



## Alumni Interview

Prof Gerardo GUILLÉN

ADVAC 2001

*“Prevention is more cost-effective than treat and have higher impact on quality of life.”*

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

The possibility to interact with high level professors and obtain very updated information including emergent topics on vaccinology and exchange experiences with other colleagues from countries with very different conditions. Finally, the course is organized in the way that allows an integrative approach to vaccinology including practical sessions with real challenges.

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

Advances:

- Therapeutic vaccines
- Combine vaccines
- Knowledge on immunology, the cellular response, the immunology of cancer, at the elderly, check points.
- Polio control
- Rotavirus vaccination
- Conjugate pneumococcal vaccine
- Increase on vaccine coverage in the EPI
- Growth on Develop Countries Vaccine Manufactures and quality of vaccines

Challenges:

- Vaccines against emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases
- New and safe adjuvants
- Mucosal adjuvants and mucosal immunity
- Polio eradication
- Vaccine coverage
- Regulatory standards
- Neurodegenerative diseases and infective theories.

### **Why does this field remain so important?**

It is the only health intervention that can reduce dramatically the morbidity and mortality and expand the benefit to non-wealthy populations. Prevention is more cost – effective than treat and has higher impact on quality of life.