

**Society of
Spanish Researchers**
In the United Kingdom



ANNUAL REPORT **SRUK/CERU**

JULY 2015 - JULY 2016



INFORME ANUAL **2016**

JULIO 2015 - JULIO 2016

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear members and friends

Looking back at what we have achieved over these years I feel very honoured and proud of having been the President of SRUK. Together, we have created a very professional and very active pro-scientific association. I still remember the day I decided to join this motivating project led, at that time, by our Founding President Lorenzo Melchor and an amazing group of committed and enthusiastic Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom. I want to express my tremendous gratitude to those who have contributed over the course of these years. In particular, I would like to thank the members of the board that have worked tirelessly driving forward and delivering our main foundational aims. To all of you, my greatest thanks.

In the last five years, SRUK – La CERU – has moved from a group of 40 to a registered non-for profit independent organization with more than 600 members. These are members from all sorts of professional backgrounds, at every stage, in and out of academic careers, and coming from all areas of Science, Engineering, Arts and Humanities. During this time, SRUK has increased its presence on the social networks with more than 6000 followers, and in the mass media with more than 120 news articles and interviews. Without any shadow of doubt, this enormous growth speaks loudly of the quality and quantity of our actions and activities, all of them designed to empower professional development of our members, to increase the impact of Science in society, to foster international collaborations between our two countries, and last but not least, to influence a change in Science policies that will help to improve the R&D system.

From the beginning, Professional Network, Science Impact, International Bridges, and Science Policy & Diplomacy have been our four main pillars. To accomplish these, we have delivered more than 200 actions, activities and initiatives. Our members have enjoyed numerous professional development workshops across the UK and Spain, as well as a new Mentoring program, two career recognition awards – the Emerging Talent and the Lifetime Achievement awards –, an annual travel grants scheme, and most importantly, the opportunity to gain a wealth of knowledge and skills whilst contributing to this amazing association. We have organized a massive number of seminars, conferences and round-tables, including our annual symposium, where we showcased some of the most renowned Spanish researchers. We are now actively partnerships with more than fifteen Spanish universities and research centres to promote international collaboration and professional mobility. Also, I would like to highlight the excellent work towards the report on recommendations for

R&D in Spain presented to all the political parties before the general elections. This report has become our most important statement, striving for the best practices and policies on R&D and whilst championing meritocracy, diversity, recognition, quality and equality.

I feel confident we have met the objectives that we first set out on establishing 'la CERU'. With the aid of essential public and private institutional support, we now enjoy a well-established association that is run by volunteers, that is able to deliver inspiring initiatives, and serves as a role model for the Spanish scientific diaspora. We are now recognised as having an important role in scientific public diplomacy.

All these amazing achievements would not have been possible without the hard work of our active members – as well as of the membership fees –, but also without the financial and institutional assistance of our main supporters. This year, SRUK has quadrupled its annual income thanks to strong funding applications. Therefore, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our main supporter from the beginning, the Ramon Areces Foundation, the pillar of the annual program of activities, and also to the two institutions that have supported and had faith in us since then – the Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology. Finally, I would like to give a warm welcome and thanks to our more recent supporters - the Banco Santander Foundation and NIM Genetics.

It has been an incredibly rewarding and enjoyable year. Thank you to everyone for your help and support. I wish you all every success in your careers. Through your achievements and tireless enthusiasm we will continue to embody the superlative ethos of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU), 'nuestra CERU'.

With all my best wishes and gratitude.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eduardo". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

Eduardo Oliver, PhD

President of SRUK 2015-16

WHAT IS SRUK AND WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?



The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) is an independent nonprofit organization with no political affiliation.

SRUK was created in July 2011 and was formally established in June 2012, when the Society was incorporated under the Company House of England and Wales and has organized more than 200 social, scientific educational and institutional activities since then.

.....

SRUK was created to pursue four main aims:

1. Social Network

Creating a social network of researchers and students working in the United Kingdom. We want to facilitate the arrival of the new members, to offer advice, and to share professional and life experiences.

2. Science Communicators

Increasing social awareness of Research and Development (R&D) in the public opinion of both British and Spanish societies. It is our wish to bridge the existing gap between scientists and the general public by holding seminars, roundtables, conferences and an annual symposium.

3. Science Representatives

Representing Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom to British and Spanish organizations, society and the media. We aim to serve as scientific advisors for both public and private organizations, because we believe our knowledge and experience as professionals are worth sharing.

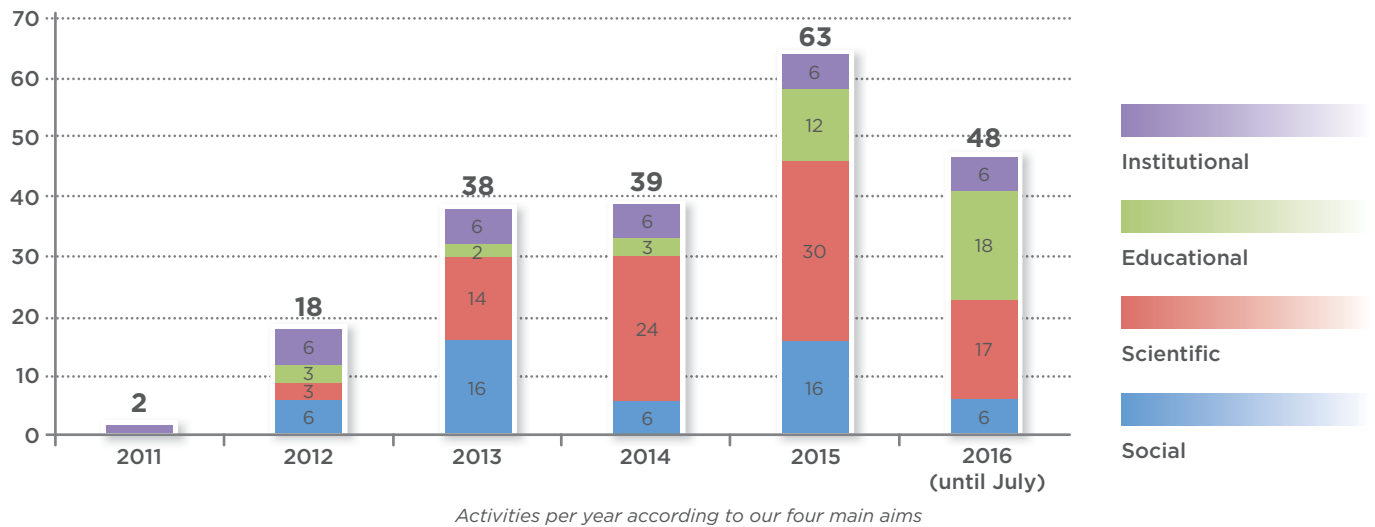
4. Scientific Mediators

Facilitating collaborations between both private and public British and Spanish R&D institutions. It is our opinion that exploring and establishing collaboration between the UK and Spain will bear fruits in the long run.

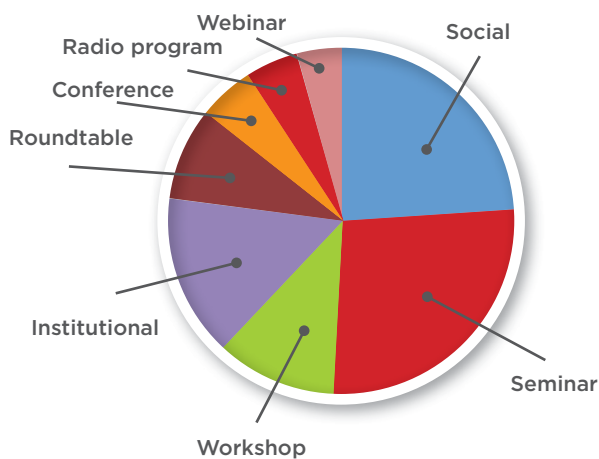
WHAT IS SRUK AND WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

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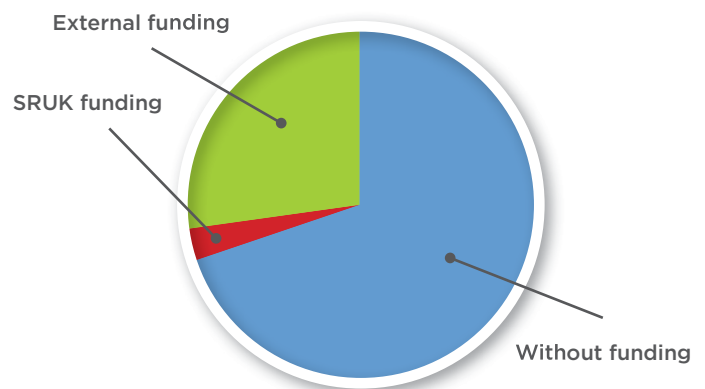
SRUK has organised more than 200 social, scientific, educational and institutional events since 2011!
The numbers speak by themselves!



Activities by type



Activities by source of funding



¿Qué es la CERU y cuáles son nuestros objetivos?

La Sociedad de Científicos Españoles en Reino Unido (SRUK/CERU) es una organización independiente sin ánimo de lucro y sin ninguna afiliación política. Se creó en Julio de 2011 y se constituyó de manera oficial en Julio de 2012.

Desde sus inicios en Julio de 2011, CERU ha realizado más de 200 actividades sociales, científicas, educativas e institucionales, lo que nos han permitido cumplir con nuestros objetivos fundacionales.

La CERU persigue cuatro objetivos principales:

1. Crear una red social de investigadores que trabajan en el Reino Unido.
2. Acercar la ciencia a la sociedad.
3. Ser los portavoces de los científicos españoles en Reino Unido ante instituciones británicas y españolas, medios de comunicación y redes sociales.
4. Facilitar colaboraciones entre organizaciones relacionadas con la I+D del Reino Unido y de España, tanto públicas como privadas.

