

4 CNIC NEWS AND VIEWS

1. VISITING SCIENTISTS AT THE CNIC

SPAIN'S GROWING INTERNATIONAL PROFILE IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH MAKES IT AN INCREASINGLY ATTRACTIVE DESTINATION FOR VISITING SCIENTISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.



FOUNDATION OCCIDENT VISITING RESEARCHERS PROGRAM

The Jesús Serra Foundation (now Fundación Occident) and the CNIC have worked together since 2013 to bring visiting scientists to the CNIC within the framework of the Visiting Researchers Program.

This program supports visits by international scientists to Spanish research centers, with the aim of building strong inter-institutional bonds and promoting new lines of research.

Foundation President Federico Halpern explained that an important aim of the Program is to “ensure the continuity of research projects that might otherwise be paralyzed due to lack of resources.”

In September 2023, two senior scientists, Dr. Mark Hlatky (Stanford University) and Dr. Carlos Morillo (Calgary University), began one-year collaborative visits at the CNIC in the groups of Dr. Borja Ibáñez and Inés García Lunar (Mark Hlatky) and Dr. José Jalife and David Filgueiras (Carlos Morillo). CNIC General Director Dr. Valentín Fuster said that “The Visiting Researchers Program is an especially good match with the CNIC’s core aim to attract international talented scientists in order to achieve excellence in cardiovascular research. I am sure that great things will come out of this collaboration”.

EU CONTEST FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS (EUCYS)

The CNIC participated last year in the EUCYS through special award consisting of a three-day stay at the CNIC for a scientist with an individual biomedicine project and who, according to the jury, would benefit most from the visit. The award covered travel, meals, and accommodation.

The 2022 winner, Lucia Cengelova, from Czech Republic, visited the CNIC in June 2023 to learn about the Center's projects directly from our researchers. Her stay was mentored by Dr. M^a Ángeles Moro, who has for several years been a member of the committee responsible for selecting the winning projects for years. Lucia Cengelova also learned about the infrastructure and technology available at the Center and how these are used to address and solve the challenges of



cardiovascular health research.

The 2023 winner, Sachi N. Premaratne, from Sweden, will complete her visit to the Centre in 2024.

These visits were financed with CNIC Severo Ochoa Grant CEX2020-001041-S.

2. AWARDS AND HONORS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF BARCELONA AWARDS THE GOLD MEDAL OF SCIENTIFIC MERIT TO DR VALENTÍN FUSTER

Dr Valentín Fuster, General Director of the CNIC, received the Gold Medal for Scientific Merit, awarded by the City Council of Barcelona. The city council awarded Dr. Fuster the medal in recognition of his scientific career, his dedication to research, and his commitment to society.



2023 ROBERT KOCH PRIZE, AWARDED TO DR. FRANCISCO SÁNCHEZ-MADRID

Dr. Francisco Sánchez-Madrid, Head of the CNIC Intercellular Communication in the Inflammatory Response Group, was awarded the 2023 Robert Koch Prize alongside the researcher Timothy Springer for their important joint research in Immunology. Both scientists were pioneers in discovering the importance of cell adhesion molecules for the function of immune cells. This major finding opened up new possibilities for the treatment of immune diseases with monoclonal antibodies. Dr. Sánchez-Madrid is also Head of the Immunology Service at La Princesa University Hospital, Director of the IIS Princesa Healthcare Research Institute and Professor in Immunology at the Autonomous University of Madrid.



THE CARMEN AND SEVERO OCHOA AWARD FOR MOLECULAR BIOLOGY GOES TO GUADALUPE SABIO AND DAVID SANCHO

Dr Guadalupe Sabio Buzo received the XXVII award and Dr David Sancho the XXVIII award for research in molecular biology from the Fundación Carmen y Severo Ochoa, in recognition of their brilliant careers in this field.

The prize is awarded for the research work of scientists in the field of molecular biology who mainly conduct their research in Spain, and recognizes work undertaken in the last five years.



