



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

# Annual report

**SRUK/CERU**

JULY 2016-JULY 2017

Informe anual

JULIO 2016-JULIO 2017



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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends,

During this year I have been asked the same question many times. How is it possible that SRUK has become what it is today in such a short time? The answer is simple: passion and hard work of many people and the conviction of what we want to achieve, a Society that brings together Spanish researchers in the UK to give them a united voice that impacts society, influences science policy and closes the gap between researchers in the UK and Spain.

I have had the great pleasure of chairing the Society of Spanish Researchers in the UK during the celebration of its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is an occasion to celebrate years of intense and pioneering work, and we were delighted to have been recognized with the **Innovative Institution Award 2016** from the Innovative Companies Forum (FEI). Nevertheless we should not forget that we are facing new and constant challenges to consolidate SRUK as a Society with a long-term projection that was conceived entirely by researchers and for researchers.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the main achievements we have accomplished thorough the year and that you will find in this Annual Report:

- Our network has reached **700 members** in **8 constituencies across the UK**.
- We have organized **more than 50 events**, including our Annual Symposium, seminars of the V Anniversary series, professional development workshops, outreach events and socials. As in previous years, we were also in Madrid with the CienciaUK.
- **A brand new website has been launched** to provide further professional and networking utilities to members and collaborators.
- More members have seen their work recognized and encouraged through the 4<sup>th</sup> call of our **Travel Grants**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the **Emerging Talent Award** and the 1<sup>st</sup> **Young Basque Investigator Award**.
- We have worked to establish **new international collaborations** with Spanish public institutions and learned societies such as **CSIC, CRUE, ASEICA or SEBBM**.
- With the results of our **Brexit Survey**, we have reached 9 British and Spanish learned societies and institutions, and have held meetings with the Royal Society of Biology, Universities UK and British Council to dialogue on how to influence the post-Brexit scenario.
- We have met with the 4 main **parliamentary groups in Spain** to follow up on the Report for Recommendations for R&D.
- SRUK has participated in more than **10 interviews**, **written 4 opinion articles**, and in more than 100 times the press has echoed our events and opinions. We are a respected reference for journalists and readers.



*María Jiménez Sánchez*

- Our presence in **social media** has risen to more than 4,700 Facebook, 2,000 Twitter and 700 LinkedIn followers.
- A total of **22 bi-weekly newsletters have been sent** to our members, with a brand new format and sections, such as the Brexit Watch.
- Our members have communicated their research through 25 new posts in the **SRUK Blog 1,2,3... Explore!** and 10 new **radio programs "En Fase Experimental"**.
- To promote the **Women in Science debate**, we launched the twitter campaign "**#YoSoyCientificaCERU**" (*I am a SRUK Scientist*), organized 3 Women in Science events and published the "SRUK Women's Project" report with the results of the "Women in Research Survey".
- In September 2016, our SRUK Mentoring Program came to light with 22 mentor, mentee pairs. The excellence of 6 mentors has been rewarded with a Mentor Recognition Award.
- **The Target Networks** initiative has begun its first project with the Junior Group Leader Network.
- We have raised £80k from 4 private and 2 public institutions.

**And the most important of all, more than 150 members have volunteered to make this possible!**

It has been a frenetic and fruitful year and I have been extremely lucky to share it with an incredible team of 16 directors, including our vice-president, Estrella Luna Díez. We have worked together with the various departments and committees to continue the mission and successes of the previous board chaired by Eduardo Oliver.

In addition, I would like to thank our sponsors and collaborators, specially the Ramón Areces Foundation who has reiterated its commitment by supporting an even more ambitious programme of events this year. The Banco Santander Foundation, Bizkaia Talent, Telefonica Foundation, the Spanish Embassy in London, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology and NIMgenetics, all have made our ambitions possible.

Finally, I do not want to forget those who committed at different times during these 5 years to build this Society, especially to the first group of researchers who conceived the objectives of SRUK, and with Lorenzo Melchor heading them while he was a researcher at the Institute of Cancer Research. I wish that those who met at the first assembly in June 2012 be satisfied with what they inspired.

Personally, I feel extremely happy to have contributed to this great adventure during these 5 years and I am really grateful for the opportunity to have represented this amazing community during 2016/17. I am certain that the Society will be in the best possible hands, with a new board of directors fully committed to make SRUK the Society we all want.

All the best,

María Jiménez Sánchez



For more information please contact [president@sruk.org.uk](mailto:president@sruk.org.uk)

# WHAT IS SRUK AND WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK) is an independent, non-profit organization. We do not have any political affiliation.

SRUK was created in July 2011 and was formally established in June 2012. At that time, SRUK was registered in the Company's House of England and Wales.

The Society was created with four main aims:

1

## SOCIAL NETWORK

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

2

## SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS

To increase public awareness of every aspect of the Research and Innovation (R&I) system. We aim to close the existing gap between researchers and the general public by holding seminars, roundtables, conferences and the Society's annual symposium.

3

## SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVES

To be the representatives of the Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom for British and Spanish organizations, general public and the media. We aim to serve as scientific advisors for both public and private organizations. We believe that our knowledge and experience are relevant and worth sharing.

4

## SCIENCE MEDIATORS

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

## ¿ QUÉ ES CERU Y CUÁLES SON NUESTROS OBJETIVOS?

La Sociedad de Científicos Españoles en Reino Unido (CERU) es una organización independiente sin ánimo de lucro y sin afiliación política. Se creó en julio del 2011 y se constituyó de manera oficial en junio del 2012. La sociedad persigue cuatro objetivos principales:

1. Crear una red social de investigadores que trabajan en el Reino Unido
2. Acercar la ciencia al público en general
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+i del Reino Unido y de España, tanto públicas como privadas

## OUR STRUCTURE

SRUK is run by volunteers. During 2016/2017, more than 150 members have actively participated in departments, committees and working groups, which have made possible the Society, as it is today.

As in previous years, we have grown, achieved goals and consolidated ourselves as a key “player” Society within Spain and the UK.