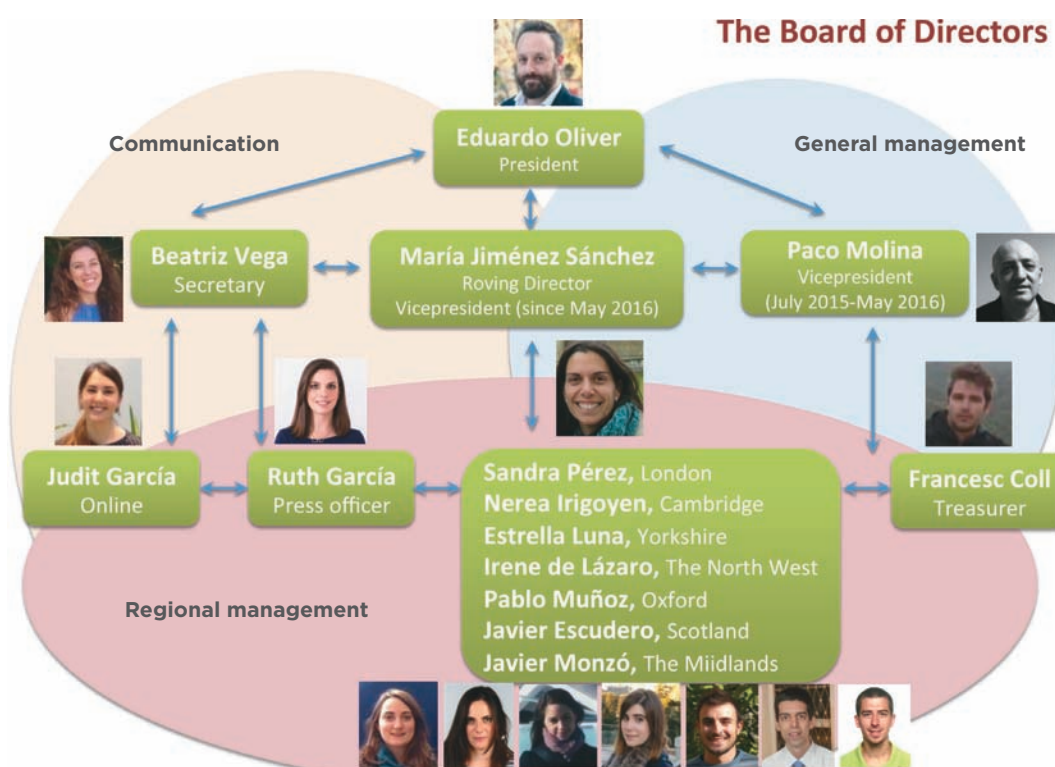
For more information please contact info@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a info@sruk.org.uk.

OUR STRUCTURE

SRUK is a society run by volunteers. During 2015-2016, more than 125 members have actively been involved in departments, committees and regional working groups. It is thanks to them that it has been possible to consolidate our society.

Each year, the Annual General Assembly elects the executive committee of the Society that forms the **Board of Directors**. The board represents all members, pursues the aims and delineates and executes the strategic plan. SRUK is organized in **eight Regional Constituencies** across the UK to facilitate the direct communication between members and the accessibility to activities. Each constituency has a **Local Board and a Working Group** to organize local activities and events. In addition, the achievement of our specific goals is possible thanks to SRUK **Departments and Committees**: Online Communications department, Press office and International Collaborations department, Science Policy committee, Fellowships committee, Scientific committee, International collaborations department, International Symposium organizing committee, Awards committee and Mentoring committee.



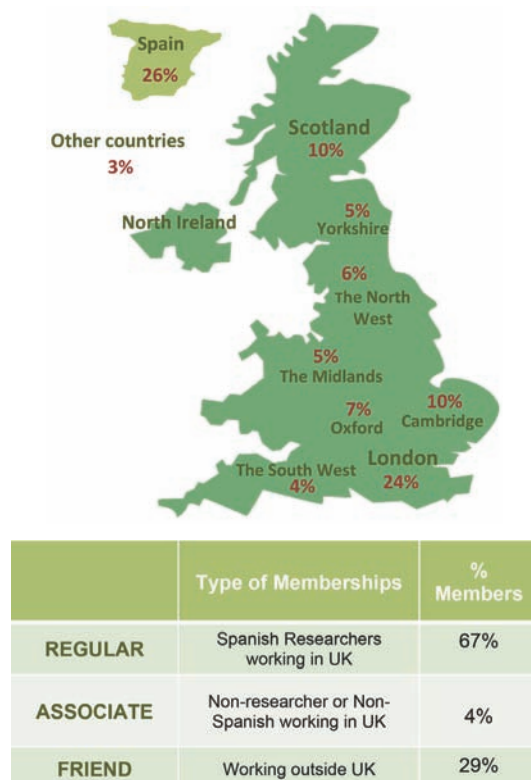
The Board of directors is organized into three areas: communication, general management and regional management.

Estructura de la CERU

La CERU funciona gracias al trabajo de más de 125 voluntarios y es gracias a ellos que ha sido posible consolidar la sociedad. Cada año la Asamblea General elige la Junta Directiva, encargada de representar a los socios, desarrollar los objetivos, delinear y ejecutar el plan estratégico de la sociedad. La **CERU** se divide en 8 Delegaciones Regionales que facilitan la comunicación entre los miembros la participación en actividades. Cada delegación cuenta con una Directiva Local y un Grupo de Trabajo. Asimismo, existen Departamentos y Comités para trabajar objetivos concretos: Departamento de Gestión de Contenidos Online, Oficina de Prensa, Comités de Política Científica, de Becas, Científico, de Colaboraciones Internacionales, Organizador del Simposio Internacional, de Premios, y de Mentoring.

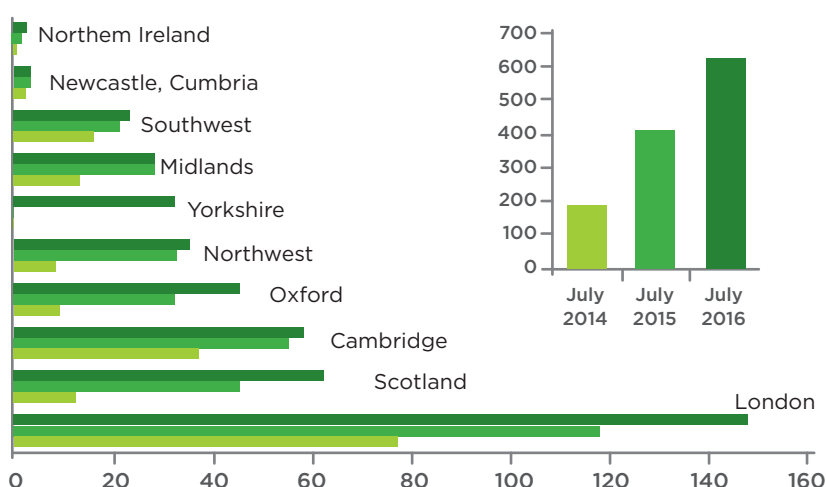
OUR MEMBERS

In the last years SRUK has seen an exponential rise in the number of members across all constituencies. Between July 2015 and June 2016, SRUK membership has increased in more than 34% up to 601 members.



SRUK welcomes everybody and offers 3 membership options

Membership Evolution (July 2014 - July 2016)



Membership evolution since the establishment of the membership fees (July 2014-July 2016)

Why becoming a member of SRUK?

Type of Membership	Receive Newsletters and Attend All Activities (seminars, networking, debates...)	Access to Members Area in Website (job offers, colleagues profile, international partners database...)	Disseminate your research (contact with press, participate in science outreach...)	Join Working Committees (get experience in event organization, managing, social media, communication...)	Attend Annual General Meeting (your opinion counts!)	Professional Development opportunities (Travel Grants, Mentoring Programme...)	Join Board of Directors	Vote at Annual General Meeting
Regular	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Associate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Friend	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

If you want to become a member, please visit <http://www.sruk.org.uk/content/membership>

Nuestros miembros

El número de socios de la CERU se ha incrementado en más de un tercio en el último año con miembros nuevos en todas sus delegaciones. A fecha de 15 de junio del 2016, la CERU cuenta con 601 socios.

La CERU ofrece 3 tipos de membresía: socios regulares (investigadores españoles que trabajan en Reino Unido), socios asociados (no investigadores o no españoles que trabajan en Reino Unido) o amigos (aquellos que no residen en Reino Unido), dando la bienvenida a todo aquel que quiera hacerse socio o amigo. Si quieres hacerte miembro, regístrate en www.sruk.org.uk/membership.

For more information please contact membership@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a membership@sruk.org.uk.

SCIENCE POLICY

Closing the gap between researchers and policy makers.

The SPC members between 2014 and 2016

Emma Martinez Sanchez (Current Chair)

Eduardo Oliver (Board of Director's representative)

Abigail Calzada

Jose Antonio Carrillo de la Plata

Antonio Fernández Pardiñas

Virginia Gómez Jiménez

Asier Jayo

Ricard Marxer

Joaquín de Navascués

Ramón Pacheco

Esmeralda Parra-Peralbo

Lorenzo de la Rica

Jorge Sotelo

Past members:

Lorenzo Melchor (Previous Chair and Report Editor)

Almira Bartolomé

Pablo García-Triñanes

Enrique Gómez-Rivas

Francisco J. Hernández

Javier Iglesias

Francisco Molina-Holgado

Ana Viñuela

The **Science Policy Committee (SPC)** is formed by a group of SRUK members at different stages of their careers, different disciplines and with research experience in different countries. It was established in November 2014 to provide recommendations to policy makers on science policies for the R&D in Spain, with the specific focus on providing advice for the Spanish General Elections on 2015.

In September 2015, the SPC published the **"R&D recommendations in the frame of the 2015 Spanish General Elections"**, which was presented to the main Spanish political parties (PP, PSOE, Podemos, Cs, IU and UPyD) to impact their proposals for the 2015 Spanish General Elections, as well as to the Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation, **Ms Carmen Vela**. In a global context, the SPC scans research initiatives and analyse changes in Spanish and European policies to efficiently advice on R&D strategies.

The "R&D recommendations in the frame of the 2015 Spanish General Elections "

This report includes a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the National R&D system and hosts specific recommendations with the overarching aim to improve scientific policies in Spain. This report gathers the diverse professional background of SRUK members to give to this document an interdisciplinary coverage on the topic of R&D.



The report summarises the actions with 10 main recommendations:

DECALOGUE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| 1. An independent and stable R&D system | 2. A R&D system based on research excellence | 3. A R&D system capable of attracting talent | 4. Consistent and diverse funding opportunities | 5. A defined and multidisciplinary research career |
| 6. A greater interaction with the business sector | 7. Policies based on scientific evidence | 8. An increase in science diplomacy | 9. A greater cultural and educational recognition of science | 10. An equal and conciliatory environment |

Many of these ideas were implemented by several parties in their electoral manifestos. In addition, SRUK presented the recommendations at public events and debates on science policy. For example, we presented the report at the first 'face-off between scientists and politicians' organized by the Civil Society for Debate, or the workshop on Higher Education organised by Fedea Foundation. The report was rated in some forums as one of the key events that encouraged Science and R&D political debate during the 2015 election campaign.

The SPC has been involved in other activities: we joined the **San Francisco Declaration on Research Integrity (DORA)** and organised an expert-led panel discussion on the EU Membership and UK science where we discuss the **potential exit of the UK from the EU** as a result of the upcoming referendum on June 23.

