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Joan Albanell is Head of Medical Oncology at Hospital del Mar and Professor of Oncology at Pompeu Fabra University, both in Barcelona, Spain. Dr. Albanell is also from 2010 the head of HM CIOCC Barcelona. He completed his MD at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 1988 and carrying out his research thesis studies at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA between 1995–1996, focused on early studies of telomerase in human cancers. Dr. Albanell subsequently worked as a clinician and researcher in three university hospitals in Barcelona (Vall d'Hebron, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona and Hospital del Mar).

In 2007 he was appointed Director of the Cancer Research Program at Hospital del Mar Research Institute (IMIM). The focus of his research has been preclinical and clinical studies of novel anticancer drugs and their mechanisms of action and resistance. Dr. Albanell's current work focuses on clinical trials in breast cancer, mainly in HER2-positive disease and Phase I, and translational research into markers of response and mechanisms of resistance to novel therapies against HER2-positive breast cancer. A founder member and Scientific Committee Coordinator of the Spanish Breast Cancer Research Group (GEICAM), he has authored more than 120 articles in international peer-reviewed journals.