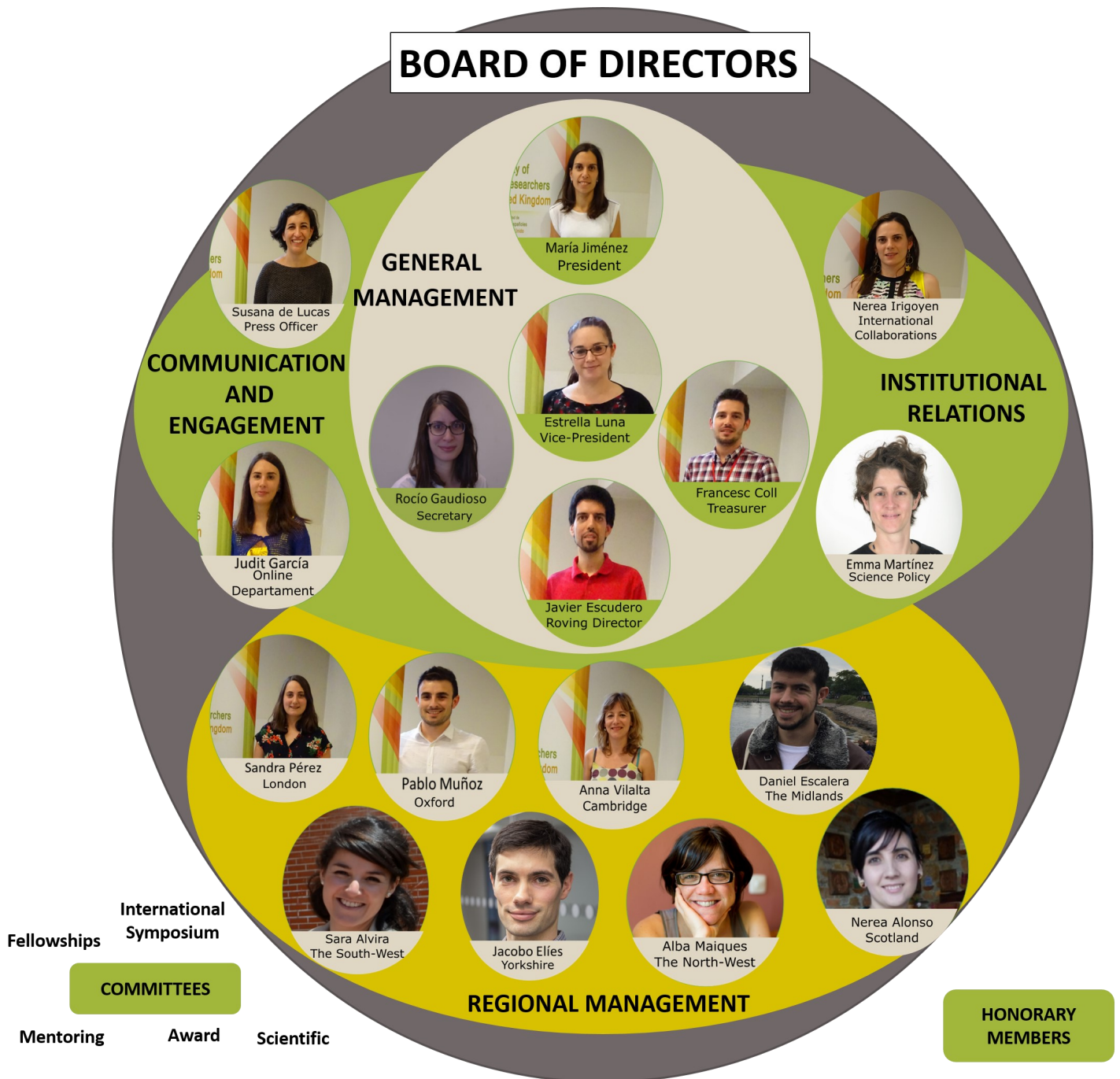
SRUK is managed by the executive committee that forms the Board of Directors, which is elected during the Annual General Assembly. The Board is formed by 17 members representing SRUK members, pursuing the aims of the Society and delineating the strategic plan for the coming years. In addition, SRUK is organized in eight Regional Constituencies across the UK and the directors of these constituencies are also part of the Board. This facilitates the direct communication between members and the Board.

Many volunteers are part of working groups and committees. Each constituency has a **Local Working Group** to shape regional activities and events. SRUK also runs with four departments: International Collaborations, Science Policy, Press and Online. In addition, **SRUK Committees** work to achieve specific goals of the society. Currently, SRUK has 5 committees: Fellowships, Scientific, International Symposium, Awards and Mentoring.

### ESTRUCTURA DE CERU

La Sociedad funciona gracias al trabajo de más de 150 voluntarios y voluntarias que hacen posible la consolidación y crecimiento de CERU. Cada año la Asamblea General elige la Junta Directiva, encargada de representar a los socios, desarrollar los objetivos de la sociedad y delinear el plan estratégico de ésta. CERU se divide en ocho Delegaciones Regionales que facilitan la comunicación entre los miembros y entre estos y la Junta Directiva, y que cuenta con una Directiva Local y un Grupo de Trabajo. Así mismo, existen departamentos y comités específicos para trabajar en objetivos específicos.

For more information please contact [info@sruk.org.uk](mailto:info@sruk.org.uk)



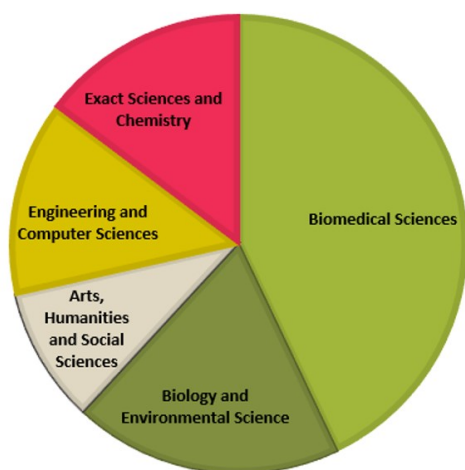
## OUR MEMBERS

In the last few years, the number of members of our society has exponentially increased. On the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017, SRUK counted **700 members**. They are grouped in 8 established constituencies and 2 in the process to be developed. Also, we have a remarkable number of friend members in Spain and other countries.



	Type of Membership	Member %
REGULAR	Spanish Researchers working in the UK	61%
ASSOCIATE	Non-researcher or Non-Spanish working in the UK	7%
FRIEND	Working outside the UK	32%

SRUK welcomes everybody and offers three membership options.



SRUK accommodates all research disciplines. In the last few years, the Society has hugely increased the number of members in several disciplines, such as social sciences and humanities.

## NUESTROS SOCIOS

El número de socios de CERU ha experimentado un aumento exponencial en el último año en todas sus delegaciones. A fecha de 1 de junio de 2017, CERU cuenta con **700 socios** agrupados en ocho delegaciones oficiales y dos por constituir. CERU cuenta con tres tipos de miembros: **socios regulares** (investigadores españoles que trabajan en Reino Unido), **socios asociados** (no investigadores o no españoles que trabajan en Reino Unido) y **amigos** (aquellos no residen en Reino Unido), dando la bienvenida a todo el mundo interesado en ser parte de CERU.

# SCIENCE POLICY

## The Science Policy Committee

Emma Martínez Sánchez (Director)  
 José Manuel Muñoz Felix  
 Fidel Alfaro Almagro  
 Antonio Fernandez Pardiñas  
 Joaquín de Navascués Melero  
 José Antonio Carrillo  
 Eduardo Oliver Pérez  
 Asier Jayo  
 Estrella Luna Díez  
 Mario González Jiménez

## Former members

Virginia Gómez Jiménez  
 Javier Iglesias González  
 Ricard Marxer  
 Lorenzo De La Rica Lázaro  
 Jorge Sotelo  
 Abigail Calzada  
 Ramón Pacheco Pardo  
 Esmeralda Parra-Peralbo

The Science Policy Committee (SPC) was established in November 2014 with the mission to support the development and improvement of Research & Innovation (R&I) systems in Spain and in the UK.

During 2016/2017, the SPC has continued promoting the development of efficient and competitive science policies both in Spain and in the UK. **It has also been working towards dealing with the uncertainty of Brexit.**

## Initiatives in Spain

We have focused in promoting the **R&I recommendations report** that SRUK published in September 2015 for the Spanish general elections. After the new Government was established, in October 2016, we initiated working relationships with all R&I representatives of the major political groups in the Spanish Parliament. We have encouraged discussion regarding avenues for collaboration and have renewed attention to the recommendations published in our report.

With the objective of promoting SRUK recommendations in R&I during the current legislature, we have written opinion articles and featured in several leading papers. Fidel Alfaro Almagro and Emma Martínez wrote '**Señor Presidente, ¿para cuándo la ciencia?**' published in *Hipertextual* to highlight the absence of a Science Ministry in the structure of the new Spanish government. They also wrote '**Tiempo de pactos en ciencia**' (published in *El País*) where they reviewed the science policy pledges shared among main political groups during the past electoral campaign and encouraged those groups to collaborate for the benefit of Spain. The SPC also evaluated the electoral science policy pledges of all political parties during the 2015 electoral campaign. The resulting report, entitled '**Análisis del contenido en política científica de los programas electorales**' seeks to identify consensual measures that with more possibilities of being successfully implemented in Spain.