This event aimed to inform SRUK members and other public about the relationship between the European Union Membership and the effectiveness of science, research and innovation in the UK. The panel was composed by **Emran Mian**, former representative of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), **Lucy Shackleton**, Policy and Campaign Manager for Universities for Europe, **David Banks**, Research and Media Advisor to Scientists for Britain, and **Charles Leach**, Chartered Financial Analyst and founder of Facts4eu.org The Facts Support LEAVE. This event highlighted some benefits of remaining in the EU such as the highly successful participation in European research funding calls, the impressive capacity of the UK to attract highly skilled EU citizens migrants and the international standing that we all gain through unity. Brexitters counteracted by highlighting the stable research funding opportunities in countries outside the EU such as Iceland or Israel, and the low cost participation of non-EU countries, such as Norway, in EU research funding programmes.



Lorenzo Melchor, Eduardo Oliver and Asier Jayo on the day presenting the report to all the political parties.

Política científica para inducir el cambio

Con su **"Informe de recomendaciones sobre la I+D en España para las elecciones generales 2015"**, la CERU propone reformas que pueden dar lugar a un Sistema Nacional de I+D consolidado, capaz de atraer y retener talento, con proyección internacional y en el que la ciencia participa en diversos ámbitos de la sociedad. El informe parte de un análisis crítico y presenta un **decálogo de actuaciones**, así como otras muchas medidas repartidas en cinco bloques. Muchas de estas ideas fueron implementadas por los diversos partidos describiéndolas en sus programas electorales. Además, la CERU pudo presentar las recomendaciones en eventos públicos y debates sobre política científica, como el primer 'cara a cara entre científicos y políticos' organizado por Sociedad Civil para el Debate, o el taller sobre la renovación del personal universitario organizado por Fedea. El informe fue calificado en algunos foros como uno de los acontecimientos claves que potenció la aparición de la Ciencia y la I+D en el debate político en la campaña electoral del 2015.

To contact the SPC, please send an email to sciencepolicy@sruk.org.uk.

Para más información, escribe a sciencepolicy@sruk.org.uk.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

Working to bridge the gap between the UK and Spain.

The International Collaborations

Committee is formed by:

Nerea Irigoyen
Silvia Corrochano
Cristina Delgado
María Jiménez Sánchez
Eduardo Oliver



Presentation during the workshop "Opportunities for International Mobility in Research" with more than 250 attendees

SRUK aims to bridge the collaboration gap between Spanish and British public and private organizations thus enhancing the scientific success of both national R+D systems. To achieve this goal, this brand-new department focuses on developing two key objectives: to support a collaboration platform that enhances visibility of research groups therefore raising awareness of potential partners; and to facilitate bi-directional mobility of researchers to improve career development and to attract talent to Spain.

Partnership and Collaborations

In the last year several agreements have been signed with the following institutions:



Red de Universidades Valencianas por el fomento de la I+D (Network of Valencian Universities for the Promotion of Research, Development and Innovation - RUVID). Since the first networking event in December 2014, the collaboration between SRUK and RUVID has been extremely productive. In the last year we have organized two workshops about "Opportunities for International Mobility in Research" (May 2015 and April 2016), and several webinars where research group leaders from different countries have presented their work to find partners for H2020 calls or have expressed their interest to be host labs for postdoctoral fellowship candidates. SRUK has also helped RUVID to recruit evaluators amongst the most prestigious Universities in the UK for their pre-evaluation service of H2020 applications.

Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Aragón (Biomedical Research Institute of Aragón). In April 2015 a "**Health and Biomedicine**" networking event was held in Zaragoza to promote collaborations between **IIS Aragón** research groups and SRUK members to participate together in Horizon 2020 projects.

Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas de Málaga (Biomedical Research Institute of Málaga -IBIMA). Since July 2015, SRUK and IBIMA have worked on an agreement to support joint applications between SRUK members and IBIMA research groups to apply for European and Spanish funding (i.e. ERC grants, Miguel Servet, Ramón y Cajal). As a result, in May 2016, SRUK gave two talks in the "**Meeting of Young Pharmacologists of Andalusia**", about funding opportunities and research career in the UK as well as alternative non-academic career pathways.

We are currently in touch with different Spanish organizations to develop further collaborations (**Campus Iberus, Instituto de Investigaciones Sanitarias "La Fe" de Valencia, Crue Universidades Españolas, among others**) and during this year we will launch our programme SRUK "**On the Move**" that will award bi-directional mobility fellowships between the UK and Spain.

In our database you can access more than 100 groups in six different countries willing to participate as a host institution for both H2020 grants and Marie Skłodowska Curie fellowships applications.

Colaboraciones internacionales.

Ser intermediarios de la Ciencia es el cuarto objetivo fundacional de la CERU y para ello buscamos establecer convenios con varias instituciones científicas españolas. Los convenios se basan en el estímulo de colaboraciones entre países que ayuden a atraer fondos internacionales; y en la promoción de la movilidad internacional bidireccional que ayude a mejorar la formación del joven investigador y estimule la atracción de talento hacia España. Hasta el momento se han firmado acuerdos con Red de Universidades Valencianas por el fomento de la I+D (RUVID), Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Aragón (IIS Aragón) y el Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas de Málaga (IBIMA). Durante el próximo año seguiremos estableciendo convenios con distintas instituciones y se lanzará el programa de movilidad internacional CERU "**On the Move**".

If you are an institution and want to collaborate with us in this initiative, please contact us at international@sruk.org.uk.

Para más información, escribe a international@sruk.org.uk.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SRUK TRAVEL GRANTS 2016

Get the most out of your time in the UK with the SRUK professional development scheme.

Members of the SRUK Fellowships committee:

María Jiménez Sánchez (Chair)

Nerea Irigoyen

Silvia Corrochano

Javier Redondo-Muñoz

The SRUK travel grants will come back next year! For more information contact fellowships@sruk.org.uk

".... These opportunities might in fact define some of the next steps I plan to take as a researcher ... this opportunity would have not come to fruition if it wasn't for this support" **Jorge Sotelo** was awarded with a Travel Grant 2015 to attend the European Crystallographic Meeting in Croatia.

In May 2016, for the third consecutive year, SRUK awarded 8 members with a Travel Grant to support the cost of travel to worldwide research conferences taking place between the 1st June 2016 and the 31st May 2017. Forty applications were received and evaluated by the SRUK Scientific committee, based on the quality of the applicant and work presented, the impact of the researcher in the conference and the relevance of the conference for the attendee.



SRUK Travel Grants Awardees 2016:

Miriam Cubas Morera
Enma Elena García Martín
Maria Inmaculada González-González
Moisés Hernandez Fernández
Javier Monzó Giménez
Julio Manuel Ríos de la Rosa
Naiara Rodríguez Flórez
Víctor Soria-Carrasco

CIENCIA UK An annual workshop on career advice in Madrid.

Following on the success of *"Destino: Reino Unido"* in 2014, SRUK organised in November 2015 a longer career advice workshop in Madrid, in the **Ramon Areces Foundation**. About 200 people attended *"CienciaUK 2015"* to learn from the experience of thirteen speakers. The morning session was focused on the academic researcher career, whereas the afternoon session showed other scientific career opportunities different to research in academia such as research in industry, science communication, science management in public administration... SRUK has been a pioneer in launching this kind of events and is now proud to see that they are becoming more regular in Spain.



FUNDACIÓN RAMÓN ARECES

CIENCIA UK 2015

LA CARRERA INVESTIGADORA Y ALTERNATIVAS PROFESIONALES EN REINO UNIDO

27/noviembre/2015
Salón de Actos
Fundación Ramón Areces



The speakers and organizers of CienciaUK 2016 in the Ramon Areces Foundation

MENTORING PROGRAMME

Members of the Mentoring committee:

María Jiménez Sánchez (Chair)

Adela Alcolea

Pablo Capilla Lasheras

Estrella Luna Díez

Sofía Pérez Villar

Antonio Uzal

To register (only for members), please visit
<http://www.sruk.org.uk/initiatives/mentoring>
or contact mentoring@sruk.org.uk



We are aware of the difficulties that most Spanish researchers will face when developing their research career in the United Kingdom and has designed this scheme to support them and to help maximise their opportunities and to plan a successful career path. Mentors and mentees will receive appropriate training and continuous support from the Mentoring committee.

The Programme is currently recruiting mentors and mentees and will be launched in Summer 2016, when the first group of mentors and mentees will be matched according to their research area and expertise, and the career ambitions of the mentee.

All members, at any stage of their careers, are welcomed to become mentors and mentees.

THE SRUK SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The SRUK Scientific committee participates in scientific evaluations and provides advice to the Board of Directors in scientific matters. The committee evaluates the SRUK Travel Grants and the scientific proposals for the SRUK International Symposium.

Members of the SRUK Scientific committee:

María Jiménez Sánchez (BoD Representative). University of Cambridge

Virginia Arechavala Gomez. BioCruces Health Research Institute

Cristina Delgado. Protein Pharmaceuticals

Carmen Domene. King's College London

Nuria Ferrándiz Díaz. MRC-Imperial College London

Francisco Flórez-Revuelta. Kingston University London

Moisés García Arencibia. Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

Francisco A. Gonzalez Redondo. Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Maria Hernandez Fuentes. King's College London

Julia Herrero Albillos. Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza

Francisco López Cantos. Universidad Jaume I de Castellón

Gloria López Castejón. University of Manchester

Ángel Rivera. Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas de Madrid

Juan Suárez. Agency of the Forestry Commission Northern Research Station

Marta Vila Pueyo. King's College London

Pedro Ballester. INSERM, Marseille

The Scientific committee is renewed in yearly basis, please contact info@sruk.org.uk if you want to be part of it.

La CERU potencia el desarrollo profesional de sus socios

A lo largo del 2016 la CERU ha continuado promoviendo y reconociendo el talento de sus socios mediante la concesión por tercer año consecutivo de las Bolsas de Viaje CERU, haciendo llegar la ciencia en Reino Unido a Madrid en CienciaUK y poniendo en marcha un nuevo Programa de Mentoring. En este esquema, la CERU emparejará a mentores y mentees con el fin de ayudar a los investigadores españoles a desarrollar todo su potencial y planificar estratégicamente la carrera investigadora en su paso por el Reino Unido.

SRUK AWARDS

Recognising and fostering Spanish talent

In 2016, SRUK has launched two new awards aiming to recognise emerging talent and long-standing research trajectory.