THE GABRIELLA MORREALE NATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS AWARDED TO DR. RODRIGO FERNÁNDEZ JIMÉNEZ

CNIC researcher Dr. Rodrigo Fernández Jiménez was awarded the Gabriella Morreale National Research Award for Young Researchers in the area of Medicine and Health Sciences. The National Research Awards recognize the merit of Spanish researchers who are conducting outstanding work in scientific fields of international relevance and who has made a significant contribution to the advance of scientific knowledge and human progress.



DR. VALENTÍN FUSTER RECEIVES THE ASTRAZENECA FOUNDATION HONORARY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENTIFIC CAREER



The AstraZeneca Foundation awarded Dr. Valentín Fuster the Honorary Award for Excellence in Scientific Career. The award recognizes the careers of scientists who have contributed to the generation of knowledge and advances in their specialty. The 2023 award was bestowed on Dr. Valentín Fuster, Director General of the CNIC and President of the Cardiovascular Institute and Physician-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, for his contributions to cardiovascular medicine, which have significantly improved the treatment of patients with heart disease.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL RENAMES ITS CARDIOVASCULAR HOSPITAL THE MOUNT SINAI FUSTER HEART HOSPITAL IN HONOR OF DR. FUSTER.

Mount Sinai Hospital changed the name of its Cardiovascular Hospital to the Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital in honor of Dr. Valentín Fuster, CNIC Director General. The name change acknowledges Dr. Fuster's immeasurable impact on the field of cardiology and his leadership at Mount Sinai.



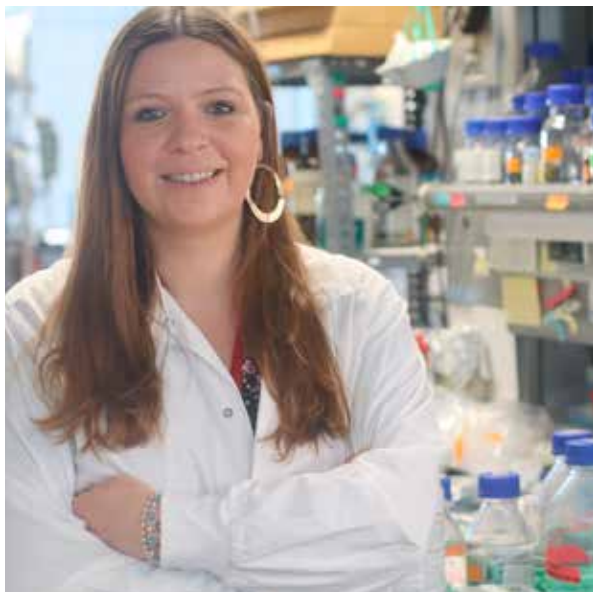
DR. VALENTÍN FUSTER AND DR. BORJA IBÁÑEZ AMONG THE 25 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN SPANISH HEALTHCARE

CNIC General Director Dr. Valentín Fuster is one of the most influential people in health care in Spain, according to the Forbes list of the 25 most influential people in Spanish healthcare, one of the most respected list of its type in the world according to the WHO and other international organizations. Dr. Fuster holds the second position, and he is not the only representative of the CNIC on the list; Dr. Borja Ibáñez, CNIC's Scientific Director and a cardiologist at Hospital Fundación Jiménez Díaz, is also included among the 25 leading health care professionals in Spain



THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF OBESITY AND THE NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION GIVE PRIZE TO DR. CINTIA FOLGUEIRA

CNIC researcher Cintia Folgueira Cobos received the prize from the European Association for the Study of Obesity and the Novo Nordisk Foundation in the category of Basic Science for her excellence and commitment. The award provides of approximately €40,000 in funding and will support participation in the European Congress on Obesity.



ANA PAREDES RECEIVES THE 2023 BIRNSTIEL INTERNATIONAL AWARD

CNIC researcher Dr. Ana Paredes was awarded the 2023 Birstiel International Award for her doctoral research on cardiac metabolism, supervised by Dr. Mercedes Ricote. She obtained her doctorate degree from the Autonomous University of Madrid on February 3, 2023, with her thesis conducted in the Nuclear Receptor Signaling Group at CNIC, titled “Understanding the role of Retinoid X Receptors in cardiac homeostasis: from transcription to physiology”.



