

4 CNIC NEWS AND VIEWS

1. A CNIC-LED CONSORTIUM RECEIVES FUNDING FROM THE LA CAIXA FOUNDATION FOR A PROJECT TO DISCOVER NEW THERAPEUTIC TARGETS FOR ATHEROSCLEROSIS



The 'la Caixa' Foundation, as part of its 2020 Health Research Program, has awarded €999,988 to the *AtheroConvergencia* project, to be carried out by a consortium led by CNIC researcher Dr. Miguel Ángel del Pozo. *AtheroConvergencia* (Flow-driven inflammation and arterial wall remodeling in atherosclerosis: mechanisms and therapeutic potential) aims to find new markers

and therapeutic targets in atherosclerosis. The project combines multidisciplinary expertise with cutting-edge technologies to gain a comprehensive understanding of atherosclerosis, identify new opportunities for precise medical intervention at advanced disease stages, and discover new genetic markers that predict the risk of developing this disease.

2. FRANCISCO SÁNCHEZ-MADRID AWARDED THE SANTIAGO RAMÓN Y CAJAL NATIONAL PRIZE

Dr. Francisco Sánchez Madrid received the Santiago Ramón y Cajal National Prize in the area of Biology. Dr Sánchez-Madrid is a group leader at the CNIC and a Full Professor in Immunology at the *Universidad Autónoma de Madrid* (UAM) and heads the Immunology Service at *Hospital Universitario La Princesa*. The committee awarded the prize to Sánchez Madrid in recognition of his contributions to biomedicine in the field of leukocyte intercellular communication, adhesion, migration, and activation and the impact his work has had on the study of chronic inflammatory diseases. These achievements, together with

his high international profile throughout his scientific career, his outstanding record of training and mentoring young Spanish scientists, and the biotechnological applications of his discoveries, amply justify this award. The National Prizes for Research, created in 1982, are the highest award in Spain for scientific research.



3. DR VALENTÍN FUSTER RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE MAHIDOL FOR HIS SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICINE

CNIC General Director Dr Valentín Fuster received the 29th *Premio Prince Mahidol* in the area of Medicine. This prestigious award from the *Fundación Prince Mahidol* recognizes the international leadership shown by Dr Fuster over the past 40 years through his innovative contributions to cardiovascular medicine, spanning basic research to clinical care, and more recently his tireless promotion of cardiovascular health throughout the world. The committee noted the “value of Dr Fuster’s research in unifying and extending knowledge gained through basic research to bring new benefits to patients, especially regarding antiplatelet therapy. His exceptional contribution has saved millions of lives throughout the world.” Five previous winners of this prize later went on to win the Nobel Prize.

Dr Fuster is also the first Spanish scientist with a Webometrics classi-



fication. This measure, established by the cybermetrics group at the *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas* (CSIC), is based on the h index, one of the most widely used tools to determine the influence of discoveries over the a scientist’s professional career. The h index was defined by the physicist Jorge Hirsch to provide a single measure of the quality of an investigator’s findings.



4. BORJA IBÁÑEZ WINS THE ‘YOUNG TALENT’ PRIZE IN THE PREMIOS CONSTANTES Y VITALES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Dr Borja Ibáñez Cabeza, Director of Clinical Research at the CNIC, was awarded the ‘Young Talent’ Prize in the 6th edition of the *Premios Constantes y Vitales* for biomedical research and disease prevention, an initiative of the *laSexta* television channel and the *Fundación AXA*. These prestigious awards aim to recognize, support, and strengthen the achievements of Spanish scientists working in the areas of biomedical research and disease prevention during 2020, an especially challenging year that demonstrated the importance of this work more than ever. The prize comes with a financial award of €100,000 to support ongoing research projects.

5. DR. GUADALUPE SABIO RECEIVES THE ‘YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD’ FROM THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

The European Society for Clinical Investigation awarded CNIC scientist Guadalupe Sabio its ‘Young Investigator Award’, which recognizes the achievements of young research scientists who have made an outstanding contribution to basic, translational, or clinical biomedical research in Europe.



6. DR MIGUEL TORRES NAMED AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Latin American Academy of Sciences (ACAL) has named Dr Miguel Torres an honorary member in recognition of the alignment of his work with the Academy's goals. These goals are high-quality research, scientific progress, and the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean through cooperation in research. Dr Torres and fellow honorary member Dr Ángela Nieto are the first Spanish investigators to join ACAL, whose mission is to promote and contribute to the progress of the mathematical, physical, chemical, life, and earth sciences and their use to support the human, cultural, and social integration of Latin America and the Caribbean.



