

Jornada
Organización y gestión de
CENTROS DE INVESTIGACIÓN DE UNIVERSIDADES E INSTITUCIONES PÚBLICAS
Retos y tendencias

Nombre del ponente:	Juan Lerma Gómez
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Cargo:	Profesor de Investigación
Breve CV:	<p>Since 1990, JL has been working on the structure and function of glutamate receptors, the most important signalling system in the brain. JL analysed one important characteristic of neurotransmitter receptors: desensitization (Neuron 1992); defined its structural determinants (Neuron, 1998a) and the allosteric mechanism involved (Neuron, 2001), intrinsic to the NMDA type of glutamate receptors. JL was first describing the existence in central neurons of functional kainate receptors (KARs), demonstrating that KAR proteins form functional receptor channels in hippocampal neurons (PNAS 1993) and providing the tool for further studied, the drug 2-3-benzodiazepine, GYKI 53655, which allowed their pharmacological isolation (Neuron 1995a). This finding paved the way for progress in the field. JL was among the pioneers in applying single-cell RT-PCR (Neuron, 1995b) to study these receptors. He described their fundamental role in controlling neuronal tissue excitability and epileptogenesis (Neuron, 1997). Also demonstrated that KARs have a dual mechanism of signalling: as ion channels and triggering a second messenger cascade, involving a G-protein (Neuron, 1998b; PNAS 2000). This and subsequent work (Neuron, 2003; EMBO J., 2007; J. Neurosci., 2013; J. Neurosci., 2015) put forward the new concept that ion channel-forming receptors are also able to signal through a G-protein, opening new vistas on the functional mechanisms of ionotropic glutamate receptors.</p> <p>JL is Professor at the Instituto de Neurociencias at Alicante, and has been Director of this Institute (2007-2016); President of the Spanish Society for Neuroscience (SENC) (2011-2013); Chair of the West PanEuropean Regional Committee of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) (2010-2015). He belongs to the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), DANA Alliance, the Academia Europaea; is member of the editorial board of Neuron, Neuroscience, Frontiers in Neuroscience and Neuroscience Bulletin and Editor in Chief of Neuroscience, the flagship journal of IBRO.</p>



Colaboran:  Universidade de Vigo

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