

Montano, Adriana

Adriana M. Montaña, Ph.D., M.Sc. is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Saint Louis University, School of Medicine. Dr. Montaña is an internationally recognized scientist who has made truly outstanding contributions to the field of Mucopolysaccharidoses (MPS) research.

Dr. Montaña has over 20 years of research experience on lysosomal storage disorders. Her research has set the basis for the understanding of Morquio A disease (MPS IVA) and Sly disease (MPS VII) by providing insights into the natural history of patients showing their heterogeneity in phenotype and genotype. In addition, she has developed mouse models for Morquio A disease instrumental to carry out pre-clinical trials to assess novel treatments for the disease including enzyme replacement therapy, gene therapy, and substrate reduction therapy. Her work also includes the development of newborn screening for patients with MPS, which is fundamental for early detection and treatment of patients.

Dr. Montaña received her B.Sc. degree from the University of Los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia), and Ph.D. degree from Gifu University (Japan), where she was a Monbusho Scholar supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture of the Japanese government. After completing the Ph.D. program, she received a Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) to study molecular evolution of keratan sulfate and peptidoglycan recognition proteins at the Graduate University for Advanced Studies (Japan). She also served as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Biochemistry at Kobe Pharmaceutical University (Japan) where she studied chondroitin sulfate metabolism and hyaluronidases. Dr. Montaña received a M.Sc. degree from Saint Louis University in Health Outcomes Research and Evaluation Sciences with a concentration in Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Montaña is recipient of multiple extramural grants and awards, and has published over 50 scientific papers in molecular genetics, pediatrics and metabolism. She has participated in more than 100 conferences around the globe and holds 9 patents.