

Eduardo Pérez-Palma Biography

Prof. Eduardo Pérez-Palma did his PhD in Santiago de Chile where he studied genetic factors associated to disease in the Chilean population. During this time, he participated in the first genome-wide association study performed in Chile and was among the leading authors of the first Chilean whole genome sequencing project. In 2015, he won a short-term grant from the German exchange service and went to the Cologne Center for Genomics, Germany. In Cologne, he successfully finished his PhD thesis comparing Chilean genetic data with European ascending populations. Here, Dr. Pérez-Palma established long-lasting collaborations with Dr. Dennis Lal in the field of epilepsy genetics and with the support of the Dravet Syndrome foundation he stayed in Cologne for two additional years as a Postdoctoral fellow (2017-2019).

Using large-scale sets of genetic and clinical data, Dr. Pérez-Palma built several methods and tools for clinical variant interpretation. In 2019, he moved to the USA and worked as a research associate at the Genomic Medicine Institute of Cleveland Clinic. In Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Pérez-Palma learned to apply his data science skills in a clinical environment. Here, Dr. Pérez-Palma also expanded the scope of his research to the analysis of South American populations in the context of Parkinson disease. Since then, he is an active collaborator in The Latin American Research consortium on the GEnetics of Parkinson's Disease (LARGE-PD). In January 2021 Dr. Pérez-Palma returned to Chile and joined the Centro de Genética y Genómica of Universidad del Desarrollo as a Junior Professor funded by the National agency for research and Development (ANID). To date, Dr. Pérez-Palma has published 30 papers, including 8 first authorships.

Dr. Eduardo Pérez-Palma research currently focus on the genetics underlying epilepsy and neurodevelopmental disorders with a particular focus on Latin American populations. He studies which genetic variants can cause disease and how they can drive disease prognosis, comorbidity, and drug response. Overall, Dr. Eduardo Pérez-Palma has been growing a research profile focusing on interdisciplinary genomics and data science to bridge novel genetic knowledge with the clinical practice. He aims to integrate large genetic, clinical, and biological data sets to improve the prediction of genetic variant effects on patient outcomes – paving the way for personalized medicine.