



**Martin M. Matzuk, M.D., PhD**  
**Baylor College of Medicine**

Martin M. Matzuk, M.D., Ph.D. is Director of the Center for Drug Discovery and Professor and Chair in the Department of Pathology & Immunology at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM), and Director of Clinical Chemistry at Ben Taub Hospital. He graduated with a B.A. with honors in biology from the University of Chicago, earned his M.D. and Ph.D. from Washington University School of Medicine, performed residency training in clinical pathology at the University of Pennsylvania and BCM, and joined the BCM faculty in 1993. Dr. Matzuk is acknowledged for his elucidation of TGF $\beta$  family, germ cell, and hormonal signaling pathways using functional genomics and chemical biology approaches. He has published more than 370 papers, is an inventor on 13 patents, generated over 100 mouse models, and lectured at more than 170 symposia. He has mentored over 50 students and fellows as a faculty member at BCM, and he was the recipient of the 2015 Trainee Mentoring Award from the Society for the Study of Reproduction. He chaired the NIH CMIR study section and Burroughs Wellcome Fund CABS and CAMS review panels. Dr. Matzuk was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 2014 and as a Fellow in the National Academy of Inventors in 2016. His research has been supported continuously by NICHD since 1991, and he received a MERIT award from NICHD in 2001.



**Laura Giojalas, PhD**  
**National University of Cordoba**

Laura Giojalas is Biologist and PhD in Biological Sciences, graduated at the National University of Cordoba, Argentina. She is a Full Professor of Molecular Cell Biology at the same University, and Principal Investigator at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council. She is the Director of the Centre for Cell and Molecular Biology at the same University. For more than 20 years, her laboratory has been focused on understanding the chemical interaction between mammalian gametes before fertilization, with interest in sperm guiding navigation and its potential

application for Assisted Reproduction in humans and animals. She published almost 60 papers in international journals and is the principal inventor of a device for selection of spermatozoa at optimum physiological state for fertilization (Patent owners: CONICET and UNC).



**Mariano G Buffone, PhD**  
**Instituto de Biología y Medicina Experimental**

Mariano G Buffone PhD earned his masters and PhD degree in Biochemistry from University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. He then moved to the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA) as a postdoctoral fellow under the direction of professors George L. Gerton and Richard M. Schultz.

In 2010, Dr Buffone moved to Buenos Aires and became Assistant Professor at the Instituto de Biología y Medicina Experimental in Buenos Aires, Argentina where he leads his research team. Since 2016 he assumed his present position as Associate Professor at the same institution. He was recently appointed as Vice Director of the Institute.

His laboratory seeks to understand the complex process of mammalian sperm capacitation with particular emphasis in the process of acrosomal exocytosis. To this end, his lab uses a wide range of approaches that include the analysis of signaling pathways, single cell imaging experiments, super resolution microscopy and in vivo studies. Dr Buffone has also been very active collaborating with several groups in the United States, Japan, Mexico and Argentina.



**Aaron Crapster, Ph**  
**Vibliome Therapeutics LLC**

Aaron is a Principal Scientist (Biochemistry, Cell and Cancer Biology) at Vibliome Therapeutics LLC. Vibliome is a startup biotech company focused on the development of small molecule kinase inhibitors for a range of unmet clinical indications. Aaron obtained his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and was a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Systems Biology at Stanford University, where he characterized the essential role of homeodomain protein kinase 4 during spermiogenesis.