

Event: IMI impact on diabetes, 8 June 2021

SPEAKER BIO



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Maria F. Gomez is Professor of physiology at the Department of Clinical Sciences, Lund University and Director of the LUDC (Lund University Diabetes Centre; (<http://www.ludc.med.se>), with some of the best characterized clinical studies in diabetes and ~320 staff members working towards improved diagnosis, prevention and treatment of diabetes. The LUDC is considered one of the largest and most dynamic diabetes research centres in the world (<http://www.ludc.med.lu.se/news-archive/scientific-grade-in-world-class-commendation-and-resumed-confidence/>). After medical school, Dr. Gomez completed her Ph.D. in physiology at Lund University (1998) and post-doctoral studies at the Pharmacology Department, University of Vermont (2001).

For the past 20 years her laboratory has focused on mechanisms leading to diabetic complications, with the aim to discover new targetable signaling pathways and develop new medicinal products. She has published ~130 scientific contributions and supervised 9 PhD theses, 13 post-docs and more than 30 undergraduate/master students. Dr. Gomez coordinates IMI2 project BEAt-DKD (Biomarker Enterprise Attacking Diabetic Kidney Disease; <https://www.beat-dkd.eu/>), a unique public private partnership focused on identifying drug targetable disease pathways and biomarkers of disease progression and treatment response in patients with DKD.

She was scientific coordinator of efforts leading to the generation of several novel animal models of diabetic complications that better replicate human disease during IMI1 project SUMMIT (2009-2015; <https://www.imi-summit.eu/>). Together with Drs Paul Franks and Tove Fall, they lead the COVID Symptom Study in Sweden, a not-for-profit initiative that was launched March 2020 to support vital COVID-19 research, and that today, it is the world's largest ongoing study of COVID-19 with over 4,6 million contributors globally (~200,000 in Sweden; <https://www.covid19app.lu.se/>). By combining reports that participants submit daily via an app with software algorithms, we are able to predict who has the virus and track COVID infections across Sweden. The daily reporting is also being used to generate new scientific understanding of the very different symptoms the virus causes in different people, as well as to study the way that risks vary between individuals because of their own personal characteristics.