

IETS Foundation 2026 Early Career Achievement Award (Practicing Professional)



Paula Rodriguez-Villamil is a Veterinarian and PhD in reproductive biotechnology, currently serving as Global Embryo Director at Genus plc. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to advancing reproductive technologies in livestock, leading scientific, operational, and commercial programs across the bovine, porcine, and small-ruminant sectors.

She holds a DVM from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, a Master's degree from UFRGS in Brazil, and a PhD from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina, complemented by postdoctoral research in proteomics and animal biotechnology at UFC in Brazil. Paula has directed high-performance IVF and embryo laboratories in Brazil, Argentina, and the United States, including serving as Embryology Lab Director at Recombinetics, where she led gene-edited animal production.

In her current global role at Genus/ABS Global, Paula drives R&D, product development, and the worldwide expansion of innovative embryo technologies, building affiliate networks and scaling operations across the Americas, Europe, and Asia. She is an active contributor to the scientific community through peer-reviewed publications, leadership roles at international conferences such as IETS, and ongoing participation in mentoring initiatives like Mothers in Science. A passionate researcher and mentor, Paula integrates cutting-edge science with strategic vision to enhance genetic improvement and agricultural sustainability worldwide. She is also deeply committed to supporting women in STEM, through inclusive mentorship and advocacy.