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Research interests:

1. Immunopharmacology and pharmacology of inflammation
2. Liver and Gastrointestinal Pharmacology

The study of the inflammation and immune activation related to bacterial translocation in patients with cirrhosis have been the focus of my group since 2000. We have characterized the clinical and prognostic meaning of bacterial translocation phenomena in these patients and we have also worked in the search for pharmacological targets that allow us to avoid subsequent clinical consequences. More recently, we have expanded the objectives of our research to other inflammatory conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, obesity and cancer. Specifically, in recent years, our research line has focused on immune regulatory effects of beta-blockers drugs and their potential use to prevent the development of hepatocarcinoma in patients with cirrhosis due this is a situation very influenced by inflammatory and fibrotic events.

Selection of publications

1. Gimenez P, Garcia-Martinez I, Francés R, Gonzalez-Navajas JM, Mauri M, Alfayate R, Almenara S, Miralles C, Palazon JM, Carnicer F, Pascual S, Such J, Horga JF, **Zapater P**. Treatment with non-selective beta-blockers affects the systemic inflammatory response to bacterial DNA in patients with cirrhosis. **Liver Int**. 2018 Dec;38(12):2219-2227.
2. Gutiérrez A, **Zapater P**, Juanola O, Sempere L, García M, Laveda R, Martínez A, Scharl M, González-Navajas JM, Such J, Wiest R, Rogler G, Francés R. Gut Bacterial DNA Translocation is an Independent Risk Factor of Flare at Short Term in Patients With Crohn's Disease. **Am J Gastroenterol**. 2016 Apr;111(4):529-40.
3. **Zapater P**, Llanos L, Barquero C, Bellot P, Pascual S, Carnicer F, Palazón JM, Gimenez P, Esteban A, Llorca L, Francés R, Horga JF, Such J. Acute effects of dipyrone on renal function in patients with cirrhosis: a randomized controlled trial. **Basic Clin Pharmacol Toxicol**. 2015 Mar;116(3):257-63.
4. **Zapater P**, Gómez-Hurtado I, Peiró G, González-Navajas JM, García I, Giménez P, Moratalla A, Such J, Francés R. Beta-adrenergic receptor 1 selective antagonism inhibits norepinephrine-mediated TNF-alpha downregulation in experimental liver cirrhosis. **PLoS One**. 2012;7(8):e43371.
5. Llanos L, Moreu R, Ortin T, Peiró AM, Pascual S, Bellot P, Barquero C, Francés R, Such J, Pérez-Mateo M, Horga JF, **Zapater P**. The existence of a relationship between increased serum alanine aminotransferase levels detected in premarketing clinical trials and postmarketing published hepatotoxicity case reports. **Aliment Pharmacol Ther**. 2010 Jun;31(12):1337-45.
6. **Zapater P**, Caño R, Llanos L, Ruiz-Alcaraz AJ, Pascual S, Barquero C, Moreu R, Bellot P, Horga JF, Muñoz C, Pérez J, García-Peñarrubia P, Pérez-Mateo M, Such J, Francés R. Norfloxacin modulates the inflammatory response and directly affects neutrophils in patients with decompensated cirrhosis. **Gastroenterology**. 2009 Nov;137(5):1669-79.e1.
7. **Zapater P**, Francés R, González-Navajas JM, de la Hoz MA, Moreu R, Pascual S, Monfort D, Montoliu S, Vila C, Escudero A, Torras X, Cirera I, Llanos L, Guarner-Argente C, Palazón JM, Carnicer F, Bellot P, Guarner

C, Planas R, Solá R, Serra MA, Muñoz C, Pérez-Mateo M, Such J. Serum and ascitic fluid bacterial DNA: a new independent prognostic factor in noninfected patients with cirrhosis. **Hepatology**. 2008 Dec;48(6):1924-31..

8. Francés R, **Zapater P**, González-Navajas JM, Muñoz C, Caño R, Moreu R, Pascual S, Bellot P, Pérez-Mateo M, Such J. Bacterial DNA in patients with cirrhosis and noninfected ascites mimics the soluble immune response established in patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. **Hepatology**. 2008 Mar;47(3):978-85.

9. **Zapater P**, Lasso de la Vega MC, Horga JF, Such J, Frances R, Esteban A, Palazón JM, Carnicer F, Pascual S, Pérez-Mateo M. Pharmacokinetic variations of acetaminophen according to liver dysfunction and portal hypertension status. **Aliment Pharmacol Ther**. 2004 Jul 1;20(1):29-36.

10. Such J, Francés R, Muñoz C, **Zapater P**, Casellas JA, Cifuentes A, Rodríguez-Valera F, Pascual S, Sola-Vera J, Carnicer F, Uceda F, Palazón JM, Pérez-Mateo M. Detection and identification of bacterial DNA in patients with cirrhosis and culture-negative, nonneutrocytic ascites. **Hepatology**. 2002 Jul;36(1):135-41.