The road to Insurmountability: Novel avenues to better target CC Chemokine Receptors

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Natalia Veneranda Ortiz Zacarías was born in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico on the 13th of February 1987. After graduating from high school at the *Research and Development Center for Bilingual Education* (CIDEB), she studied Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Biology at the Faculty of Chemical Sciences of the *Autonomous University of Nuevo León* (UANL). In 2009, she graduated with honors after pursuing a specialization in Pharmacy. She also received the first academic place award of her study generation 2005-2009.

Before continuing with a master degree, she worked for two years as Hospital Pharmacist in the San José Tec de Monterrey Hospital. In 2012, she obtained a scholarship from Mexican *National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT*) and a Leiden University Excellence Scholarship (LExS) to study at Leiden University, in The Netherlands. Thus, she moved to Leiden to follow the master's program in Bio-Pharmaceutical Sciences, where she specialized in Medicinal Chemistry. During her master studies, she performed a 9-month research internship in the Division of Medicinal Chemistry, at the Leiden Academic Centre for Drug Research (LACDR), under the supervision of Dr. Arnault Massink, Dr. Laura Heitman and Prof. Dr. Ad IJzerman. The project focused on exploring the role of the sodium ion binding pocket in an adenosine receptor, and it resulted in a publication. After her first internship, she wrote a literature review under the supervision of Dr. Ron de Kloet, which was published later as a book chapter. In 2014, she performed a second 6-month research internship at the Centre for Human Drug Research (CHDR) under the supervision of Dr. Ingrid de Visser and Dr. Jasper Stevens. There, she worked on two projects focused on the revival of 'old' antibiotics for the treatment of multidrug-resistant bacteria. These projects led to the publication of two reviews and one research article. In 2014 she obtained her MSc. Degree *cum laude*, and was awarded the KNMP student prize 2014 for her academic achievements.

In November 2014, she started as PhD candidate at the Division of Drug Discovery and Safety, LACDR (former Division of Medicinal Chemistry), with Dr. Laura Heitman and Prof. Dr. Ad IJzerman as promotors. She also collaborated with Dr. Ilze Bot and Prof. Dr. Johan Kuiper, from the Division of BioTherapeutics at the LACDR, and with Dr. Irina Kufareva and Prof. Dr. Tracy Handel, from the University of California, San Diego. Throughout her PhD, she presented her research in posters and oral communications at several national and international conferences, including the FIGON Dutch Medicine Days (2015-2018), Keystone Symposia (2018) and the EFMC-ISMC (2018). In 2017, she was awarded the 1st prize at the LACDR Spring Symposium and the 1st prize of the national PhD Student Competition at the FIGON Dutch Medicine Days 2017 for her oral presentation entitled "Killing one bird

with two stones: Insights from the CCR2 Crystal Structure". In 2018, she obtained a FIGON travel award to present part of her research at the Keystone Symposia "GPCR Structure and Function: Taking GPCR Drug Development and Discovery to the Next Level" in Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA. Currently, she works at the same division as a postdoctoral research scientist under the umbrella of the Dutch Oncode Institute.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

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