THE SPANISH ASSOCIATION AGAINST CANCER GRANTS A PREDOCTORAL AWARD TO ANABEL DÍAZ-GUERRA



Researcher Anabel Díaz-Guerra received an award of €88,000 from the Spanish Association Against Cancer (AECC) in Madrid to contribute to her predoctoral work in the Translational Laboratory for Cardiovascular Imaging and Therapy headed by Dr Borja Ibáñez, scientific director of CNIC. The project explores the consequences that cancer treatments can have on the hearts of survivors, with the ultimate goal of developing innovative treatments to reduce associated cardiac toxicity.

3. GRANTS

CURE HEART & BRAIN

This European Union supported COFUND postdoctoral fellowship program at the CNIC is open to excellent researchers of any nationality seeking to conduct research on the heart, the brain and the connection between these organs, a topic of the utmost medical and social importance. The program is co-funded by Horizon Europe (Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No GA-101126521: €1.719.360) and the Severo Ochoa grant. The CNIC will incorporate 12 international postdoctoral researchers in 2024

and 2025, and 24 international partners from different sectors will contribute translational elements. The selection and recruitment process will follow the European Charter and Code for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and will be merit based, independent and transparent. Applications will be assessed by external evaluators according to principles of merit and scientific excellence. Principal investigators: Enrique Lara Pezzi, Maria A Moro, Inga Dreville.



Co-funded by
the European Union

TWO NEW GRANTS AWARDED TO THE CNIC BY THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCREASE EUROPEAN FUNDING AND ATTRACT SCIENTISTS FROM ABROAD:

- Preparation and Management of European Projects
- Attraction of International Talent – Landing@cnic



OTHER HORIZON EUROPE AND PROJECTS H2020 IN 2023 EU4HEALTH

Jacardi: Joint action on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes

Principal investigators: Hector Bueno, Fátima Sánchez Cabo and Fátima Lois (Partner). Amount granted. € 846.627

HORIZON-EIC-2023-PATHFINDEROPEN

ABCardonostic: Human Antibody-enabled Cardiovascular Personalized Theranosis

Principal investigator: Carlos Pérez Medina (partner). Amount granted. € 503.065

HORIZON-EIC-2022-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES

DCM-NEX: Enabling advances in diagnosis, patient stratification and treatment for dilated cardiomyopathy patients and families

Principal investigator: Enrique Lara Pezzia (partner). Amount granted. € 461.000

CNIC PROJECTS CALL SELECTED IN THE "LA CAIXA" FOUNDATION HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECTS CALL, 2023

CaixaResearch
Health Call 2023

"la Caixa" Foundation

New therapeutic target to reduce inflammation and prevent cardiovascular disease



José A. Enríquez Domínguez
COORDINATOR

New genetic studies to improve diagnosis and treatment of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy



José Luis de la Pompa
COORDINATOR

A molecule produced by gut microbiota enables early detection and treatment of atherosclerosis