Members of the Awards committee:

Usua Laresgoiti
Eduardo Oliver
Maria Jiménez Sánchez

Supported by



SRUK Emerging Talent Award 2016

In the first edition of the SRUK Emerging Talent Award, SRUK is sponsored by the Banco Santander Foundation under its “Young Talent” programme, to recognize and support a promising young Spanish researcher who has developed his/her career in the UK.

The prize consists of £14,000 to be invested in any necessary aspect in the development of the winner’s career, such as research-related tasks, promotion of recent results, specialized training or family arrangements. This award also aims to give visibility of the awardee’s research to both Spanish and British societies.

EVA HEVIA, University of Strathclyde



THE 2016 SRUK
EMERGING TALENT
AWARD

Eva Hevia (Gijón, 1976) is currently a Professor in Inorganic Chemistry at the University of Strathclyde. She received both her MSci degree in Chemistry and her Ph.D. degree from the Universidad de Oviedo in 1998 and 2002 respectively. After a three-year postdoctoral period at the University of Strathclyde working with Robert Mulvey, as a Marie Curie Fellow, in 2006 she took up a Royal Society University Research Fellowship and Lectureship there. Subsequently she was promoted to Senior lecturer in 2010, Reader in 2011 and as a Professor in 2013. She has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers in the area and to date her research has been recognised with the Harrison-Meldola Memorial Medal and Prize (2009) and the Sigma-Aldrich Emerging Investigators Award awarded by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (RSEQ) respectively. Currently she also holds an ERC-Starting Grant.

The SRUK Emerging Talent Award funds will be used to further strengthen her two-way links with the Spanish scientific community as well as raising the profile of main group organometallic chemistry in Spain and will be spent on 1) a tour of seminars by different departments of Chemistry of Spanish universities to promote research in their field but also will lead to new collaborations with Spanish groups 2) two scholarships for promising graduate Spanish students to carry out a research project for three months in his research group.

SRUK Emerging Talent Award evaluation panel:

Ginés Morata.
Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa
(UAM-CSIC) (Chair)
Alfonso Martínez Arias.
Universidad de Cambridge
Alicia Hidalgo.
Universidad de Birmingham
Francisco Guinea.
Instituto de Ciencias de Materiales (CSIC)
Javier García Martínez.
Universidad de Alicante
José Antonio Carrillo de la Plata.
Imperial College London
José Luis Mascareñas.
Universidad de de Santiago de Compostela
Juan Martín-Serrano.
King's College London
Mara Dierssen.
CRG-Center for Genomic Regulation
María Ángeles Martín.
Universidad de Sevilla

52 applications were received and assessed by a designated scientific panel. Based on the evaluations of this scientific panel, the award recipient was decided by a jury composed by **Eduardo Oliver** (President of SRUK representing the Board of Directors), **Maria Jiménez Sánchez** (Vice-president of SRUK representing the SRUK Awards committee), **Ginés Morata** (Chair of the Emerging Talent Evaluation panel), **Borja Baselga** (CEO of the Banco Santander Foundation), **Raimundo Pérez-Hernández** (CEO of the Ramón Areces Foundation), **Jose Ignacio Fernandez Vera** (CEO of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology -FECYT) and **Fernando Villalonga** (Counsellor for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom).

SRUK Lifetime Achievement Award

With this award, SRUK recognizes the internationally renowned career of a researcher who has been instrumental in the advancement of research and in fostering collaborations between Spanish and British science. Candidates were nominated by members of SRUK, the Awards committee or partner institutions. This award aims to identify senior researchers who have worked towards the development of the founding objectives of SRUK and who will become an honorary member and a distinguished advisor of the society.

ALFONSO MARTÍNEZ ARIAS, University of Cambridge



THE 2016 SRUK LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Alfonso Martínez-Arias is a Professor of Developmental Mechanics at the University of Cambridge, where he studies how cells make decisions about their fates during development. He started his research career at the University of Chicago (1979-1983) and after obtaining his PhD he then moved to Cambridge at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. Afterwards he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Fellowship in the University of Cambridge and in 2002 he formally joined the University of Cambridge, first under a Wellcome Trust University Award Scheme and since 2003 with a personal chair at the Department of Genetics.

During his prolific research career, Prof Martínez-Arias has authored over 145 scientific papers. He co-edited *"The development of Drosophila melanogaster"* (1993), a manual of Drosophila development for specialists. He has supervised 37 graduate students and mentored 25 postdocs. Prof Martínez-Arias is an elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organization since 2007, and his standing as a developmental biologist crystallized in 2012, when he was awarded the Waddington Medal of the British Society for Developmental Biology (BSDB). Only two non-British scientists have received this award so far.

Alfonso Martínez-Arias has led a successful research career, recognized internationally. His personal track record has served every aim of the SRUK/CERU for over three decades, by being a 'network hub' for Spaniards in Cambridge, contributing to Science communication both at the professional level and to the layman, bridging the Spanish and UK research communities, as well as participating in the governance of scientific organizations.

Premios CERU 2016

A lo largo del 2016 la CERU ha lanzado dos nuevos premios. El Premio Talento Emergente CERU, financiado por la Fundación Banco Santander, otorgado a **Eva Hevia**, de la **Universidad de Strathclyde**, busca reconocer la labor de una joven promesa de la investigación que ha desarrollado su carrera en Reino Unido, concediéndole £14.000 para desarrollar su actividad investigadora, difundir resultados o ayudar a la conciliación familiar. El Premio CERU a la Trayectoria Profesional 2016, concedido a **Alfonso Martínez Arias** de la **Universidad de Cambridge**, reconoce toda una vida profesional dedicada a la investigación y a la ciencia española y británica, y le invita a participar como miembro honorario de la sociedad.

For more information, contact awards@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a awards@sruk.org.uk

THE 3RD INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SRUK

Members of the International Symposium organising committee:

Eduardo Oliver (Chair)
Ruth García de la Calle
Francisco Flórez-Revuelta
Esther Tejeda-Montes
Ana Peña Gallego
Silvia Corrochano
Estrella Luna Díez
Judit García González
Alejandra Tomás
Isabel Palacios



Members of the 2015 International Symposium
organizing committee

The 3rd International Symposium SRUK was celebrated on Saturday 4th July 2015 in London. This event takes place not only to present our aims, recent achievements and future initiatives, but also to provide a forum for our members to share their work, experiences and scientific careers in the UK.

The symposium hosted **Prof. Pedro Miguel Echenique** as the keynote speaker, who gave a presentation entitled *"The sublime usefulness of useless science"*. His inspiring talk emphasised the need to continue to fund fundamental science, as this arguably one of the scientific fields that has been severely affected by financial austerity, in favour of other applied sciences.

The symposium also hosted the **scientific communications of 28 SRUK members**. Out of the abstracts received, the Scientific committee selected the best 10 for oral presentations and 18 for poster presentations. These were organised into two sections: one for biomedical and social sciences, and another one for environmental sciences, chemistry and engineering.

In the afternoon we enjoyed a rather heated round table entitled *"How does the politic landscape impact your scientific career path?"*.



Members asking questions during the roundtable

We hosted 3 experts in science funding and policy: **Isabel de la Mata**, **Jim Smith** and **Marina Villegas**. Isabel is the Principal Adviser at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission and during her introductory talk she explained the current funding situation in Spain compared with other countries. Jim is the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief of Strategy of the Medical Research Council and he illustrated how the research funding in the MRC is allocated. Marina is the Director of Scientific and Technical Research of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness and she described the current funding opportunities in Spain. After the introductory presentations, the 3 members of the round table answered questions from the audience. The debate focussed on the need of more initiatives to recruit and keep talented researchers in Spain.



Our keynote speaker, Prof Pedro Miguel Echenique

The symposium concluded with a closing ceremony where **Natalia Fernandez de Vera** and **Sandra Perez Garrido** were given the award for the best oral and poster presentations, respectively. Also, Maria Hernandez announced the awardees of the SRUK Travel Grants of 2015. Lastly, the 3 presidents that the society has had so far (Lorenzo, Maria and Eduardo) gave a farewell present the honorary member, **Mr Fidel Lopez Alvarez**, Ministry Councillor for Cultural and Scientific Affairs from the Embassy of Spain in UK, for his invaluable support to the Society from the very beginning.

Earlier that day we celebrated the Annual General Meeting, where we discussed about the actions done during the past period and elected new members for the Board of Directors.



3^{er} Simposio Internacional de la CERU

El 3^{er} Simposio Internacional de la CERU se celebró en Londres el 4 de julio de 2015 y tuvo una audiencia de más de 100 asistentes. Este evento ofrece la mejor plataforma para presentar los estudios científicos realizados por españoles en el Reino Unido y sirve como punto de encuentro y establecimiento de relaciones sociales y profesionales entre científicos. Durante el simposio se presentaron 28 comunicaciones, 10 orales y 18 en formato póster.

El ponente principal fue el Prof. Pedro Miguel Echenique y la mesa redonda, que debatió como el paisaje político afecta a la carrera investigadora, tuvo como ponentes a Isabel de la Mata, Jim Smith y Marina Villegas. Ese mismo día se celebró la Asamblea General Anual donde se hizo balance del ejercicio y se eligieron nuevos miembros de la junta directiva.

Así mismo se concedieron los premios a las mejores comunicaciones Oral y en formato poster a Natalia Fernández de Vera y Sandra Pérez Garrido respectivamente.

LONDON CONSTITUENCY

The London Local Board:

Sandra Pérez Garrido (Director)
Natividad Garrido Mesa (Vice-Director)
Irene Etxebarria Altuna (Secretary)

The London Working Group:

Olaya Muñoz Azcárate
David Manuel Gutiérrez Estévez
Maria Eugenia Fuentes Pérez
Esmeralda Parra Peralbo
Lorenzo de la Rica Lázaro
Iria González-Becerra
José Torres Pérez
José Manuel Muñoz Félix
Almira Bartolomé
Susana López Alcántara



London Board at the Local Assembly on
19 November 2015



4th SRUK Roundtable "Improving the Employability of
Researchers: Practical Ideas on CV Writing Skills".

From September 2011, the London Constituency has breathed the air of one of the most vibrant cities in the world.

The London Constituency was formed in September 2011 and has since grown greatly since then. Today it is the largest constituency.

Events 2015/16

During 2015/16, we have organised different events including social meetings, workshops and roundtables. We have established a collaboration with the UCL Spanish and Latin American Society and we have been granted free access to certain seminar rooms at UCL.

We finished 2015 with two social gatherings to promote networking. In October, we held the first Welcome Party to make SRUK known to new researchers in town. In December we organised the 4th SRUK Christmas Lunch, to enjoy great Spanish food and drinks at La Fabrica. We also signed a collaboration agreement with this restaurant where now SRUK members benefit from a discount in selected tapas.

