



Georgia Sarquella Brugada

CONGENITAL ARRHYTHMIAS
AND PEDIATRIC

INTERVENTIONAL
CARDIOLOGY,

SANT JOAN DE DÉU HOSPITAL,
BARCELONA.

A CONTINUOUS PATH

Georgia knew that one day she would become a doctor, and she kept on saying so to her parents who, naturally, encouraged and supported her throughout medical school. She studied medicine at the University of Barcelona, and upon graduation she decided to combine two specialities. She started with paediatrics at the Hospital Mutua de Terrassa and later on she specialised in paediatric cardiology at the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu in Barcelona. Georgia knew she wanted to gain some international experience, and together with her husband Oscar, a geneticist specialised in molecular cardiology, left for Canada in 2007, to the Hôpital Sainte Justine of the University of Montreal to specialise in catheterisation in congenital heart diseases. In 2009 they decided to go back home, to Europe. Oscar went to Girona, where he started with Ramon the new Medical School, and Georgia went to Paris, to the prestigious Necker Enfants Malades paediatric centre in the French capital. There, under the tutelage and guidance of Professor Boudjemline, she gained extensive experience that allowed her to return in 2011 to what she calls her home, the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu to practice as an interventionist in congenital heart disease and to start an ambitious project: The Familial Heart Disease and Sudden Death Unit under the support of the Arrhythmia Unit started by Josep in 1998.

The Ministry of Health recognises the Familial Heart Disease and Sudden Death Unit of the Hospital Sant Joan de Déu as the only national reference centre for treatment of paediatric arrhythmias, and it has coordinated since its creation in 2016 the paediatric branch of the European Reference Network for Rare and Low Prevalence Complex Diseases of the Heart ERN GUARD HEART of the European Commission. The Unit sees children from all over the world with arrhythmic conditions or issues related to familial heart diseases. The Unit is characterised by how close the staff are with their patients, the close relationship of the medical professionals, and the feeling of being part of a big family.

They also collaborate with an intense humanitarian aid programme both locally and internationally.

Since 2017, Georgia has been an associate professor of Cardiology at the University of Girona, being able to practice one of the most rewarding branches of medicine: teaching.

Moreover, Georgia is the driving force of the association Arrhythmic Syndromes related to Sudden Death (SAMS), a nationwide, non-profit organisation that brings together patients and family members with these syndromes.