

# XIX Encuentro de Cooperación Farma-Biotech

---

12 de noviembre de 2020

## MyoBiomark: a novel circulating microRNA for the detection of acute myocarditis



**Dr. Pilar Martín**

## Content

1. The Institution: **Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC)**
2. The Product: **Novel miRNA for the diagnosis of myocarditis**
  - a) Target Indications
  - b) Innovative mechanisms of action
  - c) Differential features facing the market
  - d) Current status of development
  - e) IPR protection
  - f) Pitfalls & Risks to be considered
3. Partnering Opportunities



# 1. The Institution: Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC)



The Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares Carlos III (CNIC) is a **leading international research center** dedicated to understanding the basis of cardiovascular health and disease and to translating this knowledge into improved patient care.

The CNIC belongs to the Instituto de Salud Carlos III campus in Madrid. The CNIC adopted its current form after a “relaunch” in 2006, made possible through a partnership between the Spanish government and the Pro CNIC Foundation, a panel of 14 leading Spanish companies and charitable foundations.

**Line of research at the CNIC:** T cells in autoimmune and cardiovascular diseases.

. The group is focused on the study of the adaptive immune system and micro-RNAs in the pathophysiology of autoimmunity and cardiovascular diseases such as myocarditis, myocardial infarction or atherosclerosis and in the development of circulating biomarkers for these diseases, both in mice and in patients.

. Contributions to the field (last 5 years): NEJM 2020, Cell & Mol Immunol 2020, Thrombosis Research 2020, Circulation 2019, Mol Cell Biol 2017, J Am Soc Nephrol. 2016, Nature Immunol. 2016, ELife 2016, Sci Transl Med 2016, J Autoimmunity 2015, Mol Cell Biol 2015.

## Regulatory Molecules of Inflammatory Processes Group



## 2. The Product: Myobiomark is a novel human microRNA for the diagnosis of acute myocarditis

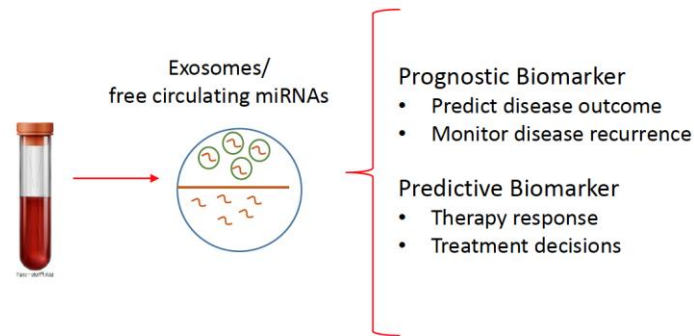
### Myocarditis

#### THE PROBLEM

- . Prevalence of myocarditis remains underestimated due to **difficulties in diagnosing** the disease
- . **20%** of myocarditis develop dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) with **permanent heart failure**
- . Biopsy-proven myocarditis associates with **mortality of 19.2% in 4.7 years**

#### THE HYPOTHESIS

- *EX-microRNAs as biomarkers in MYOCARDITIS*
- *(Th17-mediated conditions)*



#### THE SOLUTION

The **novel miRNA: hsa-miR-Chr8:96** patented by CNIC as **the first Biomarker in plasma** specific for the diagnosis of myocarditis patients

New Engl J Med, 2021



## A clinical need for non-invasive biomarkers for myocarditis

### Inflammatory cardiomyopathy

- Acute and chronic inflammation of cardiac tissue.
- • Poor outcome of patients if untreated.
- Etiology can be viral, toxins or autoimmune diseases.
- Pro-inflammatory and inflammatory mediators.

### Diagnostic procedures

- Important biomarkers such as cardiac troponin, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide, interleukins, caspases, macrophages and viral antigens.
- Echocardiography, MRI and positron emission tomography.
- • Endomyocardial biopsy, histology and immunohistochemistry.
- Genetic analysis for mutations and polymorphisms.

### Personalized treatment possibilities

- Diagnosis based on several parameters such as endomyocardial biopsy, imaging, biomarker and genetic analysis.
- Individualized treatment based on etiology and symptoms.
- Minimal side effects and avoids trial and error methods.
- • Future models for personalized drug testing via patient derived cells.
- Next strategy for inflammatory cardiomyopathy definition and classification.

### Conclusion

- • Proper diagnostic tools needed for personalized medicine for inflammatory cardiomyopathy patients.
- Multiple approach needed – both invasive and noninvasive techniques.
- Establishment of comprehensive and individualized patient treatment.





# The problem of diagnosis

## Clinically suspected myocarditis with pseudo-infarct presentation: the role of endomyocardial biopsy

Alida L. P. Caforio<sup>1</sup>, Giacomo Malipiero<sup>2</sup>, Renzo Marcolongo<sup>2</sup>, Sabino Iliceto<sup>1</sup>

Submitted Sep 20, 2016. Accepted for publication Sep 20, 2016.  
doi: 10.21037/td.2017.03.103

J Thorac Dis 2017;9(3):423-427

Observational Study

Medicine

OPEN

## Clinical characteristics and outcomes of patients with myocarditis mimicking ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction

### Analysis of a case series

Shuang Wu, MD, Yan-Min Yang, PhD\*, Jun Zhu, MD, Huai-Bin Wan, MD, Juan Wang, PhD,  
Han Zhang, PhD, Xing-Hui Shao, PhD

## Fulminant lymphocytic myocarditis mimicking ST-elevation myocardial infarction

Marco Amoroso ✉, Stefano Muzzarelli, Tiziano Moccetti, Giovanni Pedrazzini

European Heart Journal, Volume 36, Issue 33, 1 September 2015, Pages 2227,

## JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging

Volume 3, Issue 8, August 2010

DOI: 10.1016/j.jcmg.2010.05.012

## Streptococcal Pharyngitis-Associated Myocarditis Mimicking Acute STEMI

Rasoul Mokabberi, Jamshid Shirani, Afsaneh Haftbaradaran M., B. Dennis Go and William Schiavone

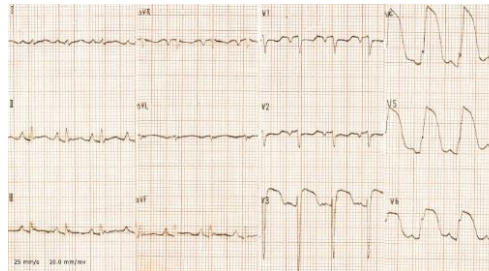
- Myocarditis mimics acute myocardial infarction in its clinical presentation
- Troponins are not specific for Myocarditis
- Angiography is invasive and needs EMB or CMR for a final recommendation
- CMR not available/adequate for everyone (small villages, pregnant women, etc.)

