

- Breve biosketch:

Juan José Montero obtained his BSc in Biology from the University of Seville (2009–2013) and his MSc in Molecular and Cell Biology from the Autonomous University of Madrid (2013–2014). From early on, he has maintained a strong interest in genome biology and functional genomics. In 2015, he began his doctoral training under the mentorship of Prof. María Blasco at CNIO, widely recognized for her contributions to telomere research. During his PhD, Juan José identified a key human locus responsible for TERRA transcription and developed the first TERRA knockout cellular models, demonstrating TERRA's essential role in maintaining telomere stability. In 2020, he joined the Institute of Molecular Oncology and Functional Genomics (IMO), led by Prof. Roland Rad, an expert in cancer biology known for innovative animal and cellular models used in in vivo screens. Building on the lab's expertise and his own background, Juan José has established versatile CRISPR-based screening platforms that he applies in both fundamental and translational cancer research, with a particular focus on lncRNAs.