## EL COMITÉ DE POLÍTICA CIENTÍFICA (CPC)

El CPC de CERU se ha centrado en reactivar el interés en España por su 'Informe de recomendaciones sobre la I+D'. El CPC se ha reunido con los representantes en materia de ciencia de los diferentes grupos parlamentarios en el congreso y ha publicado diversos artículos de opinión. En el Reino Unido, el CPC ha liderado la encuesta sobre los posibles efectos del Brexit en nuestros miembros. En base a la encuesta, se publicó una declaración proponiendo las principales medidas para salvaguardar el sistema de I+D+i en el país y haciendo un llamamiento a la colaboración entre las distintas organizaciones. Como resultado, nos hemos reunido con la Royal Society of Biology, el British Council y con Universities UK, para apoyar a la comunidad científica internacional durante el proceso del Brexit.

## Initiatives in the UK

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016, 51.9% of the British population voted in favour of the UK leaving the European Union. The result of the referendum was unexpected and has prompted a lot of uncertainty among British and EU citizens and scientists.

Science relies on collaboration networks, facilities and subsidies strongly supported by Europe, the SPC led the survey **'The Impact of Brexit in SRUK members'** to know members' views on the potential impact of Brexit in their lives in the UK. From this exercise, SRUK prepared the statement **'A Brexit that works for all'** to communicate the main findings of the survey, to propose four measures to palliate the effects of Brexit and to call for collaboration with other stakeholders. Also, Fidel Alfaro Almagro wrote an opinion article **'Qué será de los científicos españoles con el Brexit'** (published in *El Independiente*) forecasting the options for Spanish scientists in the UK after Brexit. The publication of the survey and statement prompted interesting collaborations with British and Spanish organisations.

We have met with the Royal Society of Biology, the British Council and Universities UK to strengthen the evidence on the EU membership benefits for R&I systems and to foster bilateral agreements to support the R&I system in the UK and other EU countries. Moreover, on June 27<sup>th</sup>, SRUK attended this year's Parliamentary Links Day with the theme of "UK Science and Global Opportunities".



*Dr. Emma Martínez (Science Policy Director), Dr. Estrella Luna (Vice-President) and Dr. María Jiménez (President) representing SRUK during the Parliamentary Links Day 2017.*

# INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

## The International Collaborations Committee

**Nerea Irigoyen** (Director)  
**María Jiménez**  
**Cristina Delgado**  
**Silvia Corrochano**  
**Eduardo Oliver**

## SRUK-ASEICA Sub-committee

**Alba Maiques**  
**Ana Río-Machín**  
**Angélica Santiago**  
**Aida Santa Olalla**

SRUK aims to bridge the collaboration gap between Spain and the UK enhancing the scientific success of both R&I systems.

To achieve this goal, agreements will focus on two key aspects:

1. To provide a collaboration platform that will enhance visibility of research groups and raise awareness of potential partners (through a shared database and networking events between SRUK and Spanish institutions).
2. To facilitate bi-directional mobility of researchers in order to improve career development and attract talent to Spain.

## Partnerships and Collaborations:

During the last couple of years, SRUK have signed different agreements with Spanish institutions (**Red de Universidades Valencianas por el fomento de la I+D**, **Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Aragón** and **Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas de Málaga**). Since last July, when the Department of International Collaborations was officially established, new agreements have been reached leading to different activities:

**Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas** (Spanish National Research Council - CSIC). In May 2017 a networking event to stimulate **Collaboration and Mobility in Research** was held in the Spanish National Biotechnology Centre (CNB, Madrid).

**Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas** (Conference of Chancellors of Spanish Universities - CRUE). The main aim of this agreement is to **facilitate bi-directional mobility** of researchers between UK and Spanish Universities.

**Asociación Española de Investigación sobre el Cáncer** (Spanish Association of Cancer Research - ASEICA). Our agreement with ASEICA enhances **visibility and promotes networking of research groups** between Spain and the UK. We also collaborate with **Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular** (Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology– SEBBM) and SRUK members will enjoy a reduced registration fee in their annual conference.

We are currently in touch with different Spanish organizations to develop further collaborations and in the future we hope to launch our programme **“SRUK On the Move”** providing bi-directional mobility fellowships between the UK and Spain.



## DEPARTAMENTO DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

CERU tiene como un objetivo fundacional ser **intermediario de la Ciencia**, para ello ha buscado y busca establecer acuerdos con instituciones científicas españolas. Estos convenios quieren estimular colaboraciones entre España y Reino Unido que ayuden a atraer fondos internacionales y que promuevan la movilidad entre ambos países. Hasta el momento CERU ha firmado acuerdos con la **Red de Universidades Valencianas por el fomento de la I+D (RUVID)**, la **Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Aragón (IIS Aragón)**, el **Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas de Málaga (IBIMA)**, el **Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)**, la **Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas (CRUE)** y la **Asociación Española de Investigación sobre el Cáncer (ASEICA)**.

# INDUSTRY COLLABORATIONS

Contacts with technological companies and spin-offs: Opening doors to collaborations with industry.

So far, SRUK is collaborating with NIM Genetics and Mind the Byte. They are leaders in their fields with strong R&I departments and SRUK members benefit from webinars provided on recent technological advances and further opportunities for contact with them. SRUK is open to explore mutually beneficial collaborations with other companies too.



[www.nimgenetics.com](http://www.nimgenetics.com)



NIM Genetics participated in the IV and V International Symposium SRUK sharing their experience in the development of a successful spin off company in Spain. They also offered webinars on the state of the art of prenatal and whole exome diagnostic techniques and their implementation in Spain.



[www.mindthebyte.com](http://www.mindthebyte.com)



Mind the Byte provided a hands-on webinar on computational drug discovery and how to use this methodology to find new potential therapies.

## COLABORACIONES CON EMPRESAS

CERU ha colaborado con NIM Genetics y Mind the Byte. Estas empresas son líderes en sus campos y tienen importantes departamentos de I+D. Los miembros de CERU se benefician de webinarios sobre nuevas tecnologías (p.ej., técnicas de diagnóstico genético y ejemplos prácticos de diseño computacional de fármacos) y otras oportunidades para interactuar con estas empresas. NIM Genetics además ha participado en el IV y V Simposio Internacional CERU compartiendo su experiencia en la creación y crecimiento de una spin-off en España. En CERU, estamos también dispuestos a explorar colaboraciones con otras empresas.

For more information please contact [roving@sruk.org.uk](mailto:roving@sruk.org.uk)

## ONLINE

## DEPARTMENT

## The Online Department

Judit García (Director)  
 Laura Carro Santos  
 Pablo Muñoz  
 Olaya Muñoz Azcárate  
 María Barreira  
 Eduardo Oliver  
 Tomás Gonzalo  
 Alejandro Cámara  
 Ana López  
 Diego Alonso  
 Sara Priego  
 Laura Maestro  
 Víctor González  
 Eduardo Gómez  
 Martín Saltocildes  
 Miguel Figueres  
 Alba Maiques  
 Isabel Romero  
 Irene de Lázaro  
 Sara Alvira

## Former members

Saul Herranz Martín  
 Laura García Ibañez  
 Marta Losa Llabata

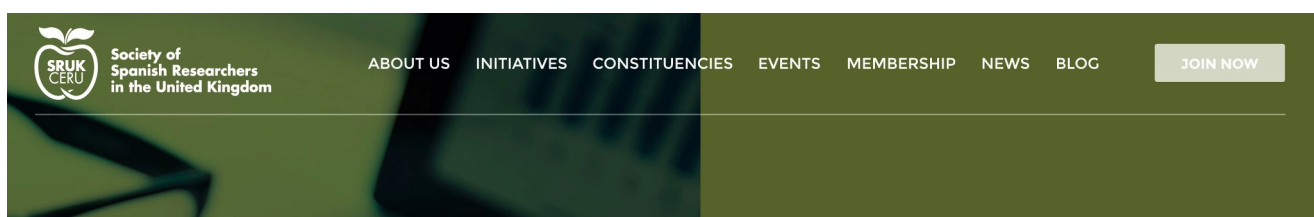
## Opening SRUK to the wide world

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

As of May 2017, the online department of SRUK is composed by 19 volunteers, **working in daily basis**. They are enthusiastic people that update social media and our website for news and activities related to SRUK. Some of them are also regional community managers, who are responsible for advertising events taking place in each specific constituency.