## Autopsy CaseReports

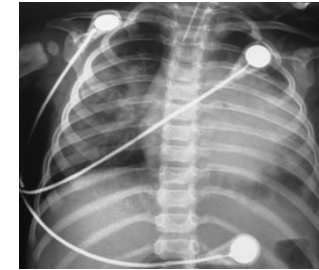
Article / Autopsy Case Report

## Infant acute myocarditis mimicking acute myocardial infarction

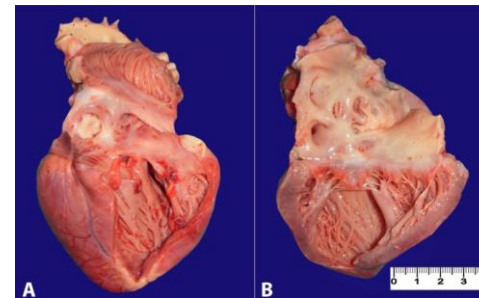
Maher Jedidi<sup>a</sup>, Samia Tilouche<sup>b</sup>, Tasnim Masmoudi<sup>a</sup>, Maha Sahnoun<sup>a</sup>,  
Youssef Chkribène<sup>a</sup>, Sarra Mestiri<sup>c</sup>, Lamia Boughamoura<sup>b</sup>,  
Mohamed Ben Dhiab<sup>a</sup>, Mohamed Kamel Souguir<sup>a</sup>



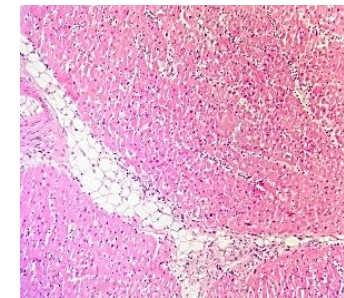
Troponins and ST-segment elevation



Cardiomegaly and  
pulmonary congestion



Ventricular dilation



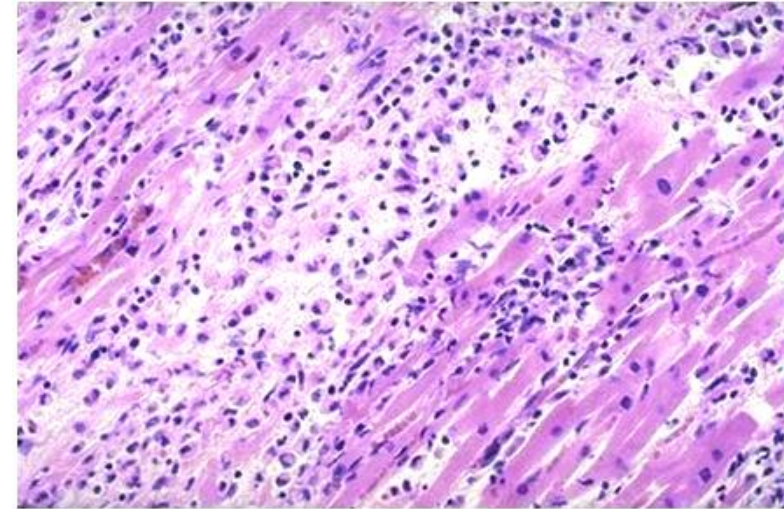
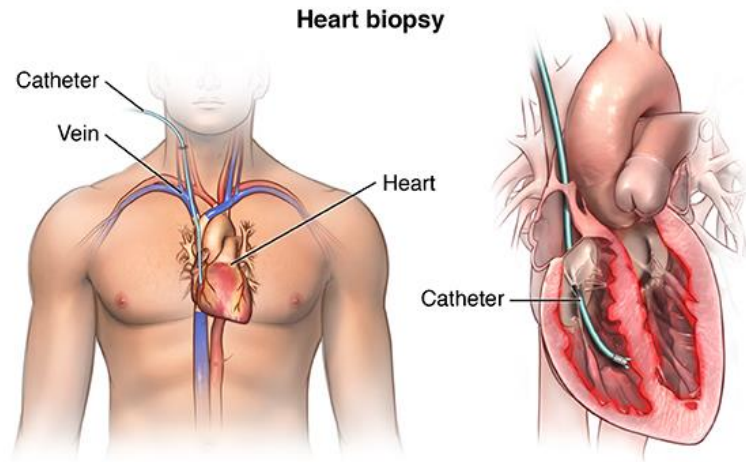
Infiltrating

9 months-old girl died due to an underdiagnosed and  
mistreated fulminant myocarditis



# The problem of diagnosis

Endomyocardial Biopsy (EMB) remains the gold standard in diagnosis of myocarditis



EMB is not commonly performed due to safety reasons:

6% complications

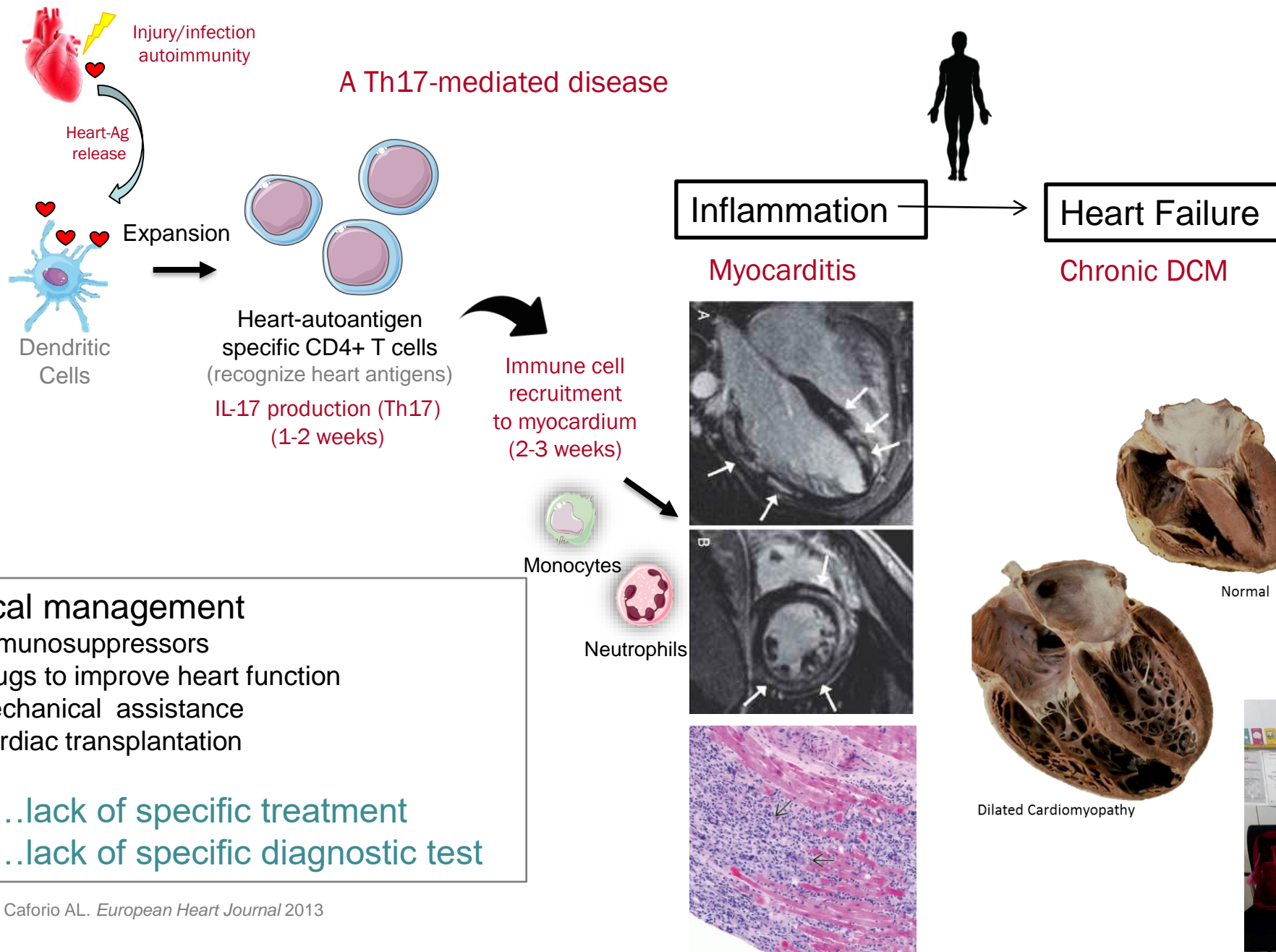
0,4% incidence of death due to perforation

