

# HEINRICH WIELAND PRIZE



## SYMPOSIUM SPEAKER 2025 | PROFILE

**Professor Juan Valcárcel, PhD**

Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), Barcelona, Spain

Juan Valcárcel is a leading molecular biologist investigating the regulation of pre-mRNA splicing and its role in gene expression. His research has provided fundamental insights into how the spliceosome assembles and selects splice sites, allowing cells to generate diverse proteins from a single gene. Juan Valcárcel generated a first comprehensive functional map of the human spliceosome and was thus able to reconstruct networks of splicing factors and how these govern different classes of alternative splicing decisions. He also uncovered splicing factors and regulators of alternative splicing as potential drug targets in cancer, for example in melanoma or lung cancer.

Juan Valcárcel studied Biology and Chemistry at the Universities of Santiago de Compostela and Autónoma de Madrid, Spain. He obtained his PhD from the Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa in Madrid in 1990. After postdoctoral research at the University of Massachusetts in Worcester, USA, he moved to EMBL in Heidelberg, Germany, as a group leader. In 2002, he became a senior scientist at CRG and Research Professor at the Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA) in Barcelona, Spain. He has coordinated major European research initiatives and served as President of the RNA Society. He received Advanced and Synergy Grants from the ERC and is an elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO).