Ever since its foundation in 2011, SRUK has been highly active with our presence in social media. As a result, there has been a continuous increase in the number of followers in the 3 most popular social networks, reaching **4679 followers in Facebook, 2027 in Twitter and 598 in LinkedIn** (Updated May 2017).

In our aim to continue improving our appeal online, **we have redesigned our website and redefined our corporate image**. We hope that this work will enable our members to easily manage their membership profile and finances, register to new initiatives, and be updated with the latest events and activities. The restyling of SRUK will also improve our visibility and reputation to both internal and external audiences.



## EL DEPARTAMENTO DE 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.

Este año hemos rediseñado nuestra página web, dándole un aire más moderno y de navegación más sencilla para nuestros socios. Además, hemos seguido trabajando en cada una de las redes sociales con actualizaciones regulares, con el fin de incentivar la interacción con nuestros seguidores y ampliando el rango de público al que llegamos.

For more information please contact [online@sruk.org.uk](mailto:online@sruk.org.uk)

# PRESS OFFICE

## The Press Office Team

Susana de Lucas Arias (Director)

## En Fase Experimental Radio Program

Ruth García de la Calle (Leader)

Carlos Bricio

Aarón del Campo

Teresa Rayón

Aida Santaolalla Revenga

## SRUKBLOG "1,2,3... Explore!" team

María Barreira González (Leader)

Alba Abad Fernández

Olaya Muñoz Azcárate

## Other Press Office members

Beatriz Baño Otálora, Saray Beltrán, María Jesús Gómez Lamarca, Laura Martínez Maestro, Angélica Santiago Gómez, Margaritha Segovia Roldán

## Former member

Sofía Pérez Vilar

## Communicating science to society

The Press Office is formed by an enthusiastic team of volunteers, with researchers and journalists working together to improve the visibility of SRUK. The SRUK Press Office serves as a link between SRUK researchers, constituencies and departments, the media and the public. We are the main point of contact for journalists at local, national and international level.

In the last year we have issued 14 press releases covering different SRUK activities. Activities such as the SRUK Annual Symposium or the SRUK V Anniversary Seminars Series. Initiatives as the SRUK Emerging Talent Award, the SRUK Travel Grants, Women in Science and the result of the SRUK "Brexit Survey", received interest from the media. From the Press Office, we also monitor and analyse media coverage related to SRUK initiatives.

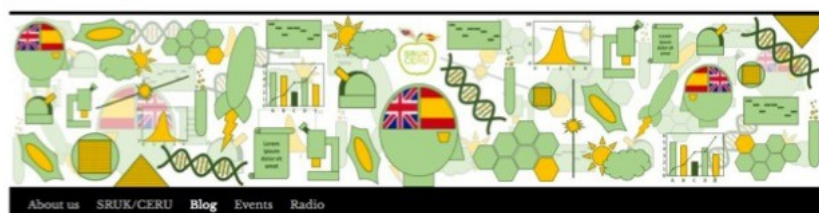


To raise social awareness about science and research, we aim to communicate and disseminate the research of our more than 700 members. With this purpose, we are in contact with the media to facilitate the presence of SRUK researchers and their achievements in Spanish media. In addition, as part of the SRUK outreach programme, the Press Office is in charge of producing the radio program “En Fase Experimental”, and the **SRUK blog 1,2,3... Explore!** The third season of our fortnightly radio programme includes the latest scientific news, future events and members’ interviews, serving as the perfect platform to reach and inspire the general public. Likewise, the **SRUK Blog 1,2,3...Explore!** launched a year ago, aims to promote the public dissemination of the research made by SRUK members. **It has already received more than 10,000 visitors** during this year. Since June 2016, our posts, written both in Spanish and in English, have covered diverse topics: from the Zika virus to the evolution of galaxies, from anthropology to the most innovative technologies. Our blog cover image, designed by Diego Alonso, reflects SRUK multidisciplinary.

The Press Office aims to potentiate the visibility of SRUK not only in the Spanish but in British media, and to build a solid communication strategy for SRUK in collaboration with the Online and Communication Department. In addition, we have an ongoing collaboration with the College of Communication Sciences at the University Jaume I in Castellón (Spain), to promote SRUK corporate identity and a strategic communication plan.

### 1,2,3...Explore!

Researchers Go Public



## LA OFICINA DE PRENSA DE CERU

El departamento de prensa de CERU trabaja para difundir las actividades de CERU y de sus socios en los medios de comunicación del Reino Unido y España. En contacto directo con las delegaciones y los diferentes departamentos de CERU, el departamento de prensa potencia la visibilidad de las iniciativas de CERU en los medios a través de notas de prensa y la publicación de artículos de opinión. De la misma manera, difunde los trabajos de investigación de los socios de CERU tanto en los medios de comunicación como en sus propios canales de divulgación: El SRUK blog **1,2,3... Explore!** y el programa de radio “En Fase Experimental”.

For more information please  
contact [press@sruk.org.uk](mailto:press@sruk.org.uk)

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## SRUK TRAVEL GRANTS 2017

### Members of the SRUK Fellowship Committee:

Javier Escudero (Chair)  
Nerea Irigoyen  
Silvia Corrochano  
Marta Vila Pueyo



*We look forward to launching a new call for Travel Grants in December 2017!*

Get the most out of your time in the UK with the SRUK Professional Development scheme.

In April 2017, for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, SRUK awarded eight members a travel grant to help support the cost of presenting their research at conferences all over the world. To improve the career prospects of our more junior members, we decided to restrict the call to members that do not hold a permanent position. 36 applications were received and evaluated by the SRUK scientific committee on the basis of the applicant's CV, a lay abstract describing their work, and the expected benefit to the applicant from attending the conference.

### The SRUK Travel Grants 2017 awardees are:

Elena Pérez Álvaro  
Enrique Castro Sánchez  
Javier Fernández García  
María Cuenca Cambroner  
María Huete Ortega  
Patricia Bernal  
Paz Arenaga Bou  
Pilar Acedo Nuñez

## TARGET NETWORK

Discussing one's experiences and sharing opportunities with other members in the same situation is very useful for professional development. For this reason, we have launched a new program, Target Networks, to create specific groups that members can join according to their interests.

In May 2017, we created our first Target Network, **Junior Group Leaders**, targeting recently become lecturers (or equivalent position). We set up a private discussion group online and facilitated the face-to-face networking of its members during our annual symposium.

If at any moment you are interested in participating in this group or in helping to set up other networks, write to [roving@sruk.org.uk](mailto:roving@sruk.org.uk).