David Sancho
COORDINATOR

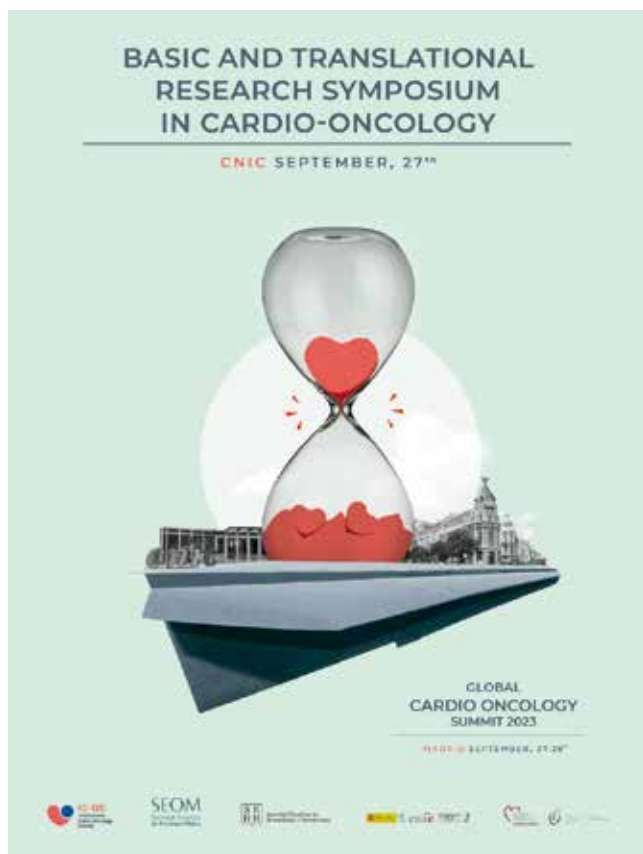
Study of the regenerative properties of endothelial cells that promote the formation of new blood vessels



Rui Benedito
PARTNER

4. SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CNIC HOSTED THE 2023 BASIC AND TRANSLATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE GLOBAL CARDIO-ONCOLOGY SUMMIT



SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Javier de Castro
Raúl Córdoba
Susan Dent
Borja Ibáñez
Bonnie Ky
Teresa López-Fernández
Alexander Lyon
Fadi N. Salloum
Carlo Gabriele Tocchetti

VII MEETING FOR YOUNG PROTEOMICS RESEARCHERS

This event of the Spanish Proteomics Society (SEProt) was held at the CNIC in February 2023. The organizing committee included CNIC predoctoral researchers from the laboratory of Jesús Vázquez, head of the CNIC Proteomics Group Unit. The program included sessions on biomedical proteomics,

bioinformatics, and translational modifications and systems biology. The participants were SEProt members, non-member using proteomics or other related omics technologies as metabolomics, and other interested Spanish or international researchers.



PHDAY



CNIC PhDay 2023: 'AI-Magining the Future', was held at the CNIC on 1 December.

The CNIC PhDay is an annual conference organised by pre- and postdoctoral researchers from the Spanish National Centre for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC), for pre- and postdoctoral researchers from CNIC and other centres. Its aim is to explore topics related to professional development in scientific careers from different perspectives, to promote the exchange of new ideas and to establish contacts.

The CNIC PhDay 2023 edition was attended by 15 speakers and 200 participants. The focus of the event was to address what is the contribution of science and medicine in biotechnological progress and how technology also contributes significantly in our daily life in science and in the clinical aspect. Also the event addressed a very important issue, the role of artificial intelligence in science and everyday life. In addition, workshops in the program helped predoctoral participants to successfully complete their theses.



5. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN - PESA HEALTH CNIC-SANTANDER

On 8th March, CNIC held an event designed to introduce young people to 4 of the Centre's women who are part of the PESA HEALTH CNIC-Santander project. The goal of the CNIC video aimed at secondary, pre-university and vocational training students is to introduce young people to the experience, talent and profiles needed to work in this area of interesting scientific challenge. The video is part of the initiative, #EmpresasQueInspiran of the Fundación Bertelsmann that aims to awaken vocation in the field of science and technology.



THE EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT AND SCIENCE AND MADRID INNOVATION WEEK

As previous years, CNIC participated in the European's Researchers' Night and Science and Madrid Innovation Week with several activities including DNA Adventure: Explore and Edit, Researching Rare Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities and the the RESILIENCE Workshop and Lab Visit: Surviving Cancer with a Strong Heart.



6. SOCIAL AND CNIC

CNIC PARTICIPATES IN THE HEART RACE

There's no better way to take care of our cardiovascular health than lead by example. That's why a group of CNIC researchers participated in the 14th Popular Heart Race organized by the Spanish Heart Foundation. Promoting cardiovascular health through such initiatives is a great idea because it introduces the concept of health to the wider community. #MueveteporCNIC

