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Developmental regulation and evolution of cAMP signalling in *Dictyostelium*

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Curriculum Vitae

Elisa Alvarez Curto was born on the 29th of August 1975 in Valladolid, Spain. She moved south to Málaga with her mother in 1987. Here she finished her Secondary Education in 1992, receiving her pre-university high school certificate at the Instituto Nacional de Bachillerato El Palo. She studied Biological Sciences at the University of Málaga, graduating as MSc (*Licenciada*) in 1998 with specialization in Microbiology and Biochemistry. She worked as a graduate in the laboratory of Dr. Jose Angel Aguirre, in the Human Physiology Department of the School of Medicine, University of Málaga, on the expression of dopaminergic receptors from July to December 1998. In January 1999 she moved to Leiden, The Netherlands, to carry out her PhD research project in the Institute of Molecular Plant Sciences. Here she will work under the supervision of Professor Pauline Schaap and funded by the Dutch Science Foundation (NWO). She finished her PhD work in the University of Dundee, Scotland, where Professor Schaap laboratory relocated to from September 1999. She was also Research Assistant to Professor Schaap in this University between 2003 and 2006. She now lives in Glasgow, Scotland, and is married to Dr. Philip McKenna. She currently works in the Molecular Pharmacology group of Professor Graeme Milligan at the University of Glasgow.

Publications

- **Alvarez-Curto, E.**, Saran, S., Meima, M., Jenny Zoebel, Claire Scott, Schaap, P., (2007). cAMP produced by adenylyl cyclase G induces prespore differentiation in *Dictyostelium* slugs. **Development**, 134, 959-66.
- **Alvarez-Curto, E.**, Weening, K. E and Schaap, P., (2007). Pharmacological profiling of the *Dictyostelium* adenylyl cyclases ACA, ACB and ACG. **Biochem J.** 401, 309-16.
- Schaap, P., Winckler, T., Nelson, M., **Alvarez-Curto, E.**, Elgie, B., Hagiwara, H., Cavender, J., Milano-Curto, A., Rozen, D. E., Dingermann, T. (2006) Molecular phylogeny and evolution of morphology in the social amoebas. **Science** 314, 661-63.
- **Alvarez-Curto, E.**, Rozen, D. E., Ritchie, A. V., Fouquet, C., Baldauf, S. L., and Schaap, P. (2005). Evolutionary origin of cAMP-based chemoattraction in the social amoebae. **Proc Natl Acad Sci USA** 102, 6385-90.
- Saran, S., Meima, M. E., **Alvarez-Curto, E.**, Weening, K. E., Rozen, D. E., and Schaap, P. (2002). cAMP signaling in *Dictyostelium* - Complexity of cAMP synthesis, degradation and detection. **Journal of Muscle Research and Cell Motility** 23, 793-802.
- **Alvarez-Curto, E.**, Meima, M., Schaap, P., (2001) Expression of adenylyl cyclases during late development in *Dictyostelium discoideum*. **Int. J. Dev. Biol.** 45: S147-S148.

Dankwoord Acknowledgments

Dankword (Acknowledgments)

I am ultimately responsible and to blame for what it is written here, but most of it wouldn't exist hadn't it been for the many people that have accompany me through this process.

From my first arrival to Leiden to the Clusius Lab where I shared my very first scientific experiences, jokes, music exchange and one or two “croquettes” with Ellen, Raymond, Paul, Stefan, Ewa and many others of which I forget their names. I thank you all for your help through those early days. Outside the lab I learnt the wonders of cycling, the canals and student life in Nieuweoord, probably the dirtiest but liveliest of all students halls. There I had the opportunity of sharing a little bit of my life and tonnes of experiences with people from the four corners of the world and that I will never forget: Pepe, Valentina (C'mon, you are Erasmus!!), Hugo, Marco, and many, many more. Some of them even “followed” me to Scotland, Mireia, the strongest Na^+/K^+ pump in town! Who would have thought that you would grow up before me? I'm so proud of you and I miss you! I will always cherish our days together in Leiden and later on in St Andrews. And last but no least my flatmates, mis chicas de Oegsgeest, Olga, Esther y Josefina (mi Gebri), no misery, no pain! Leiden, no doubt, will always be in my heart.

And along came Dundee, city of discovery! And it was start all over again. But many new wonderful people made the experience yet again a pleasure. Our reception in the Wellcome Trust Building could not have been better and everybody from the people working in stores (some many ziggies shared with Mike, Gordon and Ron!), to the people in the Garland cafeteria made me feel welcome. Special thanks to Letty, who was always there for whatever it was needed: a wee chat, a last minute order, or the most bizarre of the emergencies. Thanks also for all the help from the people in the Williams, Storey, Näthke and Tickle's labs and all the past and present members of the Weijers group, particularly to Gerti, Dirk, Nick and Tesh.

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During my time in Dundee besides hill walking, I enjoyed the “occasional” whisky tasting and the jam sessions of the Fisherman's Tavern; also I have loved singing with the RepTheater *Lodasofwoomensinging* choir, and I would like to thank all the women in the group for making Mondays feel so much brighter. Also thanks to the other members of Sala Quattro: Mercedes, Simon, Jose and Alvaro. We have shared many hours of fun (and some of pain too!! but the good one) locked up in rehearsal at the Stage2000, singing along the craziest repertoire that any band will ever have. We shall work on an “Un-plugged” comeback sometime... On a musical note, different stages of this process have required different soundtracks but thanks to Amparanoia,

Radiohead, Portishead, Coldplay, Radio Futura, Café del Mar, Morcheeba, Manu Chao, Consorzio Suonatori Indipendenti, Massive Attack and a few others I've managed to either keep my concentration down or evade myself from the world and forget about everything depending on the mood.

Dundee gave me the chance to meet a second family in Sonia G., Jose Ramon, Luis, Sonia P., Josep, Maria, Jeroen (thank you for the Dutch assistance and for many "halfies" after work!), Elena, Isabel, Mariana, Sergio, Juanjo, Ana(s) etc... There has been a bit of everything, tequila en vena, club Romano, celebraciones de Cajal, graduations, good tears, bad tears, trips to the highlands, and pollos!!!! Muchas y especiales gracias tienen que ir para Jose y Sonia, ya que su salon fue mi segunda casa muchos meses. I miss the little bed!!! ☺

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And of course all the family and friends too many to name them all, that I left in Malaga some years ago but that have been behind me every step of the way. Thank you to all the McKenna family for being always there.

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Finally, I would like to dedicate this thesis to the memory of Stewart Elder, who really knew how to live to the max.

And now, for something completely different...