## CIENCIA UK 2016

This year, SRUK returned to Madrid in November to provide young researchers and students with a view of the professional opportunities in science that the UK offers. In "CienciaUK 2016", SRUK gathered together more than 200 people in the Ramón Areces Foundation. Talks from 12 speakers gave insightful examples of the research career paths in the UK, both in academia and in other science-related jobs, covering a wide range of case studies: from working in industry to science policy or from business development to science diplomacy. This event, which has now been celebrated in Madrid for 3 consecutive years, will continue to bring innovative approaches to foster professional development of Spanish young researchers.



## SRUK WOMEN'S PROJECT 2017

This year we wanted to join the international community to commemorate women's efforts towards gender equality. With this aim and to examine researchers' experiences and perceptions of gender equality we launched the 'Women in Research Survey'. The results of this survey, led by our secretary Rocio Gaudioso, were published in the 'SRUK Women's Project: A Pathway towards gender equality' where we also featured five of our members in our series of personal and professional profiles. We also published Nerea Irigoyen's (SRUK Director of International Collaborations) article entitled 'Ateneas científicas para derrumbar el techo de cristal' in *Materia*.



Some constituencies did not want to miss the opportunity to join and commemorate the 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science' with inspirational talks and seminars by leading women scientist.

Finally, the SRUK membership joined together under the #YoSoyCientíficaCERU hashtag to share and communicate their research with the community.

With the publication of this report, we declare our firm involvement in taking actions to help progress across those aspects where gender parity and equality still need improvement.

## THE SRUK SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The SRUK Scientific Committee participates in scientific evaluations of SRUK initiatives and provides advice to the board of directors on scientific matters. The Scientific Committee evaluates the SRUK Travel Grants, the Young Basque Investigator award, and the abstracts submitted to the SRUK Annual International Symposium.

### Members of the SRUK Scientific Committee

**Javier Escudero (Chair)**, University of Edinburgh, **Virginia Arechavala Gomeza**, BioCruces Health Research Institute, **Pedro Ballester**, INSERM, Marseille, France, **Cristina Delgado**, Protein Pharmaceuticals, **Carmen Domene**, King's College London, **Nuria Ferrándiz Díaz**, MRC-Imperial College London, **Francisco Flórez-Revuelta**, Universidad de Alicante, **Moisés García Arencibia**, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, **Francisco A. González Redondo**, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, **Maria Hernández Fuentes**, UCB Pharma, **Julia Herrero Albillos**, Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza, **Jose Manuel Liñares-Zegarra**, University of Essex, **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.

The scientific committee is renewed periodically. Please contact [roving@sruk.org.uk](mailto:roving@sruk.org.uk) if you want to take part.

# MENTORING PROGRAMME

## The Mentoring Committee

Ana Río Machín (Chair)  
María Jiménez Sánchez  
Estrella Luna Díez  
Patricia Forcén Jiménez  
David Gutiérrez Estévez  
Elena Moreno Martínez

## Former members

Sofía Pérez Villar (Chair July 2016 -  
March 2017)  
Adela Alcolea Medina  
Pablo Capilla Lasheras  
Antonio Uzal

## EL PROGRAMA DE MENTORING

CERU es consciente de los retos a los que los investigadores españoles se enfrentan al desarrollar su carrera profesional en el Reino Unido y por ello hemos diseñado un programa de *mentoring* con el objetivo de ayudar a maximizar sus oportunidades y planificar una carrera exitosa. El programa comenzó en agosto de 2016 con 22 parejas mentor-mentee que desarrollarán su relación de *mentoring* a lo largo de un año. Se han impartido cursos profesionales y gratuitos de formación en *mentoring* y se han ofertado bolsas de viaje, así como un premio de reconocimiento a los mentores más excepcionales. La nueva edición del programa comenzará en septiembre de 2017.

For more information please contact  
[mentoring@sruk.org.uk](mailto:mentoring@sruk.org.uk)

SRUK is aware of the challenges that most Spanish researchers will face when developing their research career in the United Kingdom. Therefore, we have designed a **mentoring scheme** to help and support them to maximize their opportunities and plan a successful career path. **The SRUK Mentoring Programme** benefits from the diverse range of members' skills and fields of expertise, as well as from their previous working experience in the British, Spanish and other international systems.

The Programme started in August 2016 with 36 registered mentors and 22 mentees, all regular or associate members of SRUK. The SRUK mentoring committee performed the matching of 22 mentor-mentee pairs according to their research area and expertise, as well as development needs and career ambitions of the mentee. Mentors and mentees meet at least **once every two months** and these meetings provide support, discuss progress, identify targets and help create plans of action. Mentoring relationship lasts for one year but they can also be renewed.

The SRUK Mentoring Programme have also offered free professional training for mentees (September 2016) and mentors (October 2016) in a webinar format. These training courses covered relevant issues on mentor and mentee benefits, what a mentor should and shouldn't do, how to reflect mentee sessions and other important information such as some guidelines and codes of practice. Also, to facilitate a face-to-face meeting between mentor and mentee, SRUK has offered **Travel awards** covering the mentee or mentor's travelling expenses.

SRUK also wants to recognize the effort and the relevant role of mentors in this Programme. Therefore, at the end of this first year, mentees have been asked to whether they want to nominate their mentors for a **Recognition Award** that rewards mentors that have offered an outstanding performance. We have rewarded 6 members with this Recognition Award.

The first edition of the SRUK Mentoring Programme has been a complete success, which has encouraged us to work on the new edition that will kick off in September 2017, stay tuned for updates!



Mentoring café in Edinburgh

# SRUK AWARDS

## Recognising and fostering Spanish talent in the UK

### Members of the SRUK Awards

#### Committee:

Javier Escudero (Chair)  
Fernando A. Jiménez  
Patricia Gómez Suaga

Currently, SRUK has 3 awards that acknowledge the outstanding work of researchers at different stages of their career. In 2017, we launched the second edition of the Emerging Talent Award and the first edition of the SRUK Young Basque Investigator Award with the support of Fundación Banco Santander and Bizkaia Talent, respectively. We also run the biannual SRUK Lifetime Achievement Award recognising long-standing research trajectories.

## SRUK/BIZKAIA: TALENT YOUNG BASQUE INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Supported by:



[www.scienceplus.es](http://www.scienceplus.es)

For more information please contact  
[international@sruk.org.uk](mailto:international@sruk.org.uk)

This year, SRUK in collaboration with Bizkaia: talent has launched the first edition of the "SRUK/Bizkaia: talent Young Basque Investigator Award". This award aims to recognize and support the professional career of a young Spanish researcher linked to the Basque Autonomous Region who carries out their research activity in the United Kingdom.

This award is **sponsored by Bizkaia: talent** and is framed within their line of action involving the recognition of the international professional career of highly-qualified young Basques, giving young scientists the opportunity to do research in the most innovative areas of the sector through fellowships and special programmes.

There are **three awards**, one of 5,000 € and two of 1,000 €, to cover any aspect which helps to develop the research career of the winner.

The awardees will be announced during the award ceremony that will be held in Bilbao September 2017 during the Science+ meeting.



