

Maria G. Castro, Ph.D.

Maria Castro, Ph.D., was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She received her Ph.D. in biochemistry from the National University of La Plata in Buenos Aires in 1986.

She married fellow research scientist Pedro R. Lowenstein, M.D., Ph.D., in 1988 and the couple became partners in research in 1994. Their goal: to make significant advancements in the treatment of brain cancers, focusing on *glioblastoma multiforme (GBM)*, the most common and deadliest of adult primary brain tumors. Their approach introduces genetic changes into tumorous cells to kill cancer cells and prevent their propagation.

In 2001, Dr. Castro was appointed as a Professor of Medicine and Professor of Molecular and Medical Pharmacology at the School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles with a joint appointment as a Professor of Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; it was there that she and her husband expanded their research enterprise, which culminated in the approval of their first IND for the treatment of GBM in human patients.

Drs. Castro and Lowenstein joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2011 as professors in the Departments of Neurosurgery and Cell and Developmental Biology.

Dr. Castro is internationally known for her basic science and translational research program in the areas of tumor immunology, neuro-immunology, and immune mediated gene therapeutic approaches for the treatment of brain cancers. She has received continuous funding from the NIH and other foundations for her research and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Women of Action Award from the Israel Cancer Research Fund for her achievements in the field of brain cancer biology and therapeutics and the Medallion Endowed Chair Award in Gene Therapy.

She is a member of multiple professional societies and has published over 200 original articles in the most prestigious biomedical journals; she is frequently invited to present her research at conferences and symposia worldwide.