Nowadays there is a lack of early and non-invasive methods to diagnose myocarditis





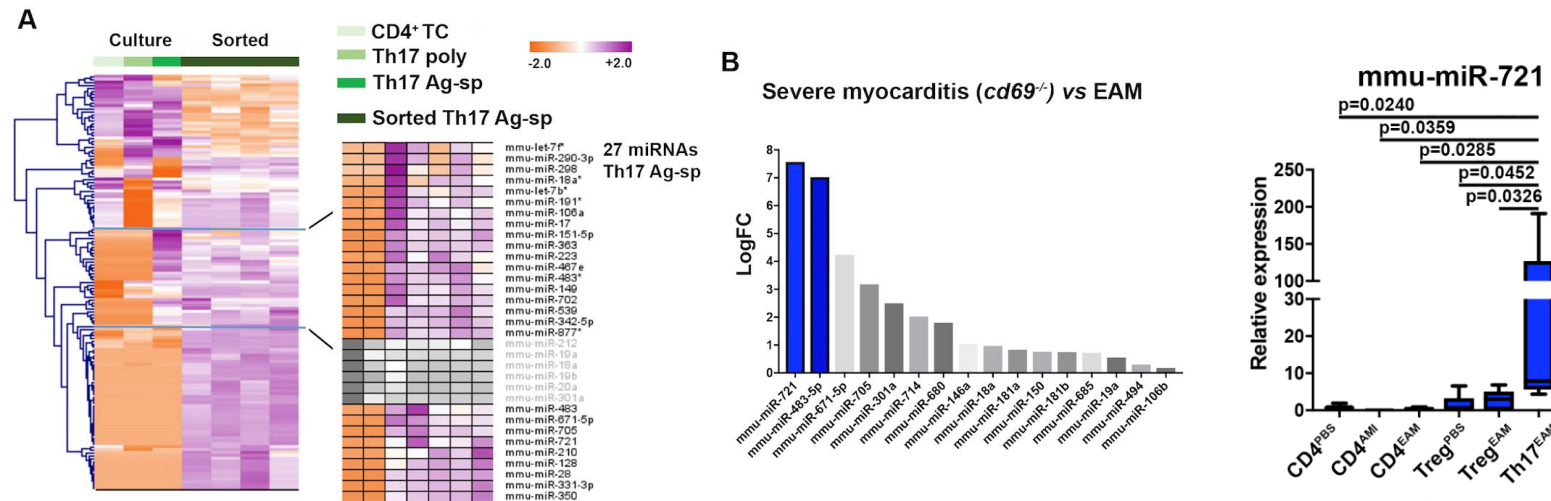
# Myocarditis



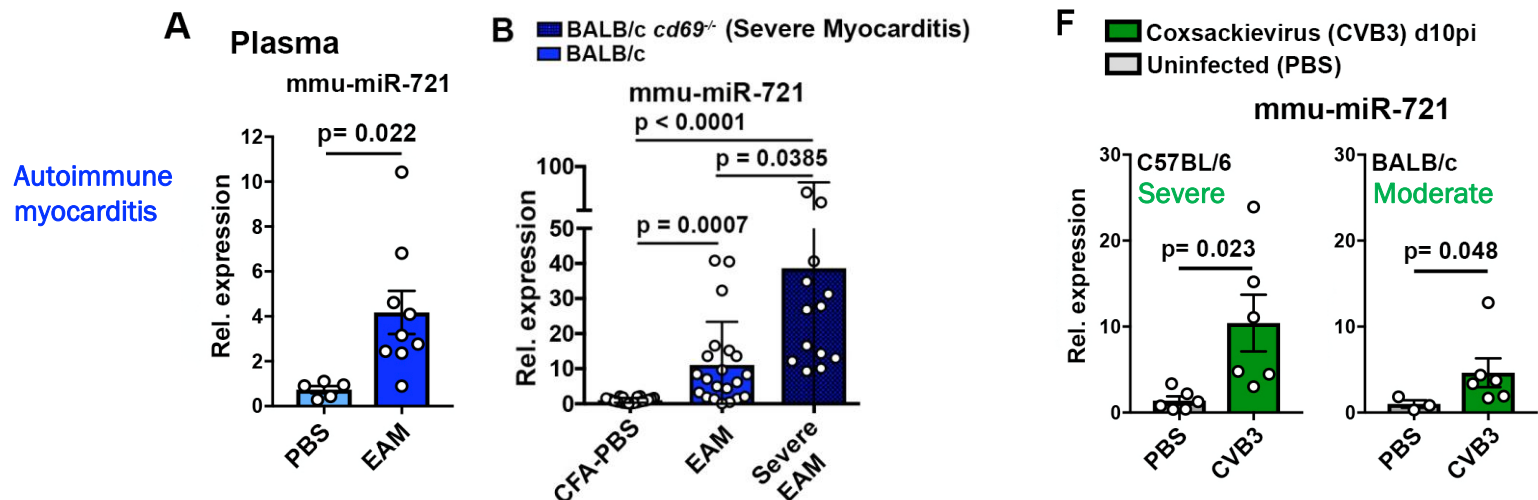


# miRNA profiling of EAM-Th17 cells

miR-721 is synthesized by Ag-specific Th17 cells from mice with myocarditis



miR-721 is abundant in plasma from mice with autoimmune or viral myocarditis and its expression increases in severe forms of disease