## ART & SCIENCE AWARDS

Supported by:



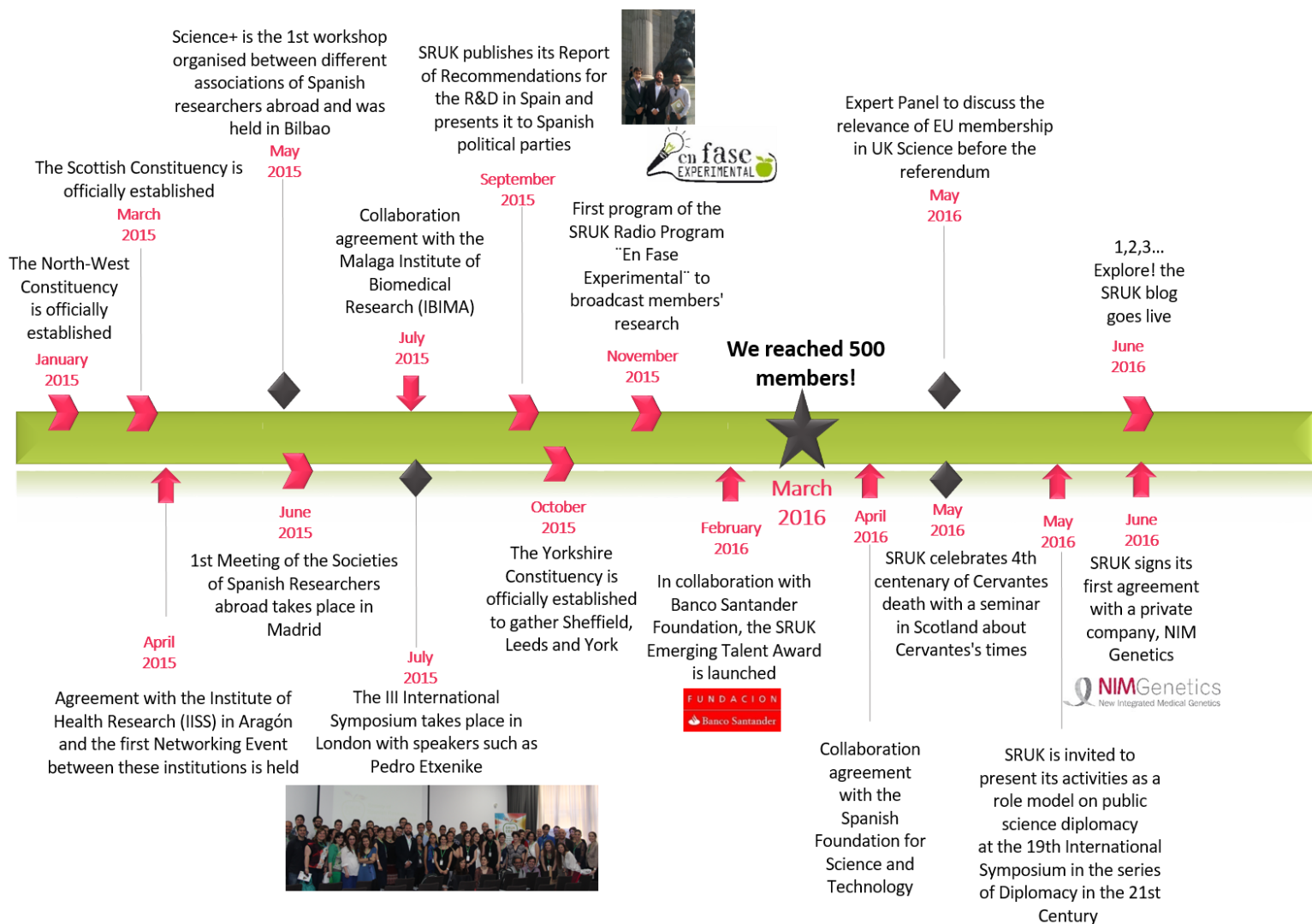
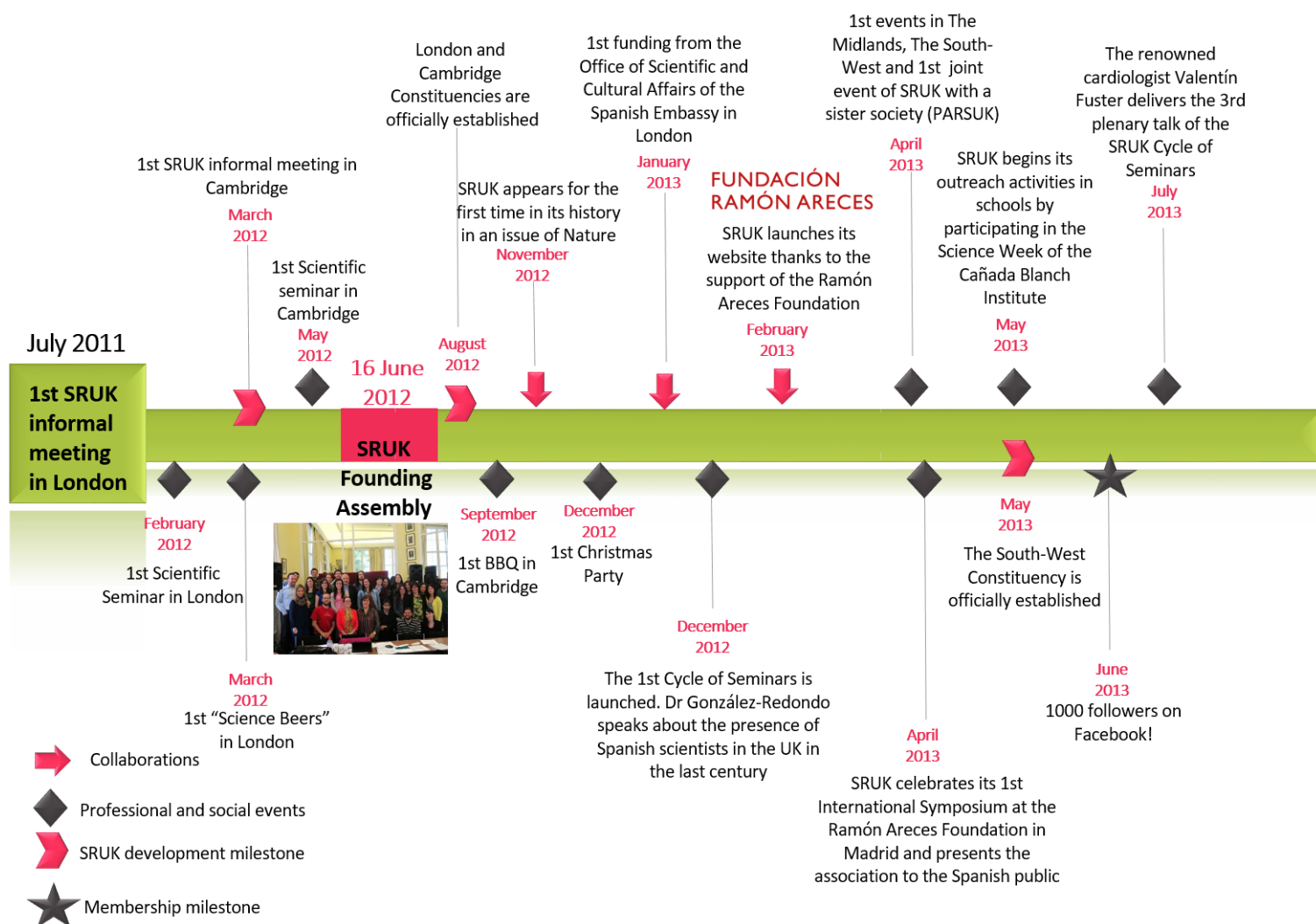
Art & Science initiative has allowed the interaction between eight pairs of artists and scientists. The resulting art creations were exhibited at the Institute "Vicente Cañada Blanch" in London. This event is sponsored by the Ramón Areces Foundation. Prizes of £300, £200 and £100 were awarded by Telefonica Foundation.

