

# MEMORY OF ANA MARÍA RODRÍGUEZ PÉREZ



On Monday, November 7th, 2022, our great friend Ana passed away, suddenly, with great sorrow for all her family, José Vicente and Pelayo, her parents Ángeles and Jesús, her sister Susana, parents-in-law, brothers-in-law, and nephews, and for those of us who treated her personally, such as all her colleagues from the GAM research group, and from the iTEAM R&D institute.

After completing her studies of Telecommunication Engineering at the University of Vigo, Ana arrives in Valencia in 2008, where she studies the Official Master in Technologies, Systems and Communications Networks, offered by Departamento de Comunicaciones (DCOM) of Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV). Soon she gets a scholarship in the Microwave Applications Group (GAM), and she receives the Master's degree after defending her work on "Synthesis of Metamaterial Transmission Lines with Aggressive Space Mapping" in September 2010.

Then, thanks to a grant for the training of research staff from Generalitat Valenciana (Regional Government) programme "Gerónimo Forteza", she continues her work with the GAM at the Institute of Telecommunications and Multimedia Applications (iTEAM). She follows the PhD programme on "Telecommunications" from DCOM-UPV, and she receives the Doctoral degree on December 11th 2014 after defending her thesis titled "Synthesis of Planar Microwave Circuits based on Metamaterial Concepts through Aggressive Space Mapping".

Her doctoral thesis, that received the highest grade of "Sobresaliente cum Laude", paved the way for a new R&D line of the GAM group, developed under collaboration with CIMITEC, a research and technology transfer centre focused on "metamaterials" technology. In addition to working hard and intensively, Ana established a very good personal relationship with Prof. Ferran Martí and Dr. Jordi Selga, founder and researcher, respectively, of CIMITEC. This created a very pleasant and productive joint team and work environment, which we keep remembering and yearning. From this so rewarding cooperation, Ana published 14 research papers in relevant scientific journals, and 20 communications in well-known international conferences. She also collaborated with several well-known industries, such as Agilent and Ansys,

that were interested in the transfer of her results to their commercial products.

Since 2015 Ana continued to work as a research staff member with a doctoral degree of iTEAM, being actively involved in several R&D contracts and projects of the GAM group, always with great dedication, thoroughness, and excellent results, offering her everlasting smile, as well as giving full support to all those around her. From this period, I highlight her high-level technical contributions in new projects with other research centres (AIMPLAS), companies (Aurora Software and Testing, now with Dassault Systèmes) and international organizations (European Space Agency). She also acted as a reviewer of most relevant scientific journals, and provided a very active support to the GAM group (e.g. with our facility for fabricating high-frequency circuits). She was always a model of dedication, effort, professionalism, and good spirit, leaving an indelible mark on everyone she works with.

I cannot conclude this Ana's obituary without explicitly mentioning my excellent personal relationship with her, as well as with all her family, and particularly their parents, that I have met personally and received their kind heartedness. Ana's naturalness, together with her perseverance and kindness, with everyone, won me since I first met her. We developed a very nice friendship, plenty of family gatherings with our children, that went beyond the university environment. At work, Ana always found spare time to come and see me, together with José Vicente, and even with Pelayo (as it was on some Friday evenings of this year), where all of them showed calm, joy and human warmth. I am also well aware of Ana's willingness to listen and help anyone close to her who might need it.

I am fully sure that we will all remember Ana with great affection, we will see her reflected through their loved ones, and she will be always in our hearts.

**Vicente Boria** (on behalf of GAM and iTEAM)