In March 2016 we organised the 4th SRUK Roundtable *"Improving the Employability of Researchers: Practical Ideas on CV Writing Skills"*. This event was an enormous success with over 90 attendees 5 speakers: **Lorenzo Melchor** (International Scientific Coordinator in London for the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)), **Lidia López** (Regulatory Affairs Associate at Eli Lilly&Co.), **Rui Pires** (Researcher Development Advisor at Queen Mary University London), **Angel Ezquerra** (Professor at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and developer of TV program Brainiac), **David Gutiérrez** (Senior Researcher at Samsung UK) and **Silvia Cobo** (School liaison and Publications Manager at the European Commission UK).

Also, we have organised several workshops: in May 2016 we collaborated with the group Seisques to host an interesting hands-on event on Creativity and Science. Our last event of the year was a workshop organised together with the Online Department on Science Communication with social media.

Plan 2016/17

The year 2016/2017 will be busy with interesting events. A debate to explore the link between Science and Creativity has already been planned, as well as another roundtable on career development. We will also host the second Welcome Party and bring back the Science in the Pub format to enjoy networking and science.

La Delegación de Londres

Este año ha sido un éxito para la delegación de Londres. En esta vibrante ciudad donde la gente viene y va continuamente hemos logrado aumentar el número de socios con eventos como la Welcome Party. Las actividades de este año han estado muy centradas en nuestros miembros, con eventos para favorecer el networking como la Comida de Navidad, y talleres para mejorar su empleabilidad fuera de la academia o a la hora de comunicar ciencia al público general. En el año 2016/2017 continuaremos por este camino, introduciendo también eventos de comunicación científica.

For more information please contact london@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a london@sruk.org.uk

SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY

The Scotland Local Board:

Javier Escudero (Director)

Nerea Alonso (Vice-Director)

Susana de Lucas (Secretary)

The Scotland Working Group:

Pablo Casaseca

Eduardo Gómez

Víctor González

María Alba Abad

Idoia Busnadiego

Juan Suárez

Mario González

Alazne Domínguez

Jesús Monge



Re-elected Board at the 2nd Local Assembly
on 12 March 2016



Working group at the Local Assembly

To become the second largest constituency in just one year, challenge accomplished!

Following our official establishment in March 2015, we have consolidated our constituency as one of the largest in SRUK. The constituency is mostly in Edinburgh, but a significant number of researchers of the Glasgow area have now joined the constituency in the last year.

Events 2015/16

During 2015/16 Scotland has organized multiples events that include a mixture of social events, scientific outreach talks, and workshops for career development.

On 11th February 2016, Prof. Tessa Holyoake, Head of the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre, University of Glasgow, instructed us about very recent developments in the use of stem cells for cancer therapy. We are also very proud that the other three talks have been about humanities and science history. On 10th September and 15th October 2015, **Dr Francisco González Redondo**, Complutense University of Madrid, lectured us about The *"Generation of '14 and Science Policy in Spain"* and *"An approximation to the history of (each and every) science"* in Edinburgh and Glasgow, respectively. On 24th May 2016, we celebrated Cervantes' year with **Dr María Isabel López Fernández**, University of Salamanca, who gave us a talk about Cervantes and his time in Glasgow. In total, over 70 people have attended these talks.

We have also facilitated the professional development of our members. On 20th April 2016, we held the workshop *"Go public: How to communicate science and engage the public"* in Edinburgh. Our speakers, **Catriona Kelly** and **Dr Mar Carmena**, University of Edinburgh, took us along to understand the relevance of improving our relationship with the media and the opportunities to develop public engagement activities in Scotland. **Dr Lorenzo Melchor**, gave us talks in Edinburgh and Glasgow on 17th and 18th June 2016 about *"Funding opportunities for Scientific Mobility in Spain, UK and Europe"* and *"Research career development in Europe"*.

Informal networking followed all these events. Furthermore, before our local assembly on 12th March 2016, we organised a scientific speed dating. We also celebrated a Christmas Lunch in Edinburgh on 5th December 2015.

Plan 2016/17

We are looking forward to a similarly eventful 2016/17. We have started to establish contacts with other organisations in Scotland and are planning to have more development initiatives for our members, including a networking event with industry in September 2016 and a workshop on career development in October 2016.

La Delegación de Escocia

Durante este año, la delegación de Escocia se ha consolidado y se ha convertido en la segunda delegación dentro de la CERU en número de miembros. Hemos organizado cuatro charlas de divulgación científica con notables expertos. Cabe destacar que tres de ellas han estado relacionadas con ciencias sociales y humanidades. Además de una comida de navidad y el networking informal que sigue a todos nuestros eventos, conviene también destacar la realización de un taller de comunicación y divulgación científica. Durante el 2016/17, se organizarán talleres para acercar empresas e investigadores y para maximizar las oportunidades de desarrollo profesional en Reino Unido.

For more information please contact scotland@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a scotland@sruk.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

The Cambridge Local Board:

Nerea Irigoyen (Director)

Anna Vilalta (Vice-Director)

Sandra Blanco (Secretary)

The Cambridge Working Group:

María Barreira

Laura Carro

Ana López

Carlos González

Fernando González-Zalba

Itziar Peñafiel



Cambridge Board at the Local Assembly

La Delegación de Cambridge

Este año ha sido especialmente productivo para Cambridge. Entre los seminarios organizados pudimos hablar sobre *"Brexit"* y sobre *"política científica en España durante el siglo XX"*. Dentro del *"Ciclo de Seminarios"*, se organizó una charla sobre "Humanidades y Ciencia" invitando al famoso paleoantropólogo Juan Luis Arsuaga, que nos deleitó sobre la evolución del parto, y al neurocientífico **Rodrigo Quián-Quiroga** que nos habló de Borges y la memoria. También hemos continuado con nuestras actividades divulgativas en el pub, las famosas *"Pint of Knowledge"*, en las que hemos aprendido sobre cobre romano y materia oscura; el impacto social de nuestra investigación; y modelos animales para la neurociencia, entre otras.

For more information please contact cambridge@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a cambridge@sruk.org.uk

Cambridge, the home of Newton, Darwin, Watson, Crick... Can you find a more inspiring place than this?

With more than 800 years of History and 92 Nobel laureates, the University of Cambridge provides an incredibly engaging atmosphere to discuss scientific issues and to bring science and technology to the general public. This provides the perfect scenario for the very dynamic SRUK group in Cambridge.

Events 2015/16

During the last year, the Cambridge Constituency has held several seminars. On July 25th 2015, **Dr Mike Galsworthy** in *"Scientists for EU versus the Eurosceptics"*, gave his view on the consequences of a *"Brexit"* for British science. As part of *"SRUK Cycle of Seminars and Roundtables 2015"*, on October 10th 2015, two renowned scientists, **Prof Juan Luis Arsuaga** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and **Prof Rodrigo Quián Quiroga** (University of Leicester) dug us a little deeper into the interrelationship between Humanities and Science, where the boundaries are diluted. Prof Arsuaga gave us an enlightening dissertation about human childbirth; and Prof Quián-Quiroga, described as the *"interpreter of neurons"*, showed us the *"Jennifer Aniston's neurons"*.

After the *"Science Policy and Twentieth Century Dictatorships. Spain, Italy and Argentina"* book launch, on February 6th 2016, authors **Amparo Gómez Rodríguez** (Universidad de La Laguna), **Francisco A. González Redondo** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and **Antonio F. Canales Serrano** (Universidad de La Laguna) participated in a roundtable where the evolution of science policy in Spain during the 20th century was discussed.

We have continued with our traditional *"A Pint of Knowledge"*, as part of our outreach activities in pubs. This year we have learnt with **Elena Pérez-Álvarez** and **Fernando González-Zalba** the scientific implications of the use of salvaged ancient lead for dark matter searches or commercial uses in microelectronics. The new *"social impact index"* that measures how Society improves with our research with **Gisela Redondo-Sama**. **Lorenzo Melchor** told us about the opportunities to our professional development within the European frame; and **María Jiménez Sánchez**, **Ana López**, **Florian Licitra** and **Sara Imarisio** explained neurodegenerative diseases through four working models (primary cells, mice, flies and fishes) with their advantages and disadvantages.

As part of our social gathering, we enjoyed the last days of summer with the *"Cambridge BBQ"* with a *"Cambridge Discovery Gymkhana"* and a *"Mediterranean Wine Tasting"* last April.

Plan 2016/17

For next year we expect to be at least as fruitful as this one. We are already organizing a very exciting event between scientists and artists, *"Art&Science"*, in which they will work together to bring to a broader audience a scientific research as a piece of art. We will continue with our traditional *"Pints of Knowledge"* and don't miss our Summer BBQ...

OXFORD CONSTITUENCY

The Oxford Local Board::

Pablo Muñoz Rodríguez (Director)

Carmen Sánchez Cañizares (Vice-Director)

Silvia Corrochano Sánchez (Secretary)

The Oxford Working Group:

Ibon Santiago

Arantxa Vilalta-Clemente

David López

Laura Martínez

Alberto Merchante

Antonio García

Ana Palanca

Elisa Ramos

Alberto Garbayo



*Elected Board at the 2nd Local Assembly
on 14 December 2015*



Scientific meeting with Dr Isabel Díaz

Oxford, the place where tradition and cutting-edge research meet. Have you checked the activities the constituency organised this year?.

Founded in December 2014, the Oxford Constituency is currently formed by members working in a wide range of fields at the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University or biotechnology companies located in Oxford and surroundings.

Events 2015/16

During this year, we held two scientific mini-symposia where different members of the constituency presented their research in an informal but time-rigorous style. We also organised several scientific meetings that hosted scientists working in Spain, including **Dr Isabel Díaz** (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid), **Dr Daniel Jaque** (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and **Dr Carlos Cabañas** (Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa). Moreover, in collaboration with the Madariaga Series, we organised a panel discussion on **"Science policy in Spain in the 20th Century"**; this panel discussion welcomed **Dr Lorenzo Melchor**, **Prof. Amparo Gómez** (Universidad de La Laguna), **Dr Francisco González** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid) and **Dr Antonio Canales** (Universidad de La Laguna). In addition, we organised three meetings on science and entrepreneurship, grant applications and brain drain in Spain. We also visited the Oxford University Botanic Garden and herbarium, guided by **Dr Stephen Harris**, Druce Curator of the University herbaria. Finally, we organised two social events: a Welcome to Oxford Party in October and an Oxford Christmas Lunch in December.

Plan 2016/17

With the constituency growing year after year, we are now focused on improving the interaction with Oxford Brookes University and the biotechnological companies based in Oxfordshire. Also, we are planning several events of science communication and three of our renowned mini-symposia to bring together the members of the constituency.



