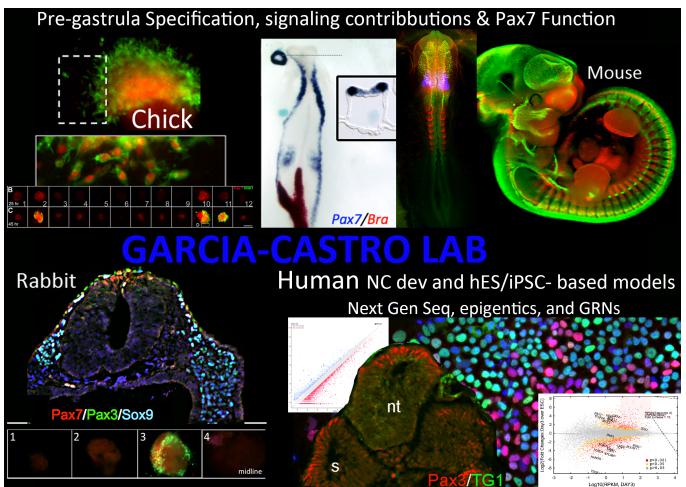
"Induction, specification and differentiation Potential of Neural Crest Cells"

Our research focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms responsible for the formation and differentiation potential of the Neural Crest, a multipotent migratory stem cell of central relevance for vertebrate evolution and diversity, which is also involved in many human health conditions. We aim to uncover the molecular interactions governing NC formation and differentiation potential. We use a comparative approach in a number of amniotes (**chick, rabbit, and human**) to identify signaling pathways, trasncriptional and epigenetic mechanisms responsile for NC formation. We have pioneered work analyzing earlier events in the formation of NC in amniotes, and estalished a fast, robust and eficient human model based in pluripotent stem cells. Our research challenges current dogmas and has established novel paradigms for studying NC development in diverse species.

We are looking for passionate researchers with experience in molecular biology, stem cell biology and/or early embryology. Please e-mail CV, summary and relevance of your current research, a brief description of your interest in our lab, and the names of up to three references to: <u>martin.garcia-castro@ucr.edu</u>.



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