

How come you started with alzheimer research?

When I was studying my bachelor, I was always very sure I wanted to do a career in research, and, specifically, I wanted to work in applied research, something that could contribute to improve people´s lives. In my last years, I started to become very interested in protein biochemistry and I found fascinating how protein aggregation in the brain could lead to different neurodegenerative diseases. One of my professors at university had an open PhD position to do research in immunotherapy for Alzheimer´s disease and I thought: “this is exactly what I want to do!”. And I got the position!

Tell us about your upbringing!

I was raised in a small town in Spain, called Castelló de la Plana. Both my parents were teachers and, even though I am an only child, I remember being always surrounded by my cousins and my grandad. I have very happy memories of my childhood.

How come you ended up at the university of Gothenburg?

After my PhD I was looking for challenges and moving abroad and I found a position at the University of Gothenburg. I applied and got it!

What drives you as a PhD and researcher?

As a researcher, I am driven by the idea of being able to contribute to improve people´s lives. Being able to carry out discoveries that can help diagnosing and improving the management of people with Alzheimer's disease so they can live a better life is one of the most fulfilling parts of the job as a researcher. In addition, doing research has a creative and curious component that makes it very fun!

What are your hopes for all affected by Alzheimer´s disease?

In the short term, I hope that the advances in diagnostic tools help to provide a sooner and accurate diagnosis, which now can be extended in time and sometimes be misdiagnosed. Furthermore, I hope that the recently approved disease modifying therapies can reach the patients in the coming months. In the long-term, I hope we can develop better tools for personalized medicine, improving the care for each single patient as well as drugs that not only slow the disease progression, but can also cure the disease at any stage.

What does this prize mean to you and for your research, what will you use the prize money for?

Receiving this prize is a huge honor. I feel very proud that our work has been recognized and is appreciated by the community. This prize gives me hope and extra motivation to pursue my research and it will be used to continue developing diagnostic tools that will assist in improving patient care by staging patients across the disease continuum.