

**Dr. Rafael A. Medina** is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. For more than 20 years, Dr. Medina has conducted research on emerging and zoonotic viruses that cause disease in humans, including the highly pathogenic Influenza viruses, Hanta Virus, Zika Virus, Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever and SARS-CoV-2. Dr. Medina obtained his Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences at the University of New Mexico (USA), where he conducted studies to understand the ecology, evolution and diversity of Andes Hantavirus, and worked on in vivo experimental therapies against Hantavirus Sin Nombre. During his Postdoctoral training at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dr. Medina worked on the characterization of the antigenic properties of the 2009 H1N1 influenza A pandemic virus and its similarity to the influenza virus that produced the 1918 pandemic (the Spanish flu), and studied the molecular factors that modulate the virulence of these viruses. He currently leads a research laboratory with a multidisciplinary team that studies the molecular bases of the disease caused by RNA viruses. He has extensive experience in various in vitro and in vivo experimental models working under biosafety level 2 and 3 (BSL2 and 3). He is the biosafety officer of the BSL3 laboratory at the UC School of Medicine, and currently serves as Vice President of the Institutional Committee on Research Safety. He is also a Member of the Editorial Board of Scientific Reports, Reviewing Editor of Frontiers in Microbiology and a member of the Latin American group of OFFLU in swine influenza.