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Ana Castro (Madrid) graduated in Chemistry at the Universidad Autonoma of Madrid (UAM), Spain (1992). She joined the Medicinal Chemistry Institute (IQM-CSIC) to prepare her PhD degree in Organic Chemistry that was defended at the same university (1996). After two years of postdoctoral studies at the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory (Oxford University), she returned to the Medicinal Chemistry Institute (IQM-CSIC) as researcher where she got a permanent position as staff scientific in 2002.

In November 2004, she moved from academia to industry, to join the biopharmaceutical company Noscira, devoted to the research and development of drugs for the treatment and prevention of diseases of the nervous system, as Director of Medicinal Chemistry Department, leading the strategies and activities to provide new compounds to the pipeline of the company. After five years at the company, she resumed her scientific career at IQM-CSIC where she leads her own research line.

Her research interests are in the area of medicinal chemistry, mainly oriented to the discovery of innovative agents in the neurodegenerative field, and currently with specific focus on the identification of new chemical entities acting as kinases modulators involved in metabolic and neurodegenerative disorders.

She is author of more than 70 publications and 14 active patents.

***Key Contributions**: W. Porcal, P. Hernández ,M. González,A. Ferreira, C. Olea-Azar,H. Cerecetto, A. Castro. Heteroarylnitrones as drugs for neurodegenerative diseases: synthesis, neuroprotective properties, and free radical scavenger properties **J Med Chem. 2008** 6150-6159; A. Martinez,M. Alonso, A. Castro, I. Dorronsoro,J.L. Gelpi, F.J. Luque,C. Perez,F.J. Moreno. SAR and 3D-QSAR studies on thiadiazolidinone derivatives: exploration of structural requirements for glycogen synthase kinase 3 inhibitors. **J Med Chem. 2005** 48, 7103-7112; A. Martinez, M. Alonso, A. Castro, C. Pérez, F.J. Moreno : First non-ATP competitive Glycogen Synthase Kinase-3 beta (GSK3-beta) Inhibitors: Tiadiazolidinones (TDZD) as potential drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. **J Med Chem**. **2000**, 45, 1292-1299; A. Martinez, A. Castro, C. Gil, V. Segarra, J. Beleta : Benzyl Derivatives of 2,1,3-Benzothiadiazine 2,2-dioxides: First family of PDE 7 Selective inhibitors. **J. Med. Chem**., **2000**, 43, 683-689. A.Martínez; A. Castro; M.C Pérez;M. Alonso;I. Dorronsoro; F.J. Moreno; F. Wandosell. Heterocyclic inhibitors of Glycogen Synthase Kinase GSK-3. **EP 1 286 964 B1. US 6,872,737**.*