

Ricard Cervera, MD, PhD, FRCP is Senior Consultant and Head at the *Department of Autoimmune Diseases, Hospital Clínic, Barcelona*, Director of the *Research Team on Systemic Autoimmune Diseases* at the *Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS) of Barcelona*, and Professor at the *Department of Medicine* and Coordinator of the *Masters on Autoimmune Diseases* at the *Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain*.

Dr. Cervera qualified in Medicine in 1983 from the *Universitat de Barcelona* and in 1988 obtained his PhD degree for his thesis on anticardiolipin antibodies. His post-doctoral experience included two years at the *Lupus Research Unit, The Rayne Institute, St. Thomas' Hospital, London, England*. In 1995, together with Drs. Miguel Ingelmo and Josep Font created the *Department of Autoimmune Diseases* of the *Hospital Clínic de Barcelona*, a pioneering centre in Europe devoted to develop high quality clinical, academic and research work on these conditions.

Dr. Cervera is Member of the *Catalan, Spanish and International Societies of Internal Medicine*, the *Spanish Society of Rheumatology* and the *European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)*, *Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) of London*, and Honorary Member of the *Argentinian, Mexican, Peruvian, Equatorian, Colombian and Slovak Societies of Rheumatology*, and the *Society of Clinical Immunology of the Community of Madrid*. He is coordinator of the *European Forum on Antiphospholipid Antibodies* and of the *European Working Party on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus*. Dr. Cervera is also the chairman of the *Medical Advisory Board of the Catalan Association of Lupus Patients* and *Medical Advisor to Lupus Europe*. He has organized many international workshops, symposia and courses on autoimmune diseases, and has been the chairman of the 6th and 8th *International Congresses on Autoimmunity*, the 1st and 2nd *Latin-American Congresses on Autoimmunity*, the 5th *Meeting of the European Forum on Antiphospholipid Antibodies* and the 8th *European Lupus Congress*. Among other awards, he has received the Prizes of the "*5th European Conference on Systemic Lupus Erythematosus*", *EULAR 2003* and *EULAR 2005*.

Dr. Cervera has presented over 400 invited lectures and has published more than 800 scientific papers (*h index: 55*), including original articles at *New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Lancet*, *Annals of Rheumatic Diseases*, *Arthritis and Rheumatism*, *American Journal of Medicine* and *Medicine (Baltimore)*. His academic activities include invited Professorships in several European and Latin-American Universities. He is co-editor of 20 books, including *The antiphospholipid syndrome*, *Vascular Manifestations of Systemic Autoimmune Diseases* and *Diagnostic Criteria in Autoimmune Diseases*, among others. He is also member of the Editorial Board of 20 medical journals. His current major research interest includes clinical and epidemiological aspects of systemic autoimmune diseases, particularly systemic lupus erythematosus and the antiphospholipid syndrome, with special focus on its "catastrophic" variant.

Dr. Cervera is married with Carme and has two daughters, Marta and Laura. He is also enthusiastically involved in social and cultural activities and is currently the Chairman of the *Association of Friends of the Museum of Gavà (Barcelona)* and Secretary General of the *Catalan Federation of Friends of Museums*.