

Margarita Calonge, MD, PhD is a physician-scientist, full professor of Ophthalmology at the [University of Valladolid \(UVA\)](http://www.uva.es) ([www.uva.es](http://www.uva.es)) and Director of the Ocular Surface Inflammation Research Group and The Ocular Immunology & Cell Therapy Clinical Units, both at [IOBA \(Institute of Applied Ophthalmobiology\)](http://www.ioba.es) ([www.ioba.es](http://www.ioba.es)), Uva, Valladolid, Spain. She gained her medical degree and Ophthalmology specialty and then went on to complete her PhD in Visual Sciences at the Uva. She then completed two one-year fellowship Programs at Harvard Medical School, one at The Schepens Eye Research Institute (with Dr. Mathea Allansmith) and the second one at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary (with Dr. Stephen Foster), both in Boston, USA.

Currently, she coordinates the "Area of Knowledge in Ophthalmology" within the Department of Surgery, Ophthalmology, ENT, and Physiotherapy of UVA. She also coordinates the UVA official master called "Ophthalmic Subspecialities" (máster universitarios en subespecialidades oftalmológicas - MSOF-). She teaches graduate students at The Medical and Optometry Schools at UVA and postgraduate students in the above mentioned MSOF master (supervising the Ocular Immunology Clinical Fellowship module) and at the IOBA PhD Inter-University Doctorate Program in Visual Sciences. She supervises TFG, TFM and doctoral theses (three at present).

She coordinates the Ocular Surface Disease Research Group (Recognized Research Group -GIR-, UVA) and the Consolidated Research Unit (UIC 222), Government of Castile and Leon, Spain) with clinical and research interests in ocular surface inflammation (more specifically Dry Eye Disease, Ocular Allergy, and Stem Cell Deficiency) and its management through medical therapies and stem cell-derived therapies. Additionally, she is the PI of the IOBA-UVA group belonging to CIBER-BBN ([www.ciber-bbn.es](http://www.ciber-bbn.es)). She is PI on Regional and National competitive projects uninterruptedly since 1991, and CI in 3 EU grants. She has been working with pharmaceutical companies since 1994, has been PI of several clinical trials and consults for some pharmaceutical companies. She has been heavily involved in the development of a unique environmental chamber within the Controlled Environment Laboratory (CELab), located at the IOBA building (Miguel Delibes UVA Campus) and the transferring to its spin-off, Vision R&D ([www.visionrd.com](http://www.visionrd.com)) ([www.visionrd.com/celab/](http://www.visionrd.com/celab/)). Consequently, she has accomplished 5 periods of 6 year each ("sexenios") of validated research by national agencies; she also got the first innovation and transference 6-year validation period (2000-2009). She and her group have published the first clinical trial worldwide in which mesenchymal stem cells were successfully applied to the ocular surface to repair corneal blindness due to stem cell deficiency; likewise, they are world well-known experts in Dry Eye Disease, having described the usefulness of several biomarkers.

She coordinates the clinical units at IOBA, where she performs her clinical activity: Ocular Immunology Unit (since 1994), Cell Therapy Unit (since 2015) and recently she has been appointed director of the IOBA OculoFacial Pain Unit. She has delivered 185 invited conferences and published over 170 peer-reviewed scientific publications.