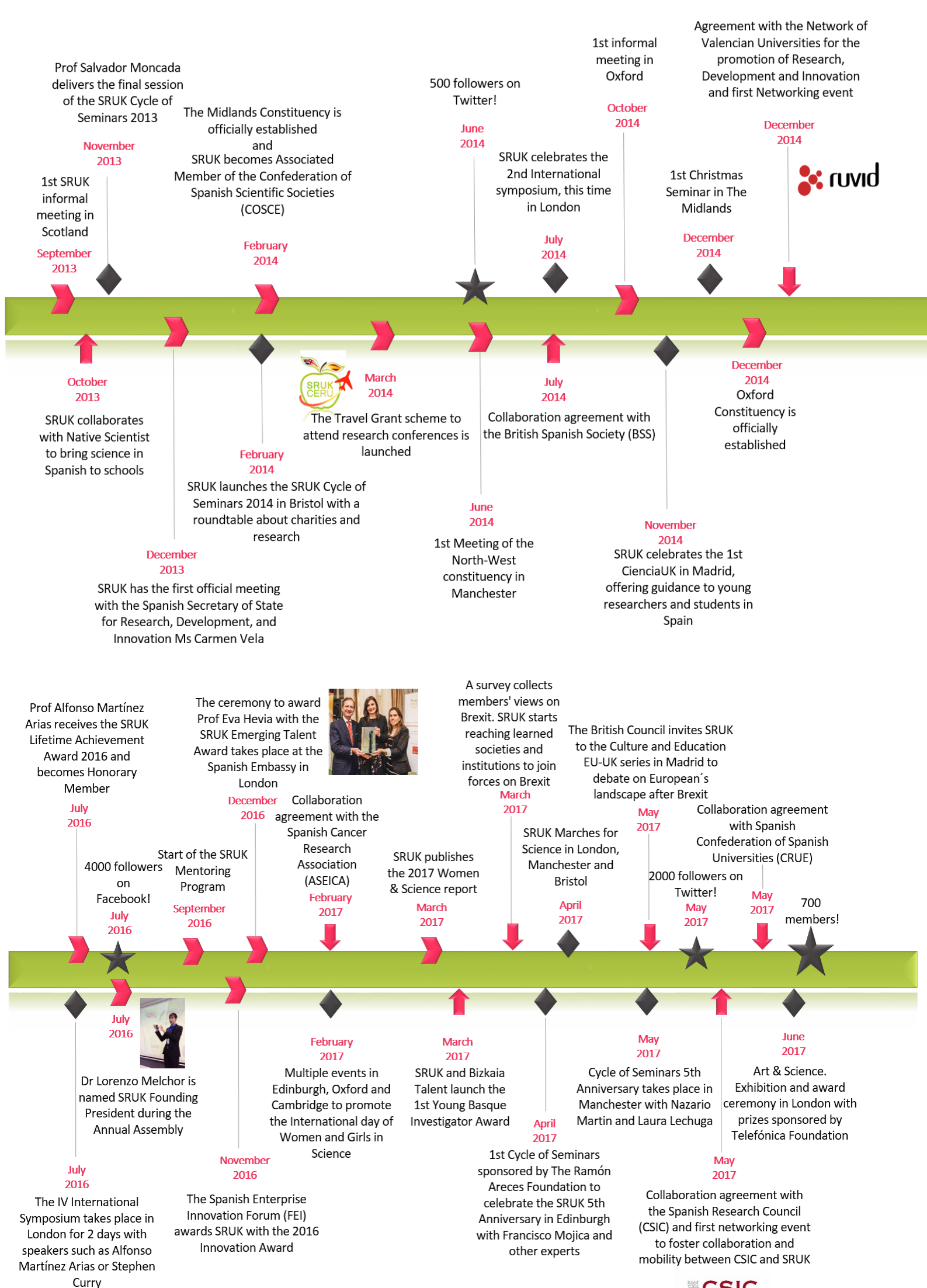


1<sup>st</sup> Prize. "Common Bio" Artist: **Marta Fuster**, scientist: **Tomas Di Domenico**

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize. "Regeneration and Recycling" Artist: **Jane Frost**; scientist: **Ana López**

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize. "Seed dispersal in a Fragmented Landscape" Artist: **Jon Heras**; scientist: **Juan Pedro González-Varo**





# SRUK EMERGING TALENT 2017

Supported by:

FUNDACION

 Banco Santander



We are very pleased to have renewed the support of Fundación Banco Santander, under its “Young Talent” programme, to launch the second edition of the SRUK Emerging Talent Award. The aim of this award is to recognise and support a promising young Spanish researcher who has developed their career in the UK.

The prize consists of **£14,000** to be invested for the development of the awardee’s career, such as research-related tasks, dissemination of recent results, specialised training or family arrangements. This award also seeks to increase the visibility of the winner’s research to both British and Spanish societies.

## Dr. Xavier Moya is the 2017 SRUK Emerging Talent Award

Dr. Xavier Moya’s outstanding research has made ground breaking contributions to his field, Materials Science, and to the development of new eco-friendly alternatives to current cooling systems.

Xavier worked from 2008 to 2012 at the Department of Materials Science & Metallurgy, University of Cambridge, before spending nearly one year as a Ramón y Cajal Fellow at the University of Barcelona. He then returned to Cambridge on 1 October 2013 as a Royal Society University Research Fellow.

Since then, Xavier has started a new research programme on mechanocaloric materials for environment-friendly energy-efficient refrigeration applications, where small changes in applied stress yield large changes in temperature. For this, he has set up an EPSRC-funded (UK) thermal-imaging facility, and an ERC Starting Grant-funded (European Commission) state-of-the-art high-pressure calorimeter facility.

Xavier’s work on functional materials has led to a number of breakthrough results that have been published in high-impact journals, and that have been presented in numerous invited talks at international conferences and workshops. He currently have 70 publications that have been cited over 4680 times.

Xavier will use the prize to build a breakthrough experimental system that will allow him and his team to measure the caloric effects of new materials used in cooling systems. This system will be the first of its kind in the world and will allow the study of new materials with potential commercial applications.

### SRUK Emerging Talent Award 2017 Finalists:

Pau Figueras Barnera  
Susana García López  
María del Carmen Giménez López  
Pablo Lamata de la Orden

### SRUK Emerging Talent Award Evaluation Panel:

**Alfonso Martínez Arias**  
University of Cambridge, (Chair)  
**José Antonio Carrillo de la Plata**  
Imperial College London  
**Javier García Martínez**  
Universidad de Alicante  
**Pilar Gayán**  
Instituto de Carboquímica, CSIC  
**Francisco Guinea**  
Instituto de Ciencias de Materiales, CSIC  
**Laura M Lechuga**  
Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, ICN2-CSIC  
**Ginés Morata**  
Centro de Biología Molecular Severo  
Ochoa, UAM-CSIC  
**Juan Martín Serrano**  
King’s College London  
**José Luis Mascareñas**  
Universidade Santiago de Compostela

Very high-calibre applications were received again this year and were assessed by the designated evaluation panel. Based on their evaluations, the awardee was decided by a jury composed by representatives of SRUK, the Emerging Talent Award evaluation panel, the Banco Santander Foundation, the Ramón Areces Foundation, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT), and the Office of Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom.

For more information please contact [awards@sruk.org.uk](mailto:awards@sruk.org.uk)

# THE IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SRUK

One more year, we got together to share our work with other members in our Annual International Symposium

The IV International Symposium SRUK was held in London on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and it welcomed more than 130 scientists.