Attendees at the 3rd Scientific Mini-Symposium

La Delegación de Oxford

La delegación de Oxford, creada hace tan sólo dos años, ha aumentado exponencialmente el número de actividades durante el período 2015-16. Entre las actividades que organizamos, cabe destacar dos minicongresos, varios encuentros con científicos españoles invitados y una mesa redonda sobre política científica. Además, organizamos tres encuentros enfocados en ciencia y emprendimiento, financiación y fuga de cerebros. Por último, tuvimos una visita al jardín botánico y el herbario de la Universidad de Oxford, los más antiguos del Reino Unido, y organizamos tanto una fiesta de bienvenida en octubre como una comida de Navidad en diciembre.

For more information please contact oxford@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a oxford@sruk.org.uk

YORKSHIRE CONSTITUENCY

The Yorkshire Local Board:

Estrella Luna Díez (Director)

Javier Iglesias Gonzalez (Vice-Director)

Jacobo Elíes Gómez (Secretary)

The Yorkshire Working Group:

Saúl Herranz-Martín

Laura Quintana-Gómez

Maria Huete-Ortega

Margarita Segovia Roldán

José Antonio Gómez

Pelayo García Gutierrez

(until October 2015)

Sofía Pérez Villar



Elected Board at the Local Assembly on 24 October 2015.

La Delegación de Yorkshire

Durante el periodo de 2015/2016, la delegación de Yorkshire se estableció oficialmente dentro de la CERU y actualmente se está expandiendo considerablemente en número de socios en ciudades como Leeds y York. Hemos organizado dos charlas de divulgación científica “en el pub”, un taller de desarrollo profesional y el Seminario Navideño, el cual contó con dos grandes expertos en materia de energía. Además, la delegación ha organizado dos eventos sociales, un evento de bienvenida a la región para nuevos miembros y una cena. Para el periodo de 2016/2017 te recomendamos no perderte el próximo Seminario Navideño.

For more information please contact
yorkshire@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a
yorkshire@sruk.org.uk

From the centre of the stunning British country site, the extremely dynamic Yorkshire has emerged after restructuring. Don't miss the events this next year!

Originally, the cities forming the constituency of Yorkshire were either integrated in The Midlands or The NorthWest constituencies. In October 2015, Yorkshire was officially established. The constituency members live in Sheffield, Leeds and York. The core of the working group is based in Sheffield.

Events 2015/16

This dynamic constituency has offered members and the general public a range of social events, career development workshops and scientific events.

Two “*Science in the pub*” events have covered a wide range of scientific topics: Dr María Huete Ortega, gave an exciting presentation about microalgae biotechnology and ecology. On the 1st Science in the pub event in Leeds. **Dr Yasmina Okan** explained the communication barriers between patients and registers within the public health care system and **Dr Jacobo Elies** revealed how “*toxic*” gases (gasotransmitters) can be exploited against human diseases.

The star event of the constituency is the Christmas Seminar. Last year's event took place on Saturday 28th November and was entitled “*Energy, Environment, Economy: the key challenges of our future generation*”. The seminar hosted two energy experts, **Prof. Pedro Gomez-Romero**, from the Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, that focused his presentation on the overwhelming challenge of our energy model, and **Prof. Peter Hall**, from the University of Sheffield, who guided us through the key points of the Volkswagen crisis. The event concluded with a heated roundtable where we debated the use of energy alternatives to fossil fuels. Prof Hall described this event as “*an event that makes life worth living!*”.

On the 19th April 2016, “*The Scientific Career Path*” where **Dr Lorenzo Melchor**, gave us an overview of the “*Funding opportunities for international research mobility*” and the “*Researcher career development in Europe*”.

In addition, the constituency has also organised two social events. On the 24th October 2015 we held our first “*Welcome to Yorkshire Day*”, and we visited the city of Sheffield guided by **Laura Quintana**. On the 26th February we had a social dinner.

Plan 2016/17

We have planned an exciting event diary for 2016/17. In September we will host a workshop in “*face-to-face Networking*”, in October we will have our regional assembly in York, and on the 26th November we will have the Christmas Seminar on the topic of Epigenetics, hosting **Sir Prof. David Baulcombe** and **Prof. Manel Esteller**.

THE NORTH WEST CONSTITUENCY

The North West Local Board:

Irene de Lázaro (Director)
Pedro Torres (Vice-Director)
Pelayo García-Gutiérrez (Secretary)

The North West Working Group:

Ana Isabel Cubas Atienzar
Víctor Latorre
Marta Losa
Beatriz Baño
Angélica Santiago Gómez
María Morlán
Pablo Palazón
Paz Aranega Bou
Gloria López-Castejón
Alba Maiques



Elected Board at the Local Assembly on 8 February 2016

La Delegación del Noroeste

Durante este año, la delegación Noroeste ha cumplido con los principales objetivos de la CERU realizando eventos divulgativos y de diseminación científica para distintos públicos, pero también eventos que contribuyen a la formación y desarrollo profesional y social de nuestros miembros. La colaboración más relevante es la establecida con el Instituto Cervantes a través del programa **“España Cien por Ciencia”**. El principal objetivo para un futuro inmediato es atraer a más miembros fuera de Manchester que quieran participar de manera activa en nuestras actividades.

For more information please contact northwest@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a northwest@sruk.org.uk

From the **“Science of Graphene”** to **“How to be a Creative Scientist”**, the North West Constituency has integrated all aspects of science through the collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes.

Our constituency, officially established in January 2015, initially encompassed the cities of Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds. From the restructure of the constituencies that took place in Autumn 2015, Leeds became part of Yorkshire. Most of our members are based in Manchester. However, we also have representatives in Liverpool, Kingston-upon-Hull and the North of Wales.

Events 2015/16

In our second year as an official constituency, we have held events of very different nature. In compliance with our objective to promote scientific advances to the public, we organised our 1st Scientific Seminar to celebrate Manchester’s wonder material: Graphene. For this purpose we hosted world-leading experts in theoretical physics of 2D materials (Prof. Francisco Guinea, University of Manchester and IMDEA Nanoscience), nanotoxicology (Dr Cyrill Bussy, University of Manchester) and graphene-based batteries (**Dr Sofía Pérez**, Sheffield University). Over 50 people attended this event hosted at the superb scenario of the Cervantes Institute in Manchester.

We have also promoted scientific outreach in more informal environments, taking the research of some of our members from the lab to the pub. **Beatriz Baño**, post-doctoral researcher at The University of Manchester, unveiled the secrets of circadian rhythms in a Science in the Pub held in March.

The career development of our members is also one of our priorities. Towards this end, we welcomed Seisques Project to deliver a Creative Science workshop. The constituency also hosted **Dr Lorenzo Melchor** to inform about mobility and funding opportunities across the European Union.

In addition, our constituency has actively collaborated in the scientific program of the Cervantes Institute in Manchester, Science is the Key, within the frame of **“Manchester European City of Science 2016”**. As active partners of this project, all scientific events have been held at the Cervantes’s venue this year.

Finally, we have continued to facilitate networking with our already traditional Christmas Lunch for members and their families, that was followed by a visit to the famous Manchester Christmas Markets. Networking with members of other constituencies has also been boosted with a Science Outdoors event organised by the Yorkshire constituency (former Midlands) in the Peak District.

Plan 2016/17

The constituency is planning a similar portfolio of events, which include a round table about outreach and science journalism and a **“Welcome to the UK, Welcome to the North”**. Our priority for the next year is to consolidate our collaboration with the Cervantes Institute and to attract more members in other cities of the North West.

THE MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY

From the heart of Birmingham, the Midlands Constituency, was back in business in April 2016. The enthusiasm and dynamism of its members, it will be impossible to get bored!

The Midlands Local Board:

Javier Monzó (Director)
Ignacio Insua (Vice-Director)
María Cuenca (Secretary)

The Midlands Working Group:

Manuel Daza
Laura García
Sara Priego
Elena Moreno
Paramaconi Rodriguez
Daniel Escalera
Miguel Molina
Elsa Martinez
Jose Luis Brioso Jimenez
Giovanny Rodriguez Blanco
Jon Ustarroz



Elected Board at the local assembly on 19 April 2016



Attendees at the local assembly on 19 April 2016

In November 2015, Sheffield and York became part of the new constituency of Yorkshire and Birmingham became the main nucleus of The Midlands constituency. During the last 10 months, a dynamic working group has re-structured the constituency and we have organized several scientific events.

Events 2015/16

During this period, the newly established Midlands constituency has organized several events, which have served to establish a dynamic and enthusiastic working group. On the 9th December 2015, we organized our first **"Science in the Pub"**. **Dr Francisco Fernandez-Trillo**, leader of Biomednanolab Group at the University of Birmingham, presented a talk focus on its research entitled: **"Mimicking Life with Polymer Chemistry"**. The Annual Midlands Meeting took place on 9th April, 2016, where the current Board was elected. During this meeting we had the support of Dr Eduardo Oliver, President of SRUK, who gave a talk about **"History and objectives of SRUK/CERU"**. Then Dr Maria Jimenez, Roving Director of SRUK, explained the **"Next events and activities of SRUK/CERU"**. Finally, **Dr Lorenzo Melchor**, Scientific Coordinator of the Spanish Embassy talked about **"Funding opportunities for scientific mobility"**. On 9th June, **Prof Francisco A. Gonzalez Redondo** was the speaker of our 2nd Science in the Pub.

We have also organized different informal meetings to create links between the constituency members and to encourage other researchers to form part of our group, such as meetings in the pub, as well as a The Midlands Christmas Lunch on 19th December, 2015, followed by a later visit to the Birmingham's Christmas market. During these events we have encouraged networking by establishing interesting and profitable scientific and non-scientific conversations.

Plan 2016/17

Our main goal is to increase the number of participants in our constituency by organizing more social events in other cities of the region. Among those, we are planning a visit to Birmingham's Botanical Garden in July, a Welcome Meeting in Birmingham and events in Nottingham and Coventry for the next fall.

La delegación de The Midlands

La delegación de las Midlands ha sufrido una reestructuración de ciudades que la componen. Un nuevo grupo de trabajo y directiva local se ha consolidado con sede en Birmingham, y ha organizado un Science in the Pub y diversas reuniones informativos para dar a conocer la CERU en la región. Durante la reunión anual se llevó a cabo un simposio con tres charlas relacionadas con la historia de la CERU y con la financiación para la movilidad científica. Los planes para los próximos meses incluyen continuar con los Science in the Pub y realizar un simposio de bienvenida para las nuevas incorporaciones.

