
ANDRÉS LÓPEZ BERNAL

CV

PARTICIPANT AT:

EXTREMELY PRETERM BABIES. IMPROVING PERINATAL CARE

January, 16th-17th, 2013, Barcelona



Andrés López Bernal, Professor of Human Reproductive Biology, [Professor School of Clinical Sciences, University of Bristol](#), UK

After qualifying in medicine and training in obstetrics and gynaecology in Spain I moved to the United Kingdom. I carried out studies on corticosteroid metabolism by human intrauterine tissues in relation to parturition which were incorporated into my D Phil thesis in Oxford. I obtained a Lalor Foundation Fellowship and studied the role of eicosanoids and their receptors in tissues from pregnant women; this allowed me to discover the profound alterations in prostaglandin production in women with infection-associated preterm labour (chorioamnionitis). These studies were internationally acclaimed and led to a wide interest on the role of inflammatory mediators in preterm labour. Our work contributed to the successful development of oxytocin antagonists for the management of preterm labour. Moreover, we discovered that fetal lung surfactant regulates prostaglandin synthesis in the amniotic epithelium. In 1990 I became Research Lecturer and in 1997 Reader in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Oxford. Since 2001 I hold a Chair in the School of Clinical Sciences, University of Bristol. My group has focused on receptor signalling and protein phosphorylation in uterine contractility. Current research has led to the discovery of novel mechanisms of oxytocin action, especially the involvement of the NFAT (nuclear factor of activated T cells) pathway in the induction of prostaglandin synthases in human myometrial cells. Our translational work involves the study of protein kinase targets in myometrium and the identification of biomarkers for preterm labour. I work at the interface of clinical and scientific research and enjoy mentoring young investigators, having supervised 40 scientists and clinical research fellows so far in my laboratory.

B-DEBATE IS AN INITIATIVE OF:

