

Adriana Sánchez-Danés obtained her BSc in Biotechnology from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain, graduating with both the Extraordinary Award and the Spanish Ministry of Education Extraordinary Award. She then earned her PhD in Biomedicine (cum laude) from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain, where her doctoral research focused on modelling Parkinson's disease in vitro.

She subsequently carried out postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Prof. Cédric Blanpain at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. There, she turned her attention to cancer biology, studying basal cell carcinoma, the most common human cancer. During this period, she identified the specific cell of origin of this skin cancer and uncovered the tumour cell population that survives therapy and drives relapse.

In October 2019, Adriana established her independent research group at the Champalimaud Foundation in Lisbon as ERA Chair Holder of the QuantOCancer Project, funded by the European Commission. Her laboratory investigates the biology of skin cancers and paediatric solid tumours, combining fundamental cancer biology with translational approaches to uncover new therapeutic opportunities.

Her scientific achievements have been recognized with several prestigious awards, including the Maratona da Saúde Junior Award, the AstraZeneca Research Award, and the Portuguese League Against Cancer Award.