



## Alumni Interview

**Dr Mario MELGAR**

ADVAC 2015

*“Diseases are changing, population is changing.  
We need vaccinology more than ever to guide us.”*

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

I already was in a position of expertise in vaccinology in my country, but ADVAC allowed me to have a better understanding of vaccines as a whole, in particular relationship with industry, industry driven research, basic knowledge that I didn't have (immunology for example), and overall it gave me the weapons I needed to make better advise and take better and more informed decisions.

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

Most important advances: for me conjugated vaccines as a new technology, and maybe more important the improvement of vaccine access throughout the world.

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

Now, as always, prevention is neglected. One of the few prevention strategies that we know really works, and almost all agree that its feasible and can be delivered to almost anyone are vaccines; nevertheless, more vaccines mean more questions about which ones to use; diseases are changing, population is changing. We need vaccinology more than ever to guide us.