



## Newsletter No. 104

### Felipe Maglietti – The 2024 Justin Teissié Award Recipient

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I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Teissié in person during the EBTT school in 2009, which marked the beginning of my journey in this field. I still vividly recall him sitting in the front row, asking sharp, insightful questions, always ready to share ideas and provide guidance.

At that time, I was a freshly graduated M.D., just starting my work in Dr. Marshall's lab. Many of you likely know him for his remarkable academic and scientific achievements, but only a fortunate few have had the privilege of knowing him personally. As my supervisor, he guided me through my entire Ph.D. and early career—and he continues to do so today. His leadership, grounded in merit, generosity, and a visionary outlook, played a pivotal role in enabling the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award.

While receiving an award is an incredible honor, I cannot help but think of the countless individuals whose contributions were integral to my journey. It feels, in some way, unfair that only one person is recognized for what is undeniably a collective effort. I want to take a moment to thank all the individuals who were part of this journey—you know who you are. The journey began in 2010, when we initiated veterinary electrochemotherapy with Matias Tellado, using companion animals with spontaneous tumors as a model. Over time, we treated more than 600 patients, gaining valuable experience and deepening our understanding of the technique. In 2016, I completed my Ph.D., during which I developed a specialized electrode for treating deep-seated tumors. Validated in dogs with nasal tumors, this innovation—the Single Needle Electrode®—was patented. This marked Argentina's first thesis on electroporation. In 2017, we embarked on a productive collaboration with Dr. Emanuela Signori, the current president of the ISEBTT. Together, we delved into gene electrotransfer, specifically exploring its applications in veterinary patients with metastatic disease. Our work was well-received and widely published.

By 2018, recognizing the need to make this technology accessible to Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, we launched the first Veterinary Electrochemotherapy Course in Spanish, endorsed by the ISEBTT. Despite the robustness of the technology, we identified a significant knowledge gap regarding its principles and proper application. To date, more than 200 veterinarians have taken the course, and electrochemotherapy is now practiced in nearly all countries in the region. Later that year, we organized the First Latin American Electroporation Event, featuring internationally renowned speakers. In 2019, in collaboration with Dr. Antoni Ivorra, I translated the EBTT book (<https://book.ebtt.org/>; edited by Damijan Miklavčič and Peter Kramar) into Spanish—a significant step toward making this knowledge more accessible to Spanish-speaking users.

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In early 2020, we held the Second Latin American Meeting on Electroporation, hosted by Dr. Marcelo Rangel in Brazil. The event was graced by the presence of Dr. Lluís Mir, who has been a constant source of support. Later that year, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, we introduced the region's first medical-grade electroporator, the OncoPore (BIOTEX, Buenos Aires, Argentina), enabling us to begin treating human patients.

In 2021, I joined the Instituto Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud, Fundación HA Barceló. The institution quickly recognized the significance of our work and provided resources that accelerated the implementation of this therapy. Undergraduate classes on electrochemotherapy were incorporated into the curriculum, ensuring that future doctors are educated on electroporation-based treatments. Additionally, we organized a highly successful masterclass in Spanish, featuring Dr. Lluís Mir, Dr. Javier Raso, and Dr. Emanuela Signori—past, present, and future presidents of the ISEBTT.

In 2022, we hosted the Third Latin American Workshop on Electroporation, bringing together veterinarians and medical doctors for the first time in a fruitful exchange of knowledge. Later that year, we published updated veterinary guidelines for electrochemotherapy, along with a comprehensive manual in Spanish, offering recommendations for specific cases.

In 2023, the Fundación Barceló launched the first Electrochemotherapy Course for Medical Doctors, attracting esteemed participants. That same year, electrochemotherapy was introduced in three public hospitals—Hospital JM Ramos Mejía, Hospital Petrona V. Cordero, and Instituto de Oncología Angel Roffo—as well as two private institutions, Sanatorio Otamendi and Clínica Adventista de Belgrano.

By 2024, results from human patient treatments were presented at several medical congresses across Latin America, receiving an overwhelmingly positive response.

Looking ahead, I am proud of what we have achieved but also excited for the future. My goals include expanding our presence in medical societies, promoting awareness of electroporation-based therapies, increasing the adoption of these technologies in both medicine and the food industry, and ultimately hosting a world congress in 2030.

For me, electroporation is not just a technology, a research topic, or a therapeutic tool—it is the gateway to a remarkable community that continues to inspire me to move forward.

Happy new year, and I hope 2025 is full of achievements for you all...

## Forthcoming events

### 11<sup>th</sup> COURSE: Advances in Electroporation-Based Therapy: From Principles to Clinical Applications

Erice, May 2 – 7, 2025

<http://www.eisbem.eu/index.php/2025-xi-course/>

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Felipe with the ISEBTT  
President, Emanuela Signori.

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