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Mini Interview to Raúl Dulce

- **What do you consider to be your substantial scientific contribution so far (provide Pubmed PMID if possible)?**

Although I have been working in for long time in the regulation of calcium handling in cardiomyocytes by nitroso-redox mechanisms, I think that my latest study is of great relevance due to the increasing diagnosis and prevalence of the heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (PubMed PMID: 35704032).

- **Which is your current research and the most exciting questions you find in your field?**

My current research is focused in understanding the mechanisms associated with aging and senescence in the cardiovascular system and one exciting question is how do the s-nitrosylation of proteins affect that.

- **Where do your research strengths lie? Why? What are your research weaknesses? How will you improve?**

I think that, in my case, the strengths and the weaknesses lie on the same aspect of my research: the specialization. Narrowing the range of study of pathophysiological cardiomyocyte mechanisms involved in heart failure allowed me to develop and improve my skills and expertise. However, I consider that this is also a limiting factor that might eclipse a more comprehensive approach. I believe that a well-designed and coordinated team working is a good a strategy to overcome this issue.

- **Describe your unforgettable or proudest moment in science, and the most challenging situation that you have had to overcome (lessons learnt) so far?**

My most memorable moments as a scientist were those when I have been acknowledged. It is when you finally feel that all the effort

considered by your pairs and it is worthy.

For me, the most challenging in science has been getting funded. After months designing and writing grant applications, rejection is very frustrating. I have learned that the mentor plays a critical role in advising and a continuous and fluent feedback during the project design and writing are key.

• Which was the first relevant conference were you presented? How was your experience?

The most relevant conference for me was my first time in an international meeting at Scientific Sessions 2005 (AHA) in Dallas, Texas. The size of the event, the number of participants and attendees was shocking for me. I was extremely nervous about presenting our abstract which was preselected as finalist (especially due to my limited English). However, I did enjoy it a lot.

• Do you have any advice for emerging scientists?

Never stop pursuing your goals and keep a substantial exchange of ideas with your mentor and colleagues, which will enrich your research enormously.

• Which are the skills that you consider are necessary for physiological scientific research?

I think that is important to have a comprehensive knowledge of the human physiology and an integral overview of the human body as a whole, instead of considering the different systems as different subjects.

• Do you consider that the experience in a foreign lab improve your scientific profile?

Yes, although I do not find differences in the quality of research performed in my current institution and the institutions where I worked in Argentina, I think that having an experience in a foreign lab is definitely a plus for a scientist, especially to create networks with a larger number of researchers all around the world.

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