For more information please contact midlands@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a midlands@sruk.org.uk

THE SOUTH WEST CONSTITUENCY

The current South West Board and working Group:

María Jiménez Sánchez (Interim director)
Sara Alvira de Celis
Jon Palacios

The 2015 Local Board and working group:

Manuel Nuño (Director)
Antonio Fernandez Pardifias (Vice-Director)
Laura González Macía (Secretary)
Rafael Luterbacher
Veronica Celorrio
Aránzazu Rodríguez
Daniela Plana



The South West working group present SRUK in the Festival of Neuroscience in Bristol on 19 March 2016

From the cities of Bristol and Bath to Southampton or Plymouth, the South West constituency is working to bring more activities in 2016.

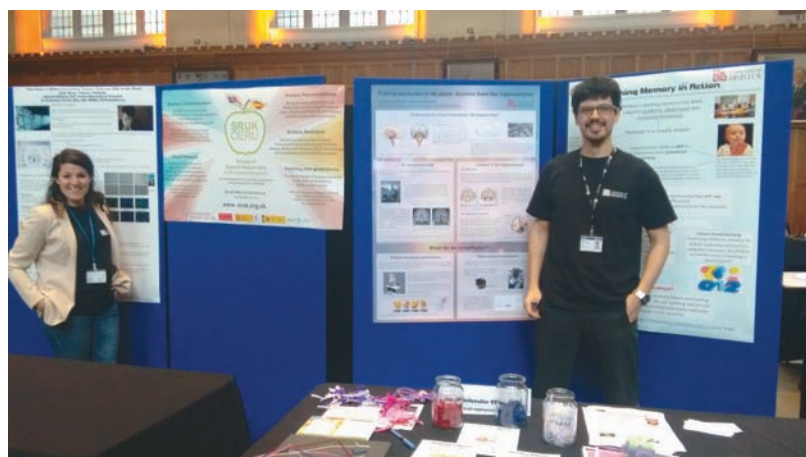
The South West constituency covers the largest area in UK and includes cities such as Bristol, Cardiff, Bath, Southampton or Plymouth. Our constituency was established in May 2013 and has its main nucleus at Bristol.

Events 2015/16

During 2015 and 2016, we have introduced the society to new members and got involved in different activities organized by the University of Bristol. On the 18th and 19th of March, Sara Alvira and Jon Palacios were at the 2016 Festival of Neuroscience organized by the University of Bristol, where they presented a poster about SRUK to Spanish and non-Spanish researchers at Bristol. To welcome the summer, on the 18th of June, the working group brought together members from all over the constituency in the Bristol Summer Meeting, where attendees enjoyed a guided tour around Bristol, a lunch and an introductory meeting to get to know SRUK.

Plan 2016/17

The South West Constituency will soon elect its new Local Board of Directors and we aim to set up working groups across the constituency to bring SRUK to all cities of Southwest.



La Delegación del Suroeste

La Delegación del Suroeste abarca una extensa región con ciudades como Cardiff, Bath, Southampton, Plymouth o Bristol, y es en ésta última donde se encuentra el mayor núcleo de socios de la delegación. En los últimos meses, la delegación ha estado implicada en varias actividades organizadas por la Universidad de Bristol, como el Festival de Neurociencias 2016, y ha organizado visitas a Bristol y reuniones para atraer a nuevos socios. Actualmente la delegación está trabajando para elegir su nueva directiva local y para hacer llegar la CERU a más ciudades del Suroeste.

If you would like to get involved, write to southwest@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a southwest@sruk.org.uk

DEPARTMENT OF ONLINE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Closing the gap between researchers and the general public.

As of the 1st June 2016, the online department has been composed by 21 enthusiastic volunteers working with Social Media on a daily basis. Half of these are regional community managers, who are responsible for advertising events taking place in each specific constituency. The other half of the online department board continue to update social media and our website for other general news and activities related to SRUK.

Members of the Online Department:

Director:

Judit Garcia Gonzalez

Facebook:

Sandra Pérez Garrido , Laura Carro-Santos

Pablo Muñoz

LinkedIn:

Olaya Muñoz-Azcarate, Usua Laresgoiti

Twitter:

Eduardo Oliver, Francisco J. Hernández

Website:

Tomás Gonzalo, Alejandro Cámara

Ginés Escudero-Andreu

Regional community managers:

Ana López, Maria Barreira

David Gutierrez Estevez

Laura García Ibañez, Victor Latorre Roselló

Marta Losa Llabata, Laura Martinez Maestro

Victor González-Castro

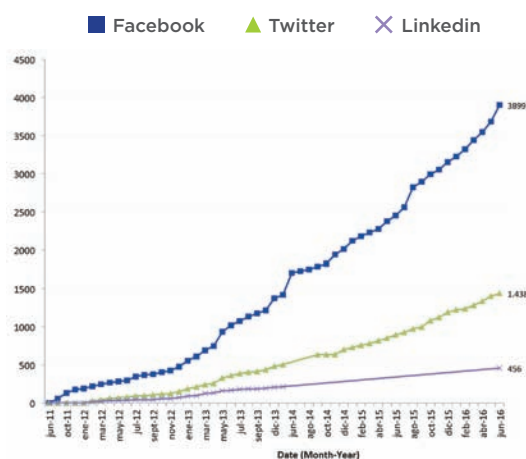
Eduardo Gómez Castañeda, Saul Herranz

Events 2015/16

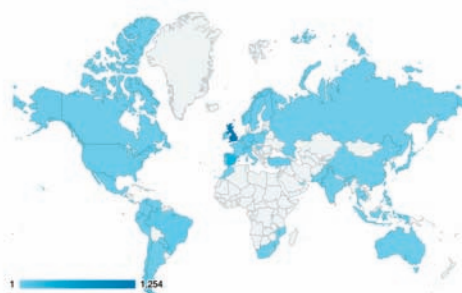
Ever since its foundation in 2011, SRUK has been highly active with our presence in social media. As a result, we have seen a continuous increase in the number of followers in the 3 most popular social networks, reaching **3899 followers in Facebook, 1438 in Twitter and 456 in LinkedIn** (Updated June 2016).

The online department is responsible to keep our members updated with all the events that the society organizes and the latest news about science. We also advertise grants, job opportunities, prizes, competitions and other affairs with potential interest to our members.

In addition, we are committed to provide scientists with the tools to enhance public impact and communication. For this reason, we organized a workshop on the 10th June, 2016 entitled **"Science communication and social media"** with three experts in communication: **Dr Cat Vicente**, former community manager of The Node; **Graziella Almendral**, Director of Idagando TV; and **Dr Lorena López Font**, Lecturer in Communications at Universidad Jaime I de Castellón. Scientists learned how to build and maintain an online profile to enable them to showcase their research to the general public through social networks, blog and TV.



Evolution of social media SRUK profiles



Numbers of visits to our website per country

In our aim to continue improving our appeal online, we have put in place a proposal to update the website. This update has been ongoing since December 2015. We are hoping that this will make the webpage more attractive and dynamic to members and visitors. During the last year, the current website has received 14,698 visits worldwide, mostly from the UK (60.1%) and Spain (21.2%).

El Departamento de Comunicación Online

El departamento de comunicación online y redes sociales mantiene al día los perfiles de redes sociales y la página web de la CERU desde su creación en 2011. Esta labor ha servido para conectar investigadores, promocionar eventos y dar difusión a becas, premios y nuevas iniciativas de la asociación. También hacemos divulgación científica, compartiendo noticias sobre ciencia, tecnología y otros temas de interés para nuestros socios. Continuaremos trabajando en cada una de las redes sociales con actualizaciones regulares, con especial interés en incentivar la interacción con nuestros seguidores y ampliando el rango de público al que llegamos. Además, estamos trabajando en mejorar nuestra página web, y hemos organizado un taller junto con la delegación de Londres, para promocionar la comunicación científica a través de internet y las redes sociales.

For more information please contact online@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a online@sruk.org.uk

PRESS OFFICE

A route for science to outreach.

Our objectives throughout this period were to promote the scientific outcomes of our members, enhance the interest of people to Science, boost scientific outreach activities and inform about the activities and achievements SRUK.

Members of the Press Office:

Ruth García de la Calle (Director)
Aaron del Campo
Aida Santaolalla
Angelica Santiago
Beatriz Baño Otálora
Laura Martínez Maestro
M^a Alba Abad
Maria Barreira
Olaya Munoz Azcarate
Sandra Blanco Benavente
Saray Beltran
Sofia Perez
Susana de Lucas

Through numerous press releases we have delivered the **SRUK initiatives to the media**, such as the R&D recommendations for the Spanish General Elections presented to the Spanish politic parties or the SRUK Emerging Talent Award. The press office has also mediated the media coverage of the scientific work done by members as well as promoted scientific events organised by partner institutions. With these actions, SRUK appeared in different media such as The Guardian, SINC, EFE, Europapress, El Cultural, El Mundo, Público, El Confidencial, La Vanguardia, Levante, Tele 5, La Sexta, and RTVE.

Importantly, we have launched two key outreach platforms that serve as pathways to impact: the **radio program “En Fase Experimental”** in collaboration with Radio X Londres, which has released 11 programs on different topics such as cancer, biomedical engineering, DNA, superbi-kes, scientific policy among others. Also, we have launched the **SRUK blog, “1,2,3... Explore!”**

Finally, with the purpose of setting up a corporative identity and a strategic communication plan for the incoming years, we have established collaboration with the Department of Communication Sciences at the University Jaime I of Castellón in Spain.



Radio presenter Aaron del Campo with Radio X Londres team recording the first En Fase Experimental program



La Oficina de prensa de CERU: Una ventana de Ciencia al exterior

El departamento de prensa está formado por un equipo con gran ilusión por comunicar y difundir a la sociedad el trabajo que genera en el Reino Unido los científicos españoles que forman parte de la CERU. Nuestro propósito ha sido planificar y desarrollar una estrategia de comunicación de la CERU porque queremos ser el vehículo de expresión entre los investigadores y la sociedad. Durante el año 2015/16, el departamento de prensa ha mandado notas de prensa de los eventos/acciones llevadas a cabo por la CERU, así como potenciar la promoción de las publicaciones de los miembros en los medios españoles. Además, uno de nuestros objetivos es atraer la atención de la sociedad por la Ciencia y para ello se han puesto en marcha dos iniciativas: un programa de radio, “En Fase Experimental” y un blog, “1,2,3.... Explore!”.

