

Dr. Irene Brana is a Medical Oncologist specialized in Head and Neck Malignancies and Early Drug Development. In 2010, she completed her Medical Oncology training at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, the largest Medical Oncology Department in Spain. She underwent a 3-year fellowship in Drug Development and Head and Neck Malignancies at the Drug Development Program at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre in Toronto, Canada. During that period, she was awarded a SEOM grant, an ASCO Conquer Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award and a Fundación La Caixa Grant.

She currently leads clinical research at the Head and Neck Tumor Unit from the Medical Oncology Department and works in the Early Drug Development Program (UITM). As part of the Head and Neck Unit, she is in charge of the assessment and treatment of patients' candidate for systemic treatment as part of multimodal treatment or in the recurrent/metastatic setting.

Since 2013 he has been working on the development of immunotherapy (immune-checkpoint inhibitors) in the head and neck area from phase I to phase III, including the checkMATE-141, KEYNOTE-048, and KEYNOTE-689 studies. The first two have led to the approval of nivolumab and pembrolizumab in metastatic/ recurrent HNSCC, and the last one has recently led to the FDA approval of perioperative pembrolizumab in locally advanced disease.