

Dr. Cristina Alonso Alija, SVP, Global Head of Sustainability, Safety, Health and Environment

Cristina is currently the Head of ESG for the Bayer Group. As the Head of Sustainability, Safety, Health and Environment at Bayer, and following Bayer Vision "Health for All, Hunger for None", we aim to make an impact in sustainability to help our people and planet thrive. Cristina takes personal responsibility for the safety and health of the people working at and for Bayer, as well as the protection of our environment worldwide, while integrating sustainability in all aspects of our business strategy. Personally, she is strongly engaged in many activities to promote Diversity and Inclusion in industry.

Cristina studied Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in Barcelona, Spain, where she also completed her doctoral degree in Organic Chemistry. After a Postdoctoral research period in Colorado, US, she joined Bayer in Germany as a Medicinal Chemist. Among other recognitions, Cristina holds the Otto Bayer Medal for the research of Soluble Guanylate Cyclase Stimulators that resulted in the launch of the innovative medicine Adempas® (Riociguat). Cristina is coauthor of 19 scientific publications (including a Nature publication) in international journals and co-inventor in 38 patent applications. She has lived and worked in Netherlands, Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Germany and US.

In 2005 she joined the regulatory world, holding leadership positions for the registration of pharmaceuticals in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. In 2010 she became Head Regulatory Affairs Latin America and moved to Mexico City and subsequently to New Jersey, US. Among others, Cristina has been lecturer of the DGRA Master (German Society of Regulatory Affairs) at the University Bonn, Germany, Chair of the EFPIA Latin American Regulatory Affairs Network, and lecturer at several international events, contributing to the development of the regulatory frames in Latin America.

In 2014 she moved her focus towards the Agricultural sector, taking over the worldwide regulatory responsibility for the Bayer Crop Protection portfolio. Among other roles, she has been the Chairperson of the Glyphosate Renewal Group in Europe. She is a defender of transparency, innovation and science for societal progress, and that progress can only be achieved in collaboration.

In 2021 she took over the corporate responsibility for Health, Safety and Environment for the Bayer group, leading throughout this time the Covid Crisis at Bayer. One year later she has taken an expanded responsibility as Head of ESG at Bayer.