Special Issue in Honour of Professor Juan Bolanos

Simon Heales¹

Published online: 11 January 2021

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It gives me great pleasure to write an introduction to this special issue dedicated to the achievements of my colleague and collaborator, Professor Juan Bolanos.

Juan graduated from the University of Salamanca in 1987 with a degree in Pharmacy and then proceeded to study for a PhD under Professor Jose Medina, graduating, *cum laude*, in 1992.

In January 1993, funded by the European Union, Juan joined the group of the late Professor John Clark in London (UCL Institute of Neurology). A highly productive two years followed with Juan making pioneering observations with regards to the effects of nitric oxide upon mitochondrial function and the differential response of astrocytes and neurons to exposure to the gas. These findings were published in a number of journals and received considerable interest and citations. This was the start of Juan receiving numerous invitations to lecture at major scientific meetings. Juan's work in London led to further funding and

collaborations. Collaborations that still exist between Juan and me—27 years later!

Upon returning to Salamanca, Juan's research continued to move at an exciting speed and it was not long before he received a highly competitive permanent position (Lecturer) at the university. As could be completely predicted, Juan moved rapidly through the academic ranks becoming a full professor at the university in 2007.

Juan has an exceptional publication record and this is accompanied by an attractive and enviable grant income. However, to me, one of the most impressive characteristics about Juan is his extremely collaborative nature. Over the years he has not only fostered strong collaborative links across Spain but at an international level. This is not surprising as Juan brings to every meeting an element of excitement and he is never short of ideas that he invariably delivers upon in a collaborative manner. However, and most impressively, Juan is passionate about training up the next generation of scientist. This is clearly apparent when he is talking to his PhD students or young emerging scientists and international meetings. Not surprisingly, Juan has many requests from scientists to study in his laboratory.

✉ Simon Heales
Simon.Heales@gosh.nhs.uk

¹ Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, UK

When putting together this special issue, dedicated to Juan, there was no hesitation from the invited authors. Many of whom are very busy and are currently facing very challenging times. The esteem Juan is held by the scientific community is clearly reflected by their willingness to contribute.

The subjects covered in this issue reflect Juan's interests and the number of key collaborators he has and undoubtedly continue to have. Most likely his collaborative network will continue to expand to the benefit of our science.

Simon Heales

UCL Professor of Clinical Chemistry

London November 2020

Guest Editor

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