



Dr. Natasha Sanabria – Biosketch

Dr Sanabria specialises in biochemical investigations and genetic analyses of disease-related states, e.g. gene expression during stressed conditions, “Self/non-self” recognition events, innate immunity, cellular signal perception/transduction, and the assessment of toxicity via molecular biology-based techniques. She completed a Biochemistry MSc degree, which was awarded cum laude in 2003 (RAU), received the NRF Prestigious award, discovered a new gene (GenBank accession number GU196248) and obtained a PhD in 2009 (UJ). Thereafter, she received the NRF Innovation Fellowship to complete Postdoctoral studies in 2011, with training at Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory (New York, USA).

Dr Sanabria worked as a lecturer at UJ, the Biochemistry Honours-course Coordinator, and the QC manager on an international patent for the “Metals in medicine” unit. She then moved to the NIOH/NHLS in 2013 as the Toxicogenomics Lab Manager, attended nanoparticle-specific training (Boston, USA) and held an NHLS Research Trust Development Grant (2015–2017). Dr Sanabria also served as a higher-degrees co-supervisor, as well as a Mentor for DST/NRF Industry Interns (2015/2016). She has served as a reviewer for international journals, the NHLS Research Trust, NRF and the WRC in SA. She has contributed to the WHO guidelines on protecting workers from potential risks of manufactured nanomaterials (2017), based on a baseline study submitted to DST (2014). Dr Sanabria then pursued a full-time MSc in Bioinformatics and Computational Molecular Biology in 2017, which was awarded cum laude by Rhodes University, and re-joined NIOH as the Head of Department for Toxicology and Biochemistry in 2018. She is currently Chair of the Research Committee at NIOH, an advisory board member of the Institute for Nanotechnology and Water Sustainability (iNanoWS), extraordinary lecturer at UP, associate member of American College

of Toxicology, and, a member of the international NanoSolveIT Consortium for the environmental health and safety of nanomaterials.