



European Society
for Immunodeficiencies

ESiD 2024
ESiD Junior Country Representative Elections Candidacy–
Application

Applicant: Marta Dafne Cabañero Navalón

1. Short biography

My name is Marta Dafne Cabañero, I am 30 years old, and nowadays, I am a first year specialist in Internal Medicine in Spain.

I studied Medicine at the University of Valencia from 2012 to 2018, graduating with an Extraordinary End-of-Degree Award. My interest in both basic and translational research grew during this training phase, leading me to complete **several international internships** at prestigious European centres and obtain various competitive international scholarships, such as the European AMGEN Scholars at the Institut Imagine in Paris in 2015; the 2016 Summer Undergraduate Research Program scholarship at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2017; or the CICERONE scholarship at the National Center for Cardiovascular Research in Madrid in 2018.

This journey through various research scholarships taught me that disease cannot be viewed in isolation, and that a systemic and integrative approach to Internal Medicine, grounded in fundamental research principles, is essential to properly help patients. Therefore, I started my specialization in **Internal Medicine at University and Polytechnic Hospital La Fe (HUP La Fe)** in 2019.

Driven by my passion for research and stimulated by the challenge of interacting with patients with **primary immunodeficiencies (PIDs)**, I immediately enrolled the **Doctorate program at the University of Valencia** and the Health Research Institute La Fe (HRI La Fe) for the 2019/2020 academic year. I tried to delve into the microbiota as a driver of autoimmunity in **Common Variable Immunodeficiency (CVID)**. In my doctoral thesis, a **national multicentric registry** was created, describing the epidemiological, clinical, laboratory, therapeutic, and prognostic characteristics of 250 patients with CVID in Spain, leading the first nationwide multicentric study in this regard. Furthermore, I developed a **predictive model** to address the issue of early diagnosis in dysimmune comorbidity associated with CVID in the context of **Granulomatous-Lymphocytic Interstitial Lung Disease (GLILD)**. Regarding the pathophysiology of this immune dysregulation, I aimed to analyze the **oral, pulmonary, and intestinal microbiota of patients with CVID**, proposing that a bacterial dysbiosis could drive these non-infectious manifestations. These projects have been awarded with several competitive **public grants**.

During my training, my interest has also centered in the **infectious comorbidities in PIDs**, specially in recurrent cases such as norovirus or SARS-CoV-2 infection. Finally, I defended my doctoral thesis entitled "Multicentric Study of the Pathophysiology of Common Variable Immunodeficiency with Immune System Hyperactivation and Lymphocytic Interstitial Lung Disease as a Model of Dysimmunity" in February 2024, earning a **Cum Laude Ph.D. in Medicine from the University of Valencia** before completing my Specialized Health Training, this past February 2024.

As a result of this trajectory and my passion for immune system diseases from the holistic perspective of Internal Medicine, and in addition to extensive clinical training, I have been able to develop numerous research projects in the field of PIDs, with **publications in first-decile or first-quartile journals in Immunology** such as *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*, *Clinical Immunology* or *Frontiers in Immunology* as first author. At the time of this application, at the age of 30, I am the author of 20 scientific publications, 11 of which are in first quartile (Q1) journals, many with principal authorship (H-index of 8, 194 citations), as well as more than 30 participations in national and international conferences centered in PIDs, as oral communications and posters, but also as an invited speaker such as in **ESID Juniors Journal Club session** in January 2024. Additionally, during my specialized health training period, I completed an international stay at **John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, England, in the Clinical Immunology service** in 2022, funded with a national scholarship.

I have attempted to combine purely research and clinical work with aspirations of excellence with teaching and new technologies. Since 2020 to the present, I am also a **teacher in Basic Sciences and Immunology in the Master in Clinical Medicine at Camilo José Cela University**, as well as teaching collaborator in the Immunology course at the Degree of Medicine (University of Valencia).

2. Motivation letter

Dear ESID Juniors committee,

I am writing to express my interest in becoming the **Spanish National Junior Representative for the European Society for Immunodeficiencies**. As a first year specialist in Internal Medicine at the University and Polytechnic Hospital La Fe in Valencia, and being a *Cum Laude* PhD Medicine this past 2024 with a multicentric clinical and basic research project on COVID, I believe my dedication to PIDs position me as an ideal candidate for this role.

My journey through medical training and research, with a series of international publications in the field of immunology, has motivated me to **understand the complexities of PIDs**. It has also emphasized the critical importance of a systemic and **integrative approach** in their management. Being part of the PID Unit at my center and participating in several ESID congresses, as well as an international rotation in the Clinical Immunology department at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, has provided me with a solid foundation in clinical immunology and research. These experiences have enhanced my ability to **communicate complex scientific concepts** effectively and to create collaborative relationships within the medical community in the **field of inborn errors of immunity**, a **fascinating and complex world** about which we still know far too little.

I am deeply motivated to contribute to the ESID as the Spanish National Junior Representative. This role aligns perfectly with my passion for advancing the field of immunodeficiencies. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to **help organize junior events** at ESID biennial meetings and local events in Spain. My involvement would also include **promoting awareness about PIDs, assisting young immunologists** with their clinical and research inquiries, and directing them to appropriate experts within our network. As a young researcher who has recently faced these challenges, I believe I can effectively support and help other young researchers in overcoming obstacles.

Moreover, I am committed to **enhancing communication within the ESID Junior community** and encouraging our members to apply for ESID schools, fellowships, and other opportunities. My **organizational skills**, demonstrated through my role as Vocal for Minority Diseases in the Spanish Society of Internal Medicine and my experience as the national AMIR higher education representative for university students in 2023, combined with my proactive and collaborative nature, will enable me to fulfil the responsibilities of this position effectively. Additionally, I am eager to **identify areas for improvement** to ensure our community continues to grow and thrive, promoting ESID and fostering the creation of new research and **clinical networks**.

In conclusion, my passion for immunology, coupled with my clinical and research experience, makes me a strong candidate for the role of Spanish National Junior Representative for ESID. I am excited about the prospect of contributing to the ESID and am confident that I can make a meaningful impact for the society.

Thank you for considering my application and for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dafne' with a stylized flourish underneath.

Marta Dafne Cabañero