



Alumni Interview

Dr Esteban ORTIZ-PRADO

ADVAC 2015

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What did ADVAC bring to you on both a personal and professional level?

ADVAC was the most amazing course that I have ever attended. It helped me building my career in such a way that nowadays I am writing projects to evaluate the impact of vaccination in Ecuador as one of the best ways to tackle diseases in the last 80 years. This experience allowed me to even write a book related to the vaccine market and production in Ecuador, the one that is available in the major libraries countrywide.

What in your opinion have been the most important advances and challenges in vaccinology over the past 20 years?

I think in the last 20 years, maybe the most effective vaccines introduced in the market was the apparition of the conjugated pneumococci vaccine (7V, 10V and 13V) in all its forms. It helps to tackle many respiratory infections that ended up as pneumonia, one of the 5 five killers in the world.

In terms of challenges, definitively the apparition of the anti-vaccination movement marked the before and after of modern vaccination. In some communities, the regression in terms of medicine is affecting the entire health system, contributing to the appearance of diseases previously controlled.

Why does this field remain so important?

As new diseases emerge, new vaccines will arise, I think a lot of new diseases can be controlled and prevent with the use of vaccine, thus this field is one of the most important in terms of public and global health.