

Our Objectives

The aims of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) are:

- Creating a social network of researchers and students working in the UK.
- Increasing social awareness of R+D in the public opinion of the Spanish and British Society by seminars and other activities.
- Representing the Spanish Researchers in the UK before Spanish and British Institutions, as well as social and mass media.
- Facilitating collaborations between Spanish and British Public and Private R+D Institutions.

The London & Cambridge SRUK/CERU Constituencies Are Established

Autumn 2012. After the constitution of SRUK/CERU at the IV General Assembly last June, the setting of its regional constituencies was a priority. Members from London and Cambridge met on 8th August, and 11th November, to nominate their representatives: **Eduardo Oliver** for London (london@sruk.org.uk) and **Maria Jiménez** for Cambridge (cambridge@sruk.org.uk). Both delegates have joined the SRUK/CERU Board of Directors. Contact them if you want to join the London and Cambridge working groups.

SRUK/CERU aims to establish a third constituency in Oxford during the first half of 2013.

Great Success of the I Summer Barbecue SRUK/CERU in Cambridge

9th September 2012. SRUK/CERU bade farewell to summer on a splendid day. The members of the Cambridge Constituency organised a successful social event with over 60 attendees, who discussed about the aims of the Society, the future events, and many scientific-related topics.



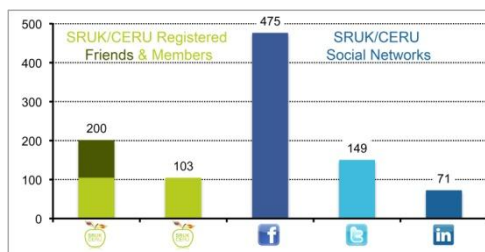
More than 60 attendees to the I BBQ SRUK/CERU enjoyed networking under the British sunshine.

The London Constituency is hosting another SRUK/CERU social event for all members next 15th December. If you want to 'enjoy Christmas fiesta', write to london@sruk.org.uk and join us.



SRUK/CERU Creates the Online Community Management Department

6th November 2012. The SRUK/CERU Online Community Management Department has been established to look after the social network profiles and the future website. The members of this department are: Fran J Hernández, Ana Viñuela, Eduardo Oliver, Beatriz Lorente, and Lorenzo Melchor. Their activity has been noted in the last month as new followers have joined SRUK/CERU on Facebook (+12%), Twitter (+22%) and LinkedIn (+26%). To contact this department, you can send an e-mail to online@sruk.org.uk.



Number of SRUK/CERU registered members and followers on social networks as in 30th November 2012.

Website to Be Launched in January

The SRUK/CERU website will be launched in early January 2013. It will be a 2.0 website with user profiles for SRUK/CERU members, job opportunities, press releases, forums, and all kind of information. Visit <http://www.sruk.org.uk>.

The website has been sponsored by the **Fundación Ramón Areces**.

Networking Nations: SRUK/CERU at The Royal Society

28th November 2012. SRUK/CERU collaborated in a scientific day 'Networking Nations, Scientific Opportunities in the UK and Spain' organised by The Royal Society, the Fundación Ramón Areces, the Fundación Española para la Ciencia y Tecnología (FECYT), the Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA) of the Spanish Embassy, and the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Mineco). Prof Avelino Corma, Prof Manel Esteller, Dr Marina Ranga, Dr Boris Adryan among other renowned Spanish and British Researchers talked about their careers and their UK-Spain collaborations. Many took opportunity to request Mr Roman Arjona, General Secretary for Science and Innovation, to increase the government support for R+D in Spain.

The event allowed SRUK/CERU to get first contact with the prestigious Royal Society, to which SRUK/CERU will seek collaboration and partnership throughout 2013.

A Cycle of Seminars and Roundtables Organised by SRUK/CERU in 2013

11th October 2012. SRUK/CERU aims to organise a cycle of events for next year and thus, has applied to a call of projects to promote Spanish culture and science sponsored by The **Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA)**. A preliminary programme comprises five sessions in London (3)

and Cambridge (2). Researchers such as Prof Salvador Moncada, Prof Greg Winter, Prof Peter Lawrence, Dr Ginés Morata and Dr Francisco González-Redondo will be invited as speakers, while Science Communicators will be invited to a roundtable to talk about how to close the gap between Scientists and the general public. The final programme will be sent to the membership shortly.

I SRUK/CERU-FRA International Symposium in Madrid around Easter

Easter 2013. As a result of the collaboration between Fundación Ramón Areces (FRA) and SRUK/CERU, the FRA headquarters were offered to host an international symposium organised by SRUK/CERU for its members.

A preliminary programme proposal has been given to FRA and comprises three plenary lectures (a historical seminar, a British Nobel Prize, and a Spanish renowned Scientist who had been to the UK during his/her career), two roundtables, and oral presentations by SRUK/CERU awarded members. An organising committee is being gathered.

SRUK/CERU attendees will be able to present their research in poster formats. Every abstract will be eligible for oral presentation. Travel grants may be available for awardees.

More information will be available in January 2013.

ANECA Requests Advice from SRUK/CERU

10th October 2012. The **Agencia Nacional para la Evaluación de la Calidad y Acreditación (ANECA)**, together with the **General Director for University Policy (Ministry of Education - Spain)**, approached SRUK/CERU to collect our views about the research quality assessment process usually carried out in British Universities (REF).

SRUK/CERU called out every Lecturer and Reader in its membership and a group of six SRUK/CERU

members attended the meeting. A long frank discussion on the benefits and pitfalls of national research evaluation system ensued, with an in depth analysis of the academic environments in UK and Spain, highlighting good practices on each system. All participants agreed on keeping the communications channels open with follow up meetings.



Secretary Maria Hernández and a group of Lecturers and Readers from SRUK/CERU met with ANECA delegates.

Meeting of the Representatives of Spanish and Portuguese Associations

20th November 2012. SRUK/CERU met with representatives of the **Portuguese Association of Researchers and Students in the United Kingdom (PARSUK)** to share experiences and opinions. PARSUK was established in 2008 and annually organises the LUSO symposium for its members. SRUK/CERU and PARSUK explored ways of collaboration to crystallise during 2013: web links, joint events, funding partners, and sharing costs for any collaborative effort.



Members of the Board of Directors from SRUK/CERU and PARSUK met at the Royal Festival Hall in London.



'Expatriate Scientists Get Organized' A Letter in Nature about SRUK/CERU

22nd November 2012. The origin and aims of SRUK/CERU were covered in a letter in Nature together with those of similar associations across Europe: CERFA, PARSUK, and AIS-UK. This represents a crucial step in the consolidation of the Society.

CIPF Is the First Research Centre to Seek Collaboration with SRUK/CERU

18th November 2012. Representatives of SRUK/CERU met with Rosa Valenzuela, General Director of **Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF)**. The Spanish Research Centre is delineating the strategic plan for 2013. One of their priorities will be increasing their international presence in the UK and, thus, CIPF contacted SRUK/CERU to gather advice. In return, CIPF will send speakers to the UK to present their plans, invite SRUK/CERU members to their seminars and conferences, and offer fellowships and travel grants. A formal collaboration plan is under discussion and will shortly be presented to the SRUK/CERU membership.



Collaboration between SRUK/CERU and the CIPF will accomplish one of the foundational aims of the Society.

The SRUK/CERU Newsletter has been written and designed by the SRUK/CERU Board of Directors.

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The SRUK/CERU Board of Directors