national and international awards. She obtained a Thesis Award from Murcia University in 2002, the Award of the Real Academy of Pharmacy Santa Maria de España in 2005 and 2008; recently in 2009 she received the ESPGHAN Paediatric Nutrition Research Award for Young Investigators. From 2008, Dr. Larqué is Academic Member of the Real Academy of Pharmacy Santa Maria de España (Spain).