

**M. Pilar Francino, PhD (University of Rochester, New York, 1999); Senior Scientist and Head, Department of Genomics and Health, FISABIO-Public Health.**

Pilar's research group works on the development of the gastrointestinal microbiome in infants, with the aims of understanding the basic population and community dynamics of this community, as well as different aspects of its interaction with the host and its impact on health. To these aims, the group develops and applies different metagenomic and metatranscriptomic approaches, the outcome of which is analyzed within a functional, ecological and evolutionary framework. Pilar is also broadly interested in understanding the forces that shape the structure, organization and evolution of genomes. In previous and current work, she has addressed genome and molecular evolution subjects at different scales, ranging from the impact of mutational biases during DNA sequence evolution, to the evolution of new genes and their regulatory regions and the coevolution of different genomic traits.