

# Meet the Expert

## **Rafael Oliva**

Professor of Genetics, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Barcelona, Senior Consultor at the Hospital Clinic, Barcelona, Spain.

Team Leader of the Molecular Biology of Reproduction and Development research group at the August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute (IDIBAPS), Barcelona, Spain.

## **Background**

Rafael Oliva obtained a Medical Doctor (MD) degree at the University of Barcelona in 1984 and a Ph.D. degree in 1986 for the study of the structural chromatin transitions during spermatogenesis, directed by Prof. Cristóbal Mezquita. From 1986 until 1989, Oliva spent four years at the Health Science Centre at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary (Alberta, Canada), as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Dr. Gordon H Dixon's laboratory, where he followed with the study of the chromatin structure transitions in spermatogenesis and the evolution and function of protamine genes. From 1989–1990, he was the Staff Scientist at the Human Genome Center at Lawrence Berkeley laboratories where participated in the physical mapping of human chromosomes, at the beginning of the human genome project. In 1990 he moved to his current laboratory and since then has combined basic and translational biomedical research in the field of Molecular Biology of Reproduction and Development.

## **Major Research Interests**

Oliva's research focus is on the characterization of the composition and function of the human sperm and seminal plasma proteomes, small RNA content, and sperm cell epigenome, as a step to understand the function and basic mechanisms operating in the sperm cell, and to enable translational research in male infertility. Interest include differential distribution of the sperm cell genes, RNAs and proteins potentially involved in regulatory roles after fertilization, and detection of signatures in infertile patients potentially involved in early embryo development. He is a member of the European Academy of Andrology (EAA) and the European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG), serves as Associate Editor for the journal *Andrology*, and is member of the Editorial Board for the *Asian Journal of Andrology*, and *Systems Biology in Reproductive Medicine*.

## **Relation to AJA**

It is a privilege to serve as member of the Editorial Board of the *Asian Journal of Andrology*, which is currently the highest impact factor journal in the Andrology category. Since the beginning, it has been a pleasure to work with the very professional and efficient editorial staff, which have made communication very easy. In addition to the high quality contents, I also find that the journal has a very attractive and easy to read format. I would like to thank sincerely the team at *Asian Journal of Andrology* for the excellent job they are doing.