Viral myocarditis

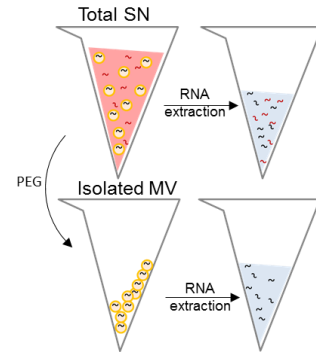


# miR-721 is secreted into plasma extracellular vesicles by Th17 cells

## Draining-Lymph Nodes from EAM

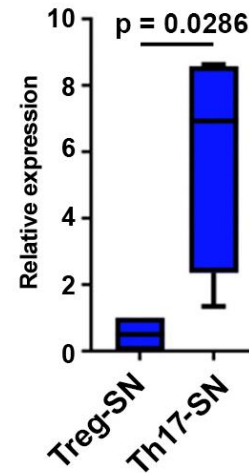


Culture of isolated Th17 from EAM d-LNs



Andreu Z., J Extracell Vesicles 2016

### mmu-miR-721

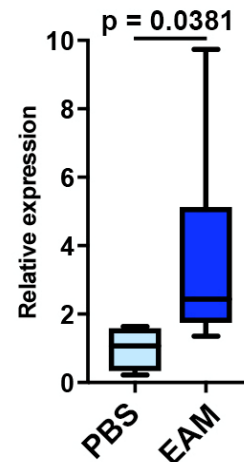


Mmu-miRNA-721 is selectively secreted in extracellular vesicles (EV) from supernatants (SN) of Th17 cells

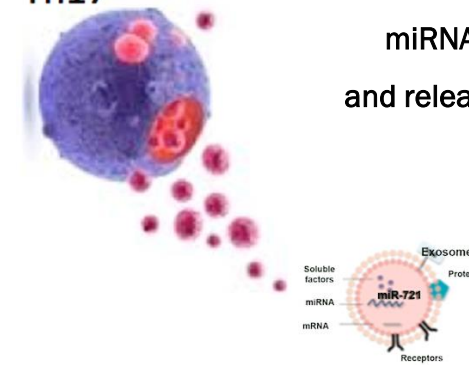
## Plasma from EAM



### mmu-miR-721



### Th17



miRNA-721 is encapsulated in EVs and released by Th17 cells to the plasma



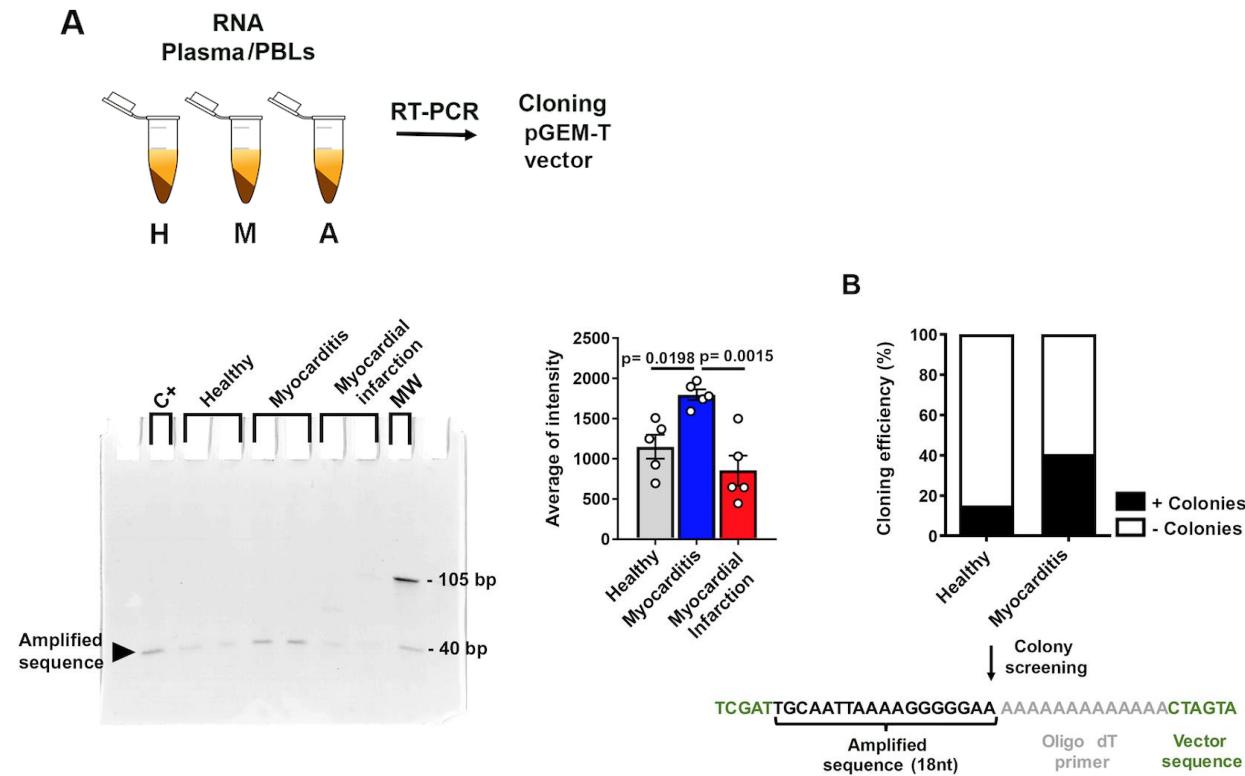
# Identification, cloning and validation of the mmu-miR-721 human homolog: hsa-miR-Chr8:96

Conserved sequences in the genome:

Mus musculus	Mmu-miR-721	GGAAGACAGUGCAAUUAAGGGGGAA	AAAAAGUACCUGGGAUGUUCUGAGAAUUUCAUUUUUCUUGUUAUUGCCACUCCUGCUUGGAA
Rhesus macaca	Rma-miR-721	AAAUUAAGUGCAAUUAAGGGAGGAA	AACAUAUAAACAGAAUACAGCAAAAUCAAAGAUAAGAAAAUUGAUAAACCUUAGCCAA
Homo sapiens	hsa-miR-Chr8:96	CUGCUUUCUUGCAAUUAAGGGGGAA	AAAGUGCUAGGGGCACAUGGCACUACAUCUAGAGCCUGACGUUAGAAAAACAUUAUUG

mature sequence (21nt)      secondary structure (loop nucleotides)

