

Dr. Marquez laboratory works to generate basic science in the field of Social Neuroscience. Her career as Principal Investigator started in Spain (Instituto de Neurociencias de Alicante), after postdoctoral periods at prestigious international centers such as the Brain Mind Institute, EPFL (Switzerland) with Carmen Sandi, or the Champalimaud foundation (Portugal) with Marta Moita. In 2022, she was appointed ERA Chair holder, and moved her laboratory from Spain to the Center of Neuroscience and Cell Biology at the University of Coimbra, in Portugal. These prestigious and highly competitive grants are coordinated by the European Commission and aim to strengthen research capabilities in widening countries in the periphery of Europe.

Her general interest is to understand how social behaviour connects to psychopathology. She is particularly interested in the study of the connections between prefrontal cortex and reward system, as the critical neural circuit on the basis of the interaction between social behaviour and brain dysfunction. To address these questions, her research builds on a strong systems neuroscience perspective complemented with highly quantitative approaches to behavior. Her laboratory is working to provide solid and detailed understanding on how the brain computes social information, a basic process relevant to psychopathologies accompanied with social dysfunction as autism, mood disorders and social anxiety. Although their questions are posed with a translational perspective, their approach is to first contribute with impactful understanding on how social brains work in health using animal models, so then we can understand what goes wrong in disease. They apply a novel approach to this problem, embracing the complexity of social cognition and identifying its neural substrates leveraging from custom designs of innovative behavioural paradigms, that allow for the dissection of relevant behaviours beyond social interaction, the monitoring and perturbation of specific neural circuits, supported by computational analysis

Dr Marquez has been an active member of the EBBS committee in recent years, including supporting our last meeting in Bordeaux, and developing the societies plans for member workshops to add value to our community. It is therefore a pleasure to nominate her for the role of President-Elect, which we believe will be of great value to the society and its members.

Alex Easton (President of EBBS), Ewelina Knapska (Past-President of EBBS).