7. DR VALENTÍN FUSTER AWARDED THE MUJERHOY 'PREMIO AL COMPROMISO MASCULINO' (MEN'S COMMITMENT PRIZE) FOR THE 'MUJERES POR EL CORAZÓN' (WOMEN FOR THE HEART) CAMPAIGN

Dr Valentín Fuster received the *Mujerhoy 'Premio al Compromiso Masculino'* for his health promotion work to raise awareness among women of their vulnerability to cardiovascular disease. Since 2014, Dr Fuster has led the *'Mujeres por el corazón'* campaign, a joint effort of *Fundación Mapfre*, the Pro-CNIC Foundation, the Community of Madrid, and the Spanish Heart Foundation. The campaign aims to raise awareness of women's cardiovascular risk so that symptoms can be recognized early and to promote healthy lifestyle habits.



8. THE SEC ANNUAL MEETING HOLDS ITS FIRST SESSIONS DEDICATED TO BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

In its 2020 congress, the Spanish Society of Cardiology for the first time included sessions dedicated to basic and translational cardiovascular research. Several CNIC scientists were among the participants, including Héctor Bueno, Miguel Ángel del Pozo, Fátima Sánchez-Cabo, José Javier Fuster, Andrés Hidalgo, Miguel Torres, Guadalupe Sabio, David Filgueiras, and José Jalife.

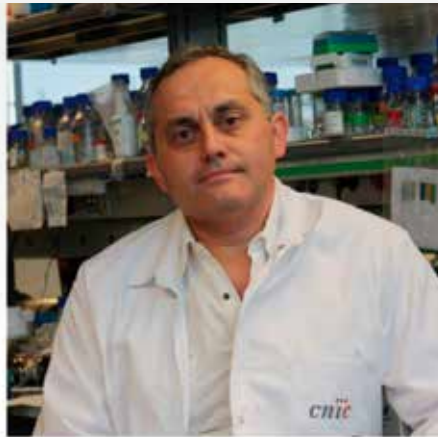
9. CNIC NAMED ONE OF THE 4 LEADING CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH CENTERS IN EUROPE AT THE 2020 EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CARDIOLOGY CONGRESS

The CNIC was one of only 4 leading centers in cardiovascular research to be invited to showcase itself in a live session at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) annual meeting, which in 2020 set a new record of more than 115,000 participants from 211 countries. The CNIC joined in the 'Leading Cardiovascular Research Centres in Europe' session together with Oxford University, the Stockholm Karolinska Institute, and the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.



10. SCIENCE WEEK 2020: A TALK ON COVID-19 FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

As part of *Semana de la Ciencia* (Science Week) 2020, the CNIC organized an event for children at which Dr Miguel Ángel del Pozo spoke about the science behind SARS-CoV2 infection and the body's immune response to it.



11. LALIGA JOINS THE PRO-CNIC FOUNDATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE



LaLiga and the Pro-CNIC Foundation have joined forces to promote awareness among football fans about the importance of cardiovascular disease prevention, taking care of one's heart, and avoiding bad habits like physical inactivity and smoking, which are major causes of diseases that affect the heart. The 2 organizations have launched the *Cuida tus latidos* campaign (Take care of your heartbeats; www.cuidatuslatidos.com), which provides soccer fans with information on how to prevent serious cardiovascular conditions like a heart attack.

12. VISITING RESEARCHERS PROGRAM: THE JESÚS SERRA FOUNDATION FUNDS THE STAY OF DR. GABRIEL NÚÑEZ AT THE CNIC



The Jesús Serra Foundation, of Grupo *Catalana Occidente*, financed the stay at the CNIC during January-March 2020 of Dr. Gabriel Núñez, professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Michigan (USA). This scholarship is part of the Jesús Serra Foundation's Visiting Researchers

program and aims to promote interaction in research to contribute to scientific advances. Promoted by the Jesús Serra Foundation with different Spanish institutions since 2009, the Visiting Researchers Program finances the stay of internationally renowned scientists so that they can visit and work in a Spanish research center over a period of several months. The goal is that the visiting researcher can, on the one hand, deepen the scientific relationship between the host research group and the researcher's center of origin, and, on the other hand, start new lines of research based on shared scientific interests. Dr. Núñez is one of the leading experts in gastrointestinal and systemic inflammation, host-microbe interactions, and mucosal immunology.

13. ERC CONSOLIDATOR GRANTS 2020

The CNIC obtained two ERC Consolidator Grants in the 2020 call.



"ProtMechanics-Live: Uncovering Protein Mechanics in Physiology and Disease"

€2 million

Jorge Alegre

Objective: To overcome the technical barriers to scientific progress by establishing the manipulation of protein mechanics in living cells and animals as a new field of research.



"AngioUnrestUHD: Understanding and modulating vascular arrest with ultra-high definition"

€2 million

Rui Benedito

Objective: To use new research tools and methods to advance understanding of blood vessel biology in different physiological and pathological contexts.

Total active ERC Grants: 2 Advanced Grants, 6 ERC Consolidator Grants, and 1 Starting ERC Grant.