



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Professor José Muñoz-Cueto - Josep Planas Lecture



Professor José Antonio Muñoz-Cueto is a leading neuroendocrinologist and chronobiologist specialized in fish physiology. He holds the chair of Zoology in the Department of Biology at the University of Cádiz (UCA), where he directs the *Physiology and Pathology in Aquaculture* research group. His work integrates functional neuroanatomy, endocrine regulation of reproduction, and environmental physiology to advance both basic science and sustainable aquaculture.

Professor Muñoz-Cueto's research has been pivotal in advancing our understanding of the neuroendocrine regulation of reproduction in teleost fish, particularly in species such as gilthead sea bream, European sea bass, and sole. His team has developed detailed cytoarchitectonic brain atlases for these species, facilitating the anatomical and functional mapping of key neurosecretory systems, including those involving gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH) and gonadotropin-inhibitory hormone (GnIH). Since 2001, his work has expanded into the fields of fish chronobiology and environmental physiology, with recent studies exploring the ontogeny and modulation of the circadian system in response to photoperiod, light spectrum, and temperature.

Professor Muñoz-Cueto earned his PhD in Biology from Universidad Complutense de Madrid (1992), with doctoral research at the Instituto Cajal (CSIC), and completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Université Bordeaux 1 (1994) and Université Rennes 1 (1996–1997). He served as Coordinator General of CEI-MAR (2011–2013) and Vice-Rector for the SEA-EU European university alliance (2018–2021).