

Dr. Maria Dulfary Sanchez-Pino
Assistant Professor – Research

Education

University of Antioquia, Colombia	Medical Diagnostic Technician	2000	Diagnosis
University of Antioquia, Colombia	M.Sc.	2004	Biomedical Sciences/Immunology of infection diseases
University of Antioquia, Colombia	Ph.D.	2010	
Louisiana State Univ.-	Senior Post-Doctoral fellow	2018	Immunology of viral infection
LSU LCMC Cancer Center, New Orleans, LA	Assistant Professor – Research Department of Interdisciplinary Oncology and Department of Genetics	present	Immunology of Cancer, and Obesity



During her scientific career, Dr. Sanchez-Pino focused on the investigation of the role of dysregulated inflammation in the pathophysiology of infectious diseases, and more recently, of cancer and obesity. Her research includes deciphering obesity-associated mechanisms promoting myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSC) expansion and function and their contribution to obesity and malignancy.

She has been granted two pilot projects as part of the COBRE “Mentoring Translational Researchers in Louisiana” and the miniSPORE “Understanding and Addressing Cancer Health Disparities in Louisiana” aimed at determining the impact of obesity on the frequency and gene expression of circulating MDSC and their changes due to surgically induced weight loss. The scientific premise of her studies is that factors directly associated with obesity and weight loss, such as chronic inflammation and excess lipids in circulation, are the

main drivers of obesity-related cancer risk. Thus, improvement of chronic inflammation and dyslipidemia/excess lipids will consequently reduce the risk of cancer.

In addition, as a young investigator, she pursued her degree in Master of Science in Clinical Research through the Roadmap Scholar Program awarded by the LA CaTS to accomplish professional developmental benchmarks in clinical and translational research and complementing her acquired scientific skills.