

José L. Peñalvo

José L. Peñalvo is the Director of the National Center for Epidemiology (CNE) at the Carlos III Health Institute in Spain, where he oversees national disease surveillance and monitoring programs, and leads the strategic direction of epidemiological and public health research, ensuring the integration of advanced data analytics and modelling approaches to inform national and international health policies.

Before his current role, he served as a Full Professor at the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp, Belgium, where he founded and led the non-communicable diseases Unit, acknowledging the increasing burden of these conditions in areas with ongoing epidemiological transitions, establishing it as a leading center for global research and collaboration. As an Associate Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Antwerp, he was responsible for the Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases module within the Master of Epidemiology program.

He holds a PhD in Pharmacy from Universidad Complutense Madrid and the University of Helsinki, an MSc in Pharmaceutical Medicine from Universidad de Alcalá, and has completed postdoctoral training in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. As a research and scholar, Dr. Peñalvo has extensive expertise in epidemiological methods, specializing in modelling the effectiveness of public health strategies. His research integrates real-world data, predictive, and simulation techniques to evaluate interventions at the population level, informing policies that aim to reduce the burden of disease. He is deeply committed to health equity and has championed population-based strategies that integrate social determinants of health to ensure interventions reach the most vulnerable populations. His expertise in epidemiological modelling has been instrumental in evaluating large-scale interventions, including dietary policies, cardiovascular risk reduction strategies, and pandemic response measures. He has been the principal investigator (PI) of several significant research projects. Notably, he coordinated the European project 'unCoVer' (Unraveling data for evidence-based response to COVID-19), a consortium involving 29 institutions across 19 countries. With over 220 published research documents, Dr. Peñalvo is widely recognized for his contributions to epidemiology, public health surveillance, and epidemiological modeling. Dr. Peñalvo is actively engaged in high-level scientific committees and advisory roles, serving for example as the representative of the Carlos III Health Institute on Spain's National Committee for Public Health at the Ministry of Health, and the International Association of Public Health Institutes (IANPHI). His editorial contributions include serving as Associate Editor for Population Health Metrics, and he is an expert panel member for major research funding agencies, including the European Research Council, and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.