Identification



Cloning of the  
human homologue



# A national multicenter study



Recruitment of patients in  
5 hospitals from Spain



within 24h from hospital admission

Peripheral blood samples from:

- ✓ **Healthy donors (80)**
- ✓ Patients with **Acute Myocarditis (151)**
- ✓ Patients with **Acute Myocardial Infarction (150)**
- ✓ **MINOCA (20)**

Recopilation of possible **common clinical parameters**:

- Heart function (ECG & Echocardiography)
- Heart damage markers (TPI, CK-MB...)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (Gadolinium enhancement)
- Dyslipidemia
- others

To study:

➤ **Biomarker in peripheral blood:** plasma and circulating cells

Validation in three independent cohorts:

- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA
- Center for Molecular Cardiology, Zürich, Switzerland
- Hospital of Padua , Italy. (Biopsy-proven cohort)



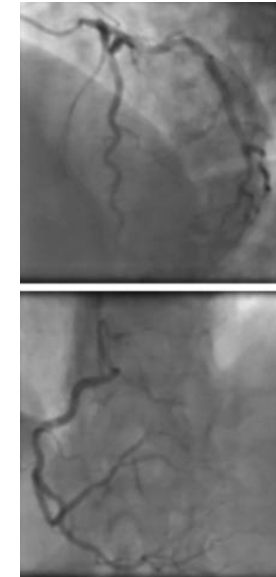


# A multicenter study

Parameter	AD	Control Group	AD	Acute Myocarditis	AD	STEMI	AD	NSTEMI	P Value
N		80		41		41		45	
Age, y	80	42.31±1.2	41	37.00±16.07	41	60.32±13.22	45	66.21±14.43	<0.0001
Sex (women/men)	80	41/39	41	10/31	41	11/30	45	16/29	
TFOS, d	-	-	39	6.028±0.9652	40	0.875±1.453	38	1.500±2.076	0.0006
CRF, %		-	39	48.65	41	87.80	45	88.89	
Dyslipidemia, %		-	39	17.94	41	36.58	45	64.44	
Smoker or former-smoker, %		-	39	28.20	41	53.66	45	44.44	
AH, %		-	39	5.13	41	39.02	45	66.67	
Diabetic, %		-	39	2.56	41	17.07	45	28.89	
Renal Insufficiency, %		-	39	0	41	4.88	45	6.67	
PAD, %		-	39	0	41	4.88	45	4.44	
Laboratory findings			38		41		44		
Peak Troponin I		-	14	8.746±8.206	11	42.02±35.16	18	13.16±20.59	0.0014
Peak Troponin T		-	25	1283±1373	29	4025±3374	26	1227±2340	<0.0001
Peak CK, U/L		-	21	532.2±339.0	41	1766±1854	40	399±516.7	<0.0001
Peak CK-MB, U/L		-	12	48.33±32.82	9	96.44±57.72	5	60.74±26.67	0.0514
ECG alterations, %	80	100	39	66.67	41	100		77.77	
ST segment elevation, %	80	0	39	69.23	41	100	45	0	
Q-wave, %	80	0	39	17.94	41	12.20	45	22.22	
CT or coronary angiography performed, %		0	39	43.58	41	100	45	100	
CAD, %		-	17	0	41	97.56	45	88.89	
Echocardiography at admission, %	80	100	41	97.56	41	97.56	45	80.00	
LV EF, %	80	63.81±0.55	40	54.50±11.12	40	51.21±12.01	34	57.65±10.55	0.0070
Segmental contraction abnormalities, %	80	0	38	42.10	40	82.15	34	67.64	
CMR performed, %		11.25		68.29		14.63		2.43	
LGE, %	9	0	28	78.57	6	100	1	100	

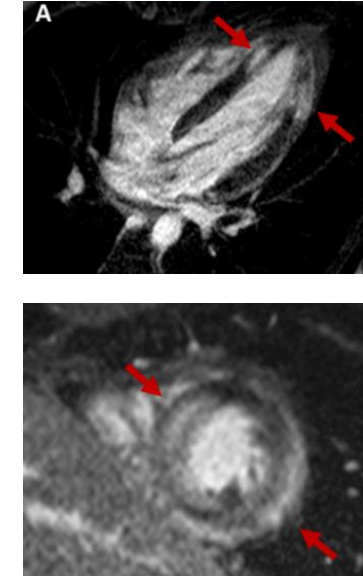
A MINOCA case with late diagnosis of myocarditis

