

Associate Professor Vicente Planelles, PhD



Vicente Planelles, PhD, is an associate professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Utah and a member of the Cell Response and Regulation Program at Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Planelles earned a bachelor's degree from the Universidad Complutense, Spain, and a PhD from the University of California, Davis.

A major goal of his research is to understand, at a molecular level, the events that lead to apoptosis, the normal process of cell death. In cancer, cells do not die normally.

Our laboratory has a general interest in the pathogenesis by HIV-1 and other primate lentiviruses. Viral pathogenesis results from the interaction of the viral genes/proteins with those of the host cell. Therefore, a profound knowledge of cellular biology is absolutely required if one wants to understand viral pathogenesis. Because of that, we have acquired and developed tools and knowledge in various areas of cell biology including cell cycle, apoptosis, DNA damage, the ubiquitin/proteasome system, T-cell signaling pathways, and others. Today, our research focuses on two specific areas of HIV pathogenesis:

1. The role of Vpr in viral pathogenesis.
2. Induction of HIV-1 latency in memory CD4+ T cells, and reactivation of latent viruses.

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