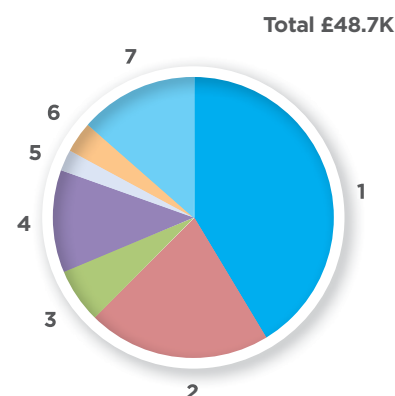
If you want to showcase your scientific work or to write a post in the blog, please contact press@sruk.org.uk
Para más información, escribe a contact press@sruk.org.uk

ECONOMIC REPORT

SRUK is a private company limited-by-guarantee operating as a non-for-profit organisation. Our annual membership fees provide autonomy and ensure basic operations of the society. In addition, during the period between July 2015 and July 2016, the Board has presented proposals and applied to specific calls to public and private institutions and it is thanks to our supporters that **SRUK** has developed an ambitious range of activities.

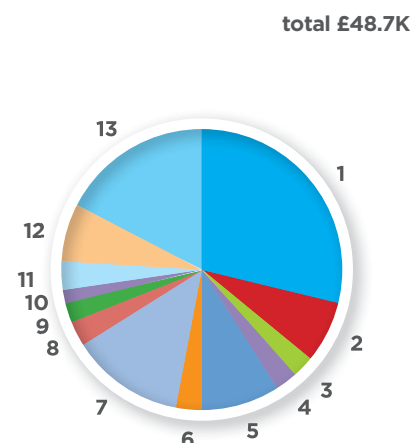
Income

1. Fundación Banco Santander	41,4%
2. Fundación Ramón Areces	21,0%
3. Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in UK	6,2%
4. Membership Fees 2016	11,8%
5. FECYT (Annual Symposium)	2,5%
6. NimGenetics	3,4%
7. Surplus Budget 2015	13,7%



Expenditure

1. Emerging Talent Award (Price)	28,7%
2. Emerging Talent Award (Ceremony)	7,2%
3. Seminars and Outreach events 2016	2,5%
4. Round Tables and Debates 2016	2,5%
5. Workshops 2016	9,1%
6. Art & Science initiative 2016	2,9%
7. IV International Symposium	13,2%
8. Annual Report	2,9%
9. Marketing and others	2,3%
10. Science Policy Report	1,5%
11. Trade Mark Registration	3,3%
12. Travel Grants 2016	6,6%
13. Surplus 2017	17,4%



In the last two years, our income has increased by four times more. Nevertheless, we continue operating with an efficient economic policy, that is, we try to make the most out of the income received.

Resumen económico

CERU es una organización sin ánimo de lucro. Nuestras cuotas anuales de afiliación nos proporcionan autonomía y garantizan las operaciones básicas de la sociedad. Durante el período comprendido entre julio de 2015 y julio de 2016, la directiva ha presentado propuestas y solicitudes específicas a instituciones públicas y privadas gracias a las cuales hemos desarrollado un gran número de actividades. En los últimos dos años, nuestros ingresos se han multiplicado por cuatro. Sin embargo, seguimos operando con una política económica eficiente, es decir, tratamos de sacar el máximo provecho de los ingresos percibidos.

If you want to speak with the economic team please contact treasurer@sruk.org.uk

Para más información, escribe a treasurer@sruk.org.uk

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Since 2012, SRUK has achieved many objectives as a society, however, as we grow we set new horizons to continue increasing our standing.

1st objective: Scientific and Social Network

ON-GOING AND IMMEDIATE PLANS	LONG-TERM PLANS
Grow in number of members: reach senior researchers and students	Target Networks: Junior Group Leaders, Social Sciences, PhD students, etc.
Improve communication between members through our member's directory	Undergraduate Summer Internships
Expand constituencies to more cities	PhD Fellowships scheme
Maintain the Travel Grants scheme	Research Fellowships scheme
Launch Mentoring Programme	Support and administrative staff for SRUK
More Professional Development Workshops and social events	Set up an international research network between Spain and its scientific diaspora

2nd objective: Science Communication

Scientific Seminars in all constituencies	New website
More "Science in the Pub"	Corporate Identity and Communication strategy
Consolidate the SRUK blog "1,2,3... Explore!" and "En Fase experimental" Radio program	Video series to promote the work done by members
Increase member visibility in the media	Increase our presence in the British media
Increase Science outreach through our social networks	Collaborations with Science communication and outreach organizations

3rd objective: Science Representatives

Follow-up meetings with MINECO and SEIDI	Approach the British government and scientific institutions
Follow-up assessment of Science policies after Spanish Elections	Consolidate as an agent of public Science Diplomacy
Meetings and agreements with new Spanish government	Partnership and activities with other societies of Spanish Researchers abroad
Consolidate the SRUK Emerging Talent Award	Influence Science policies with actions and recommendations

4th objective: Science Mediators between Spain and UK

Establishment of the Department of International Collaborations	Academia-Industry exchange scheme
International Mobility Fellowships: SRUK On the Move	Collaborations with Scientific Academies and Societies in Spain and UK
Consolidate the SRUK Life Achievement Award	Collaborations with Industry and biotech companies
More agreements with Universities and Centres to stimulate collaborations and mobility	Increase the number of sponsors and partners

OUR MAIN SUPPORTERS

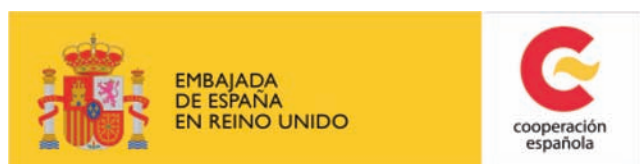
The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom wishes to thank the supporters for their kind contribution.

FUNDACIÓN RAMÓN ARECES

Ramón Areces Foundation

The Ramón Areces Foundation is our principal and unconditional supporter and it is thanks to them that SRUK has been able to exponentially grow.

From its creation in 1976, the **Ramón Areces Foundation** aims to sponsor scientific development, by promoting research activities, contributing to the generation of personal capital and by promoting knowledge exchange. The institution also works to provide new opportunities for training of young researchers, and promote exchange of ideas for the development of Science, Education and Culture. The Foundation has strongly supported SRUK since our very beginning. It has sponsored the development of our website, our annual programme of activities (with scientific seminars, outreach activities, professional development workshops all over the country) and our annual international symposium for four consecutive years. Currently, on top of their contribution, The Foundation is funding the new initiative “Art & Science”. Moreover, every year we organise together “Ciencia UK”, a career advice workshop in Madrid. Finally, for the second consecutive year, the Foundation is supporting an annual meeting between the different societies of Spanish Researchers abroad.



Spanish Embassy in UK

The Spanish Embassy in UK was the first one to have an Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA) and SRUK has received support from them from the beginning.

The Spanish Embassy in the United Kingdom was the first one to have an Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA) and SRUK has received support from them from the beginning. The OCSA promotes Spanish culture and science in Great Britain and Ireland and works towards strengthening mutual information exchange in these areas. This year, we have again received their support that has been allocated into scientific seminars, outreach activities, professional development workshops and the annual symposium. The support from OCSA has also been allocated to the “Art & Science” initiative. Their institutional support has been crucial to reach both Spanish and British institutions, to find and secure potential sponsors, and to promote our activities.



Banco Santander Foundation

Banco Santander Foundation, the sponsor of the Emerging Talent Award 2016, is committed to support cultural, humanistic and scientific initiatives.

Their support to science focusses in the promotion of three aims: to develop projects in the most innovative and necessary research fields, to organize science outreach activities and to help with the career development of young talent via the concession of grants and funding programmes. SRUK is honoured to have received the support of Banco Santander Foundation to launch the first edition of the **SRUK Emerging Talent Award** in 2016. With this award we want to recognize and support the work of a young Spanish researcher who has developed his/her career in the UK.

OUR MAIN SUPPORTERS



Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology

Created in 2001, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (**FECYT**) is a public foundation dependent on the Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Competitiveness. Among the activities to move forward science, technology and innovation, FECYT gives support to the societies of Spanish researchers abroad, including SRUK. As part of this collaboration, FECYT and SRUK have been organising together outreach activities and events since our official establishment in 2012. Indeed, FECYT has supported the SRUK Annual Symposium for the last two years. In September 2015, FECYT appointed a scientific coordinator to the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom, to strengthen our partnership with OCSA and to collaborate in several programmes, activities, and professional development workshops. Lastly, FECYT and SRUK have signed a framework agreement in 2016 for the following years.

NIMGenetics

NIMGenetics, our most recent supporter, is a Spanish private biomedical company specialized in the design and marketing of products, and services of clinical genetic diagnosis.

One of its aims is to contribute to social and economic progress. NIMGenetics is the most recent supporter of SRUK and it has sponsored the edition and printing of this annual report, as well as they have funded part of the activities of the annual symposium. As part of this partnership, we aim to develop a professional scheme to link research in academia and industry.

SRUK is delighted to collaborate with other institutions to organise activities and promote common benefits to our members



BritishSpanishSociety



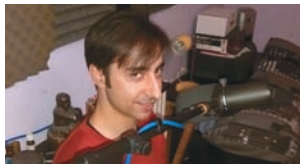
Glasgow
City of Science

UCLU Spanish &
Latin American
Society



Specially, we would like to thank all the societies of Spanish researchers around the world.







**Society of
Spanish Researchers
in the United Kingdom**

www.sruk.org.uk / info@sruk.org.uk

NIMGenetics, your scientific partner for genomics

NIMGenetics is an innovative genetics company that has designed and successfully commercialized several families of aCGH and NGS products and services for research and diagnostics.



NIMGenetics has assembled a world-class scientific and medical team, with more than 10 PhD/MD's on staff and over 300 international publications in genetics and molecular biology. Our team combines a deep knowledge of the human/mouse genome **with over 20 years of experience in the application of genomic technologies to biology and medicine**. Therefore, one of our core competencies is to provide genomics/genetics support services to life-science researchers, fully understanding their needs and providing practical and flexible solutions.

NIMGenetics is certified by companies such as **Thermo Fisher**, **Agilent Technologies** and **BGI**, and holds major accreditations in the area of genomics, such as **ISO 15189** and **CEQAS**.

The specialized R&D team at **NIMGenetics** is leading different projects in collaboration with academic partners in Spain and is actively seeking additional international partners in Europe to play a significant role in research programs including Horizon 2020

NIMGenetics is determined to keep abreast of the latest technological advances in genomics and fully supports joint industry/academia training programs. With this in mind, NIMGenetics is working hand-in-hand with SRUK/CERU and other organizations to create an attractive internship program.

For additional information with respect to R&D, services, and the internship program, please contact jrincon@nimgenetics.com or +34-617427477 / +34-918047760

NIMGenetics

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