Arteriogram



No occlusion of coronary arteries

CMR

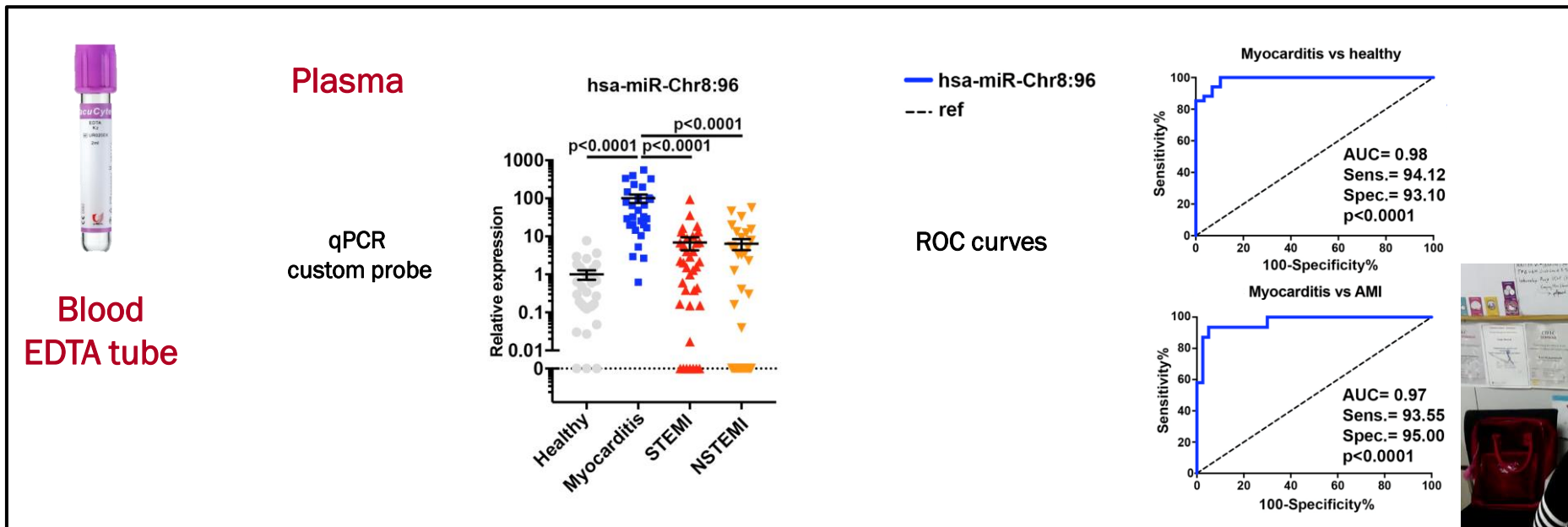
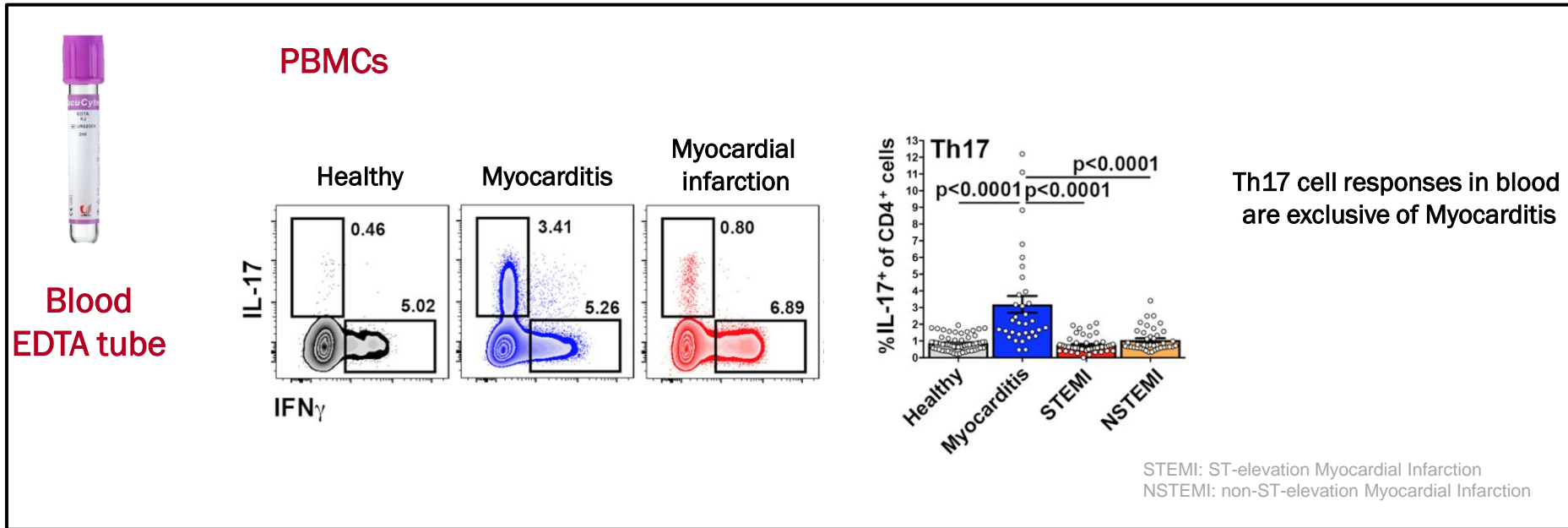


Gadolinium enhancement (inflammatory edema)

PAD, patients with available data;  
TFOS, time from the onset of symptoms;  
LV EF, left ventricle ejection fraction;  
CMR, cardiovascular magnetic resonance;  
LGE, late gadolinium enhancement.



# Plasma hsa-miR-Chr8:96 expression is a specific biomarker for acute myocarditis patients



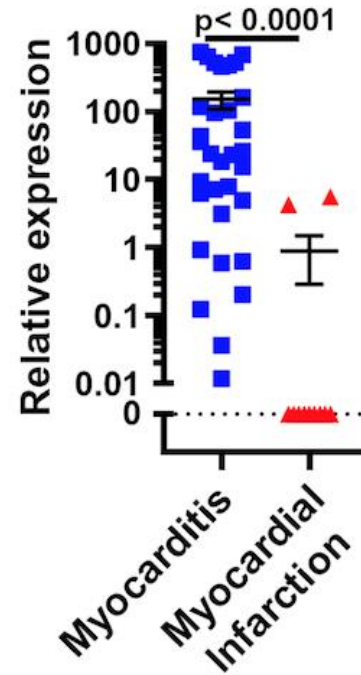
**Validation in three independent cohorts:**

- Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA
- Center for Molecular Cardiology, Zürich, Switzerland
- Hospital of Padua , Italy. (Biopsy-proven cohort)

**Boston**

**Validation  
Cohort 1**

**hsa-miR-Chr8:96**

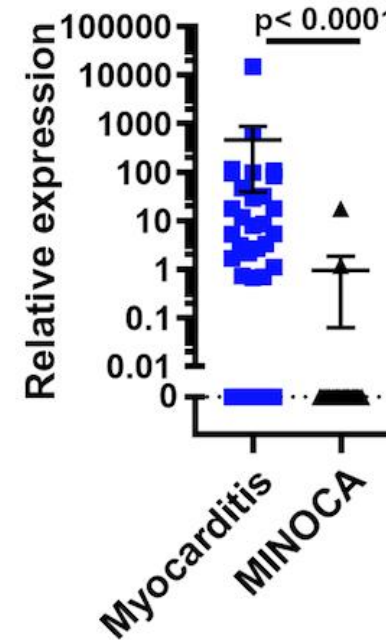


AMI:  
acute myocardial  
infarction

**Zürich**

**Validation  
Cohort 2**

**hsa-miR-Chr8:96**

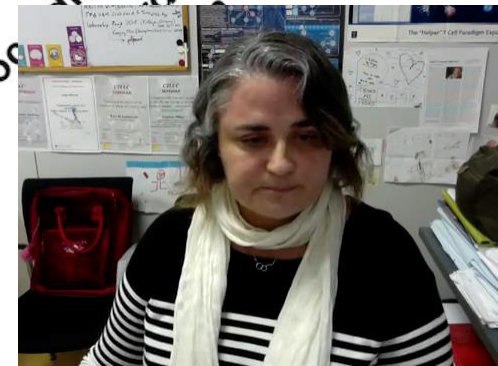
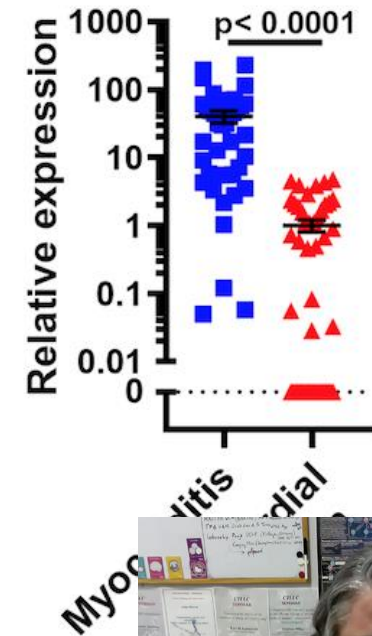


