

Carotenoids: pivotal compounds in the health-promoting and sustainable foods era



Monday, September 21
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pharmacy Building
Room C

Dr. Antonio Meléndez-Martínez

Dr. Meléndez is a Stanford University's World's 2% Scientist since 2020. His research deals with food science, food technology and nutrition.

His training was acquired at Universidad de Sevilla (Dpt. Nutrition and Food Science), U. Liverpool (Dpt. of Biochemitry), U. London (UK, School of Biological Sciences) and USDA-Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University (Boston, EEUU, Nutrition and Cancer Biology Lab,).
He obtained Marie Curie (EU-FP6 and EU-FP7), Juan de la Cierva and Ramón y Cajal very competitive grants.
Dr. Melendez has coordinated large international networks on health-promoting foods (CYTED-IBERCAROT, COST-EUROCAROTEN). IBERCAROT was highlighted by CYTED for its achievements and future socioeconomic impact in Ibero-America. Altogether, researchers and companies from over 50 countries participated in both networks, which have propelled research through the creation and consolidation of synergies among many participants.
He has contributed to expand the knowledge on the importance and applications of bioactives (mainly carotenoids) in food science, nutrition, health and cosmetics. The works of his team about the dietary importance of the largely overlooked colourless carotenoids have open new research directions in the carotenoid field and have been taken into account by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) in their work.

Currently his team works on the sustainable production of carotenoid-rich health-promoting products, topic in which he has delivered several talks at international congresses and courses.

Some awards and recognitions:

China's Foreign Expert - China Agricultural University (2025-2026).
Induction into the scientific honour research society Sigma Xi (2023).
Stanford University's World's 2% Scientist (since 2020).
Ibero-American Academy of Pharmacy Award (2020).
Fellow of the International Carotenoid (ICS) (since 2017).
ICS Award for Young Investigator (in its first edition, 2014).
Manuel Losada Award to Excellence in agri-food research (2014),
Extraordinary Prize of Doctorate. Universidad de Sevilla (2006).