MINOCA:  
AMI with non-obstructive  
coronary arteries

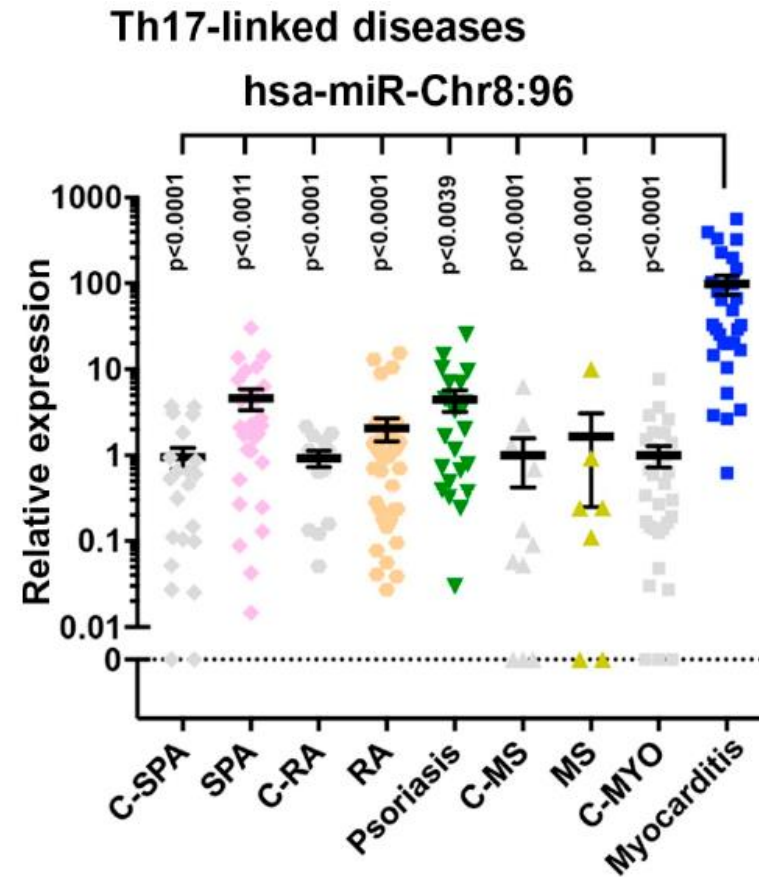
**Padua**

**Validation  
Cohort 3**

**Biopsy-proven  
hsa-miR-Chr8:96**



The novel miRNA is specifically expressed in plasma from patients with myocarditis, compared to myocardial infarction and with patients diagnosed of other Th17-related diseases: rheumatoid-arthritis (RA), spondylo-arthritis (SPA), psoriasis and multiple sclerosis (MS).



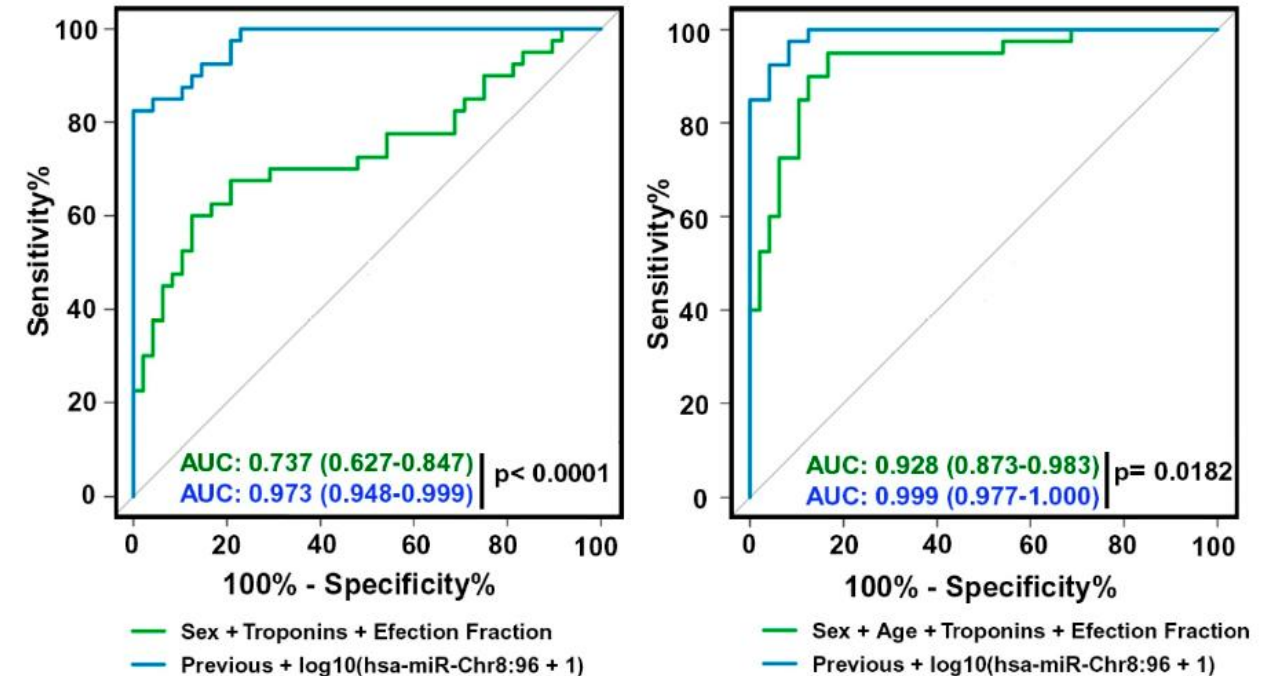


## Multiparametric analysis

	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value
(Intercept)	130.967 (0.732, 46741.671)	0.080
Sex (women)	0.858 (0.189, 3.869)	0.840
Age (years)	0.902 (0.86, 0.937)	<0.001
Troponins (Normalized)	0.998 (0.994, 1.001)	0.282
Ejection Fraction %	1.004 (0.933, 1.083)	0.907

	Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P-value
(Intercept)	1.417 (0.003, 643.699)	0.909
Sex (women)	1.562 (0.268, 10.2)	0.624
Age (years)	0.901 (0.848, 0.943)	<0.001
Troponins (Normalized)	0.998 (0.993, 1.002)	0.404
Ejection Fraction %	1.031 (0.943, 1.13)	0.505
Log10 (hsa-miR-Chr8:96 + 1)	16.659 (4.716, 92.949)	<0.001

### Myocarditis vs Myocardial Infarction



. The diagnostic performance of this novel microRNA yielded a robust area under the curve of 0.977 (95% CI, 0.879-0.975; p<0.0001) for discriminating myocarditis from myocardial infarction patients.

. The microRNA retained its diagnostic value when adjusted by age, gender, ejection fraction and troponins.

Blanco-Domínguez R, et al. Martín, P

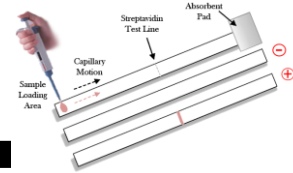


## PROSPECTIVE REGISTRY FOR THE VALIDATION OF A NEW DIAGNOSTIC MARKER IN PATIENTS WITH A SUSPECTED CLINIC OF MYOCARDITIS (MIOCARDITIS-CNIC) CEI PI 23\_2020

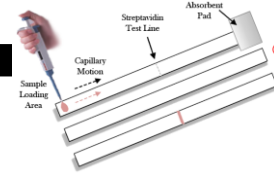
### 1. Validation and prototype development



1. Preparation of nanoparticle-based miRNA sensors (IMDEA-Nanociencia).
2. Validate prototype results with qPCR



Prototype



Prototype

### 2. Clinical Registry



Coordinator: CNIC  
(Clinical Trial Coordination Unit)



HOSPITAL VIRGEN DE LA ARRIXACA, MURCIA  
HOSPITAL CLINICO SAN CARLOS, MADRID  
HOSPITAL CLINICO DE SALAMANCA  
HOSPITAL GENERAL DE VALENCIA  
HOSPITAL UNIVERISTARIO DE LA PRINCESA  
HOSPITAL MONTEPRÍNCIPE  
HOSPITAL DE VIGO  
HOSPITAL DE VALLADOLID

1. Inclusion criteria: Patients who consult and present a clinical suspicion of acute myocarditis, based on the presence of compatible clinical findings.
2. Registration of procedures (T analysis and regulatory dossi
3. 5ml sample serum/plasma (in months)

Colección de mu  
C.0000800 en el  
Biobancos

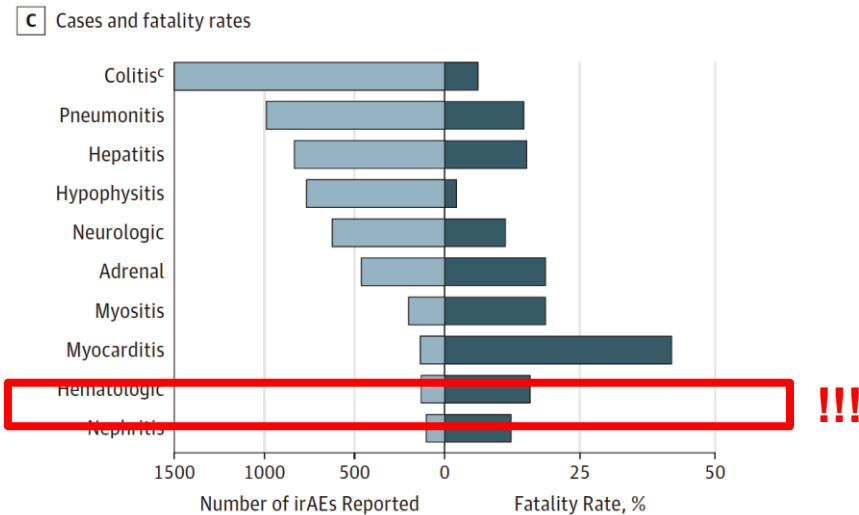
### 3. Technology transfer

1. Marketing and commercialization activities
2. Patent, Publication (open access), dissemination

"Method for diagnosing cardiomyopathies"  
European patent (EP3384043B1) granted on January 23rd 2020.  
USA application (US15/780,888) pending.



## Secondary application under development: Early Diagnosis of Immune checkpoint (ICI) -myocarditis



Prevalence of ICI-myocarditis 1.14%

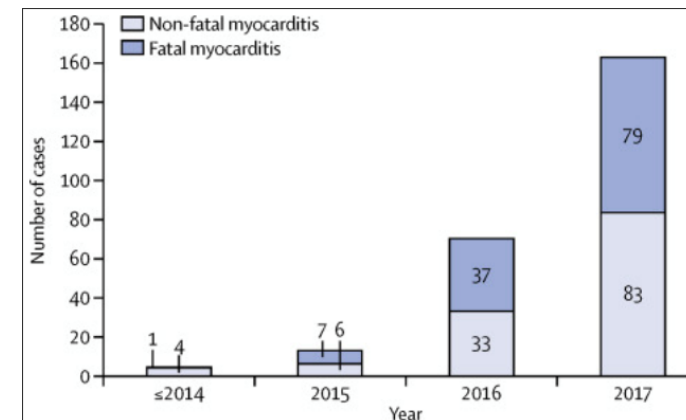
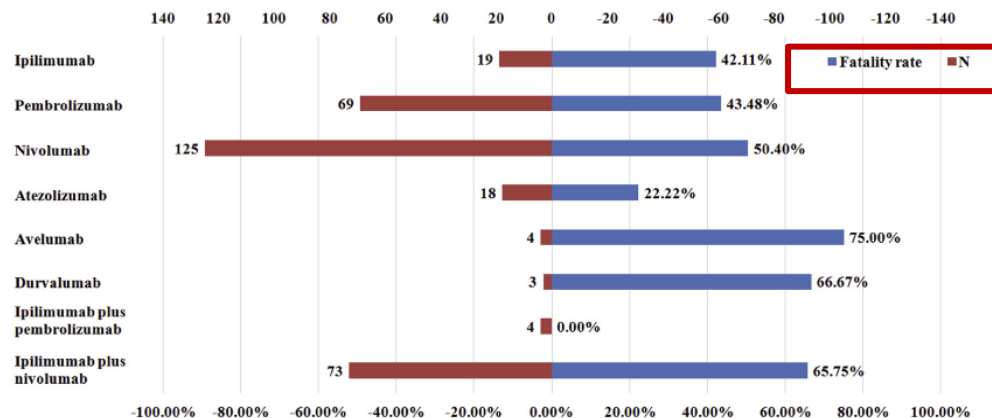
ICI-Myocarditis have the highest fatality rate

50.4% monotherapy

65.% combination

84% of ICI-myocarditis were classified as severe

### Number of reports and fatality rates for ICI-myocarditis



### 3. Partnering Opportunities

**European Patent** application EP15382596.3 entitled “Method for diagnosing cardiomyopathies” on December 12th 2015, granted on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020.

**USA application** (US15/780,888) pending

The CNIC is the only applicant in the patent family.

The CNIC is looking for an industrial partner interested in licensing the patent family and completing the necessary steps for the diagnostic kit to reach the market.

If the company needs it, the CNIC is open to collaborate through a Research and Development Contract.

thank you for your attention