## Members of Organising Committee:

Estrella Luna Díez (Chair)  
Fidel Alfaro Almagro  
Francisco Flórez Revuelta  
Judith García González  
Rocío Gaudio Pedraza  
Paco Molina Holgado  
Jesús Monge Álvarez  
Olaya Muñoz Azcárate  
Sofía Pérez Villar  
Ana Río Machín  
María Tomás Rodríguez

On the Saturday session, the symposium hosted Prof. Alfonso Martínez-Arias, Ms. Carmen Vela and Prof. Stephen Curry as keynote speakers. Prof. Martínez Arias presentation, entitled *"The Pyrenees, the Channel and the Ocean (notes on Spanish science from a small island)"*, gave an overview on the science in the UK and Spain from his experience after having lived in the UK for more than 30 years. Ms. Vela introduced the Spanish system of Science and Innovation and the different actions and programs that are being developed to improve the country's research system. Prof. Curry, with his talk *"After the referendum: what's the best we can do for European science?"* presented the current situation of British science after the EU referendum. The three speakers joined in a roundtable entitled *"How much do Spain and the UK weight in the international scientific scale?"*, where they answered questions from the audience. The lively debate focused on how the current Spanish situation affects researchers abroad and what steps should be followed to improve it as well as Brexit. It was an excellent opportunity to have an insight on how political issues are deeply intertwined with the peculiarities of the Spanish research system.

The Saturday session finished with the best oral presentation prizes, awarded to Dr. Paz Vaqueiro and Dr. Ana Río, and the best poster presentation prize given to Samuel Wilkinson and Sam Paplauskas. We also hosted the Life Achievement Award ceremony, where Prof. Martínez-Arias' scientific career was celebrated and recognised.



Members attending to a talk at the IV International Symposium

The Sunday sessions started with the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM). Here, the 2015/2016 President Eduardo Oliver, 2015/2016 Vice-President María Jiménez, the Secretary Beatriz Vega and the Treasurer Francesc Coll, presented an update of all initiatives, events and budget of the past year. Eduardo Oliver remarked the incredible amount of work done by the volunteers that run the Society and thank them for making SRUK possible. To conclude the AGM, the new Board of Directors was elected.

Then, Dr. Enrique Samper and Prof. Rodrigo Quián Quiroga presented two very different and interesting talks. Dr. Samper talked about the establishment of a successful biotechnology company in Spain whereas Prof. Quián brought together science and art with a talk about mental perception.

For the first time, the IV International Symposium offered the attendees the possibility of taking part in a professional development workshop. There were two on offer that run in parallel: "From the Lab to the Market Creative Workshop" and "Science Speed Dating Workshop".

Throughout the event, the symposium also received nearly 40 scientific communications: 10 oral presentations and 29 poster presentations.

The event ended with a moving closing ceremony, where awards were given to the winners of the workshops and Dr. Lorenzo Melchor was appointed as Founding President of SRUK.



*Attendees of the IV International Symposium SRUK*

# LONDON

## CONSTITUENCY

### The London Regional Board

**Sandra Pérez Garrido** (Director)  
**Lorenzo de la Rica Lázaro** (Vice-Director)  
**Diego Alonso Álvarez** (Secretary and Online Manager)

### The London Working Group

**María Eugenia Fuentes Pérez** (Treasurer)  
**María Barreira González** (Press Officer and Online Manager)  
**Esmeralda Parra Peralbo**  
**Irene Etxebarria Altuna**  
**Natividad Garrido Mesa**  
**Amalia Martínez Segura**  
**David Manuel Gutiérrez Estévez**  
**Ana Sancho Medina**  
**Iria González-Becerra**



*The London Regional Board*

### Plans 2017/2018

We will organise a **“Science Funding in the UK”** event, where we will invite managers of the different research councils to explain to our members the science funding landscape in the UK. Of course, we will organise the Welcome Party, Science Pints, etc, as well as the Christmas Lunch that you cannot miss!

London is a world capital that is home to several world leading universities (i.e. Imperial College London, University College London, Kings College, etc.). Its vibrant lifestyle is imprinted in a big and active research community that loves to get involved in science and meeting to discuss about ways to improve science.

### Events 2016/2017

The constituency has organised several successful events such as **Alternatives to Academia**, which is becoming the flagship yearly get together; we invite researchers who left academia to explain what are their jobs like, and how it was to find a job outside academia.

We also organise **“Meet the Scientists”**, where our members explain their research to a non-specialist public, in a relaxed atmosphere. For example, on our last Meet the Scientist, we had two speakers that explained their projects on drug abuse and solar energy in a really understandable way.



*Alternatives to Academia event in London*

Every autumn we organise a Welcome Party to introduce the association to newcomers, as well as to socialise and advertise our activities.

We were also involved in the organisation of **March for Science in London**, where we attended as a group.

Finally, due to our central location, we organise some SRUK-wide events, such as the **Christmas Lunch**, and help in the organisation of the Annual Symposium, that has been celebrated here for the last five years.

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE LONDRES

La delegación de Londres es la más antigua y numerosa de CERU. Desde su posición central, servimos de puente de unión entre el resto de delegaciones, y junta directiva. Contamos con una comunidad científica grande y activa, que colabora en todas las actividades cuyo fin es mejorar la ciencia.

Realizamos actividades destinadas a ampliar las opciones laborales de los científicos, a dar a conocer la ciencia que hacen nuestros miembros al resto del público, así como eventos sociales donde miembros y no miembros pueden interaccionar, hacer networking, y ampliar su red de contactos sociales y profesionales.

# OXFORD CONSTITUENCY

## The Oxford Regional Board

**Pablo Muñoz Rodríguez** (Director)  
**Carmen Sánchez Cañizares** (Vice-Director)  
**Silvia Corrochano** (Secretary until December 2016) and **Carlos Portillo** (Secretary from December 2016 and Treasurer)

## The Oxford Working Group

**Silvia Corrochano**  
**Laura Martínez Maestro** (Online Manager and Press Officer)  
**Fidel Alfaro**  
**David Lopez**  
**Alex Sel**



*The Oxford Regional Board*

## Events 2016/2017

During this year, we held two of our classic scientific mini-symposia, where different members of the constituency presented their research in an informal style. We organised two social events in autumn: a party to welcome new members and a networking day in which the **Southwest Constituency** visited Oxford. This day was organised around two talks by **Dr. Lorenzo Melchor**, scientific representative of the Spanish Embassy, and included a visit to the city, lunch and a pub-quiz. Two of our main events this year were the talks of **Prof. Ilia Galán**, to close the Annual Assembly in December with a delightful talk about the cloning of artworks and the repercussions to society and art perception. Also, early this year **Prof. Sonia Contera** delivered a fantastic talk about her successful scientific career to commemorate **The International Day of Women and Girls in Science**.

We also organised several scientific meetings with invited scientists working in Spain, including **Prof. Pilar Ortiz** (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville) and **Dr. Ildefonso Ruiz-Tapiador** (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid). Also, we organised an event in collaboration with the Oxford University Spanish Society where **Gemma Contreras**, deputy director of the Valencian Institute for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Goods, spoke about the restoration of Sorolla's sketches. Finally, we attended a **joint event with the Midlands, the Northwest and Yorkshire Constituencies**, a welcome party in October and a Christmas Lunch in December.



*The SouthWest and Oxford Constituencies meet up*

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE OXFORD

La delegación de Oxford, creada hace tres años, mantiene un importante número de socios. Entre las actividades que organizamos, cabe destacar dos minicongresos, varios encuentros con científicos españoles de visita en la ciudad y charlas a cargo de profesores de la Universidad de Oxford. Además, organizamos diferentes actividades de carácter social y un encuentro con el responsable científico de la Embajada de España en Londres.

For more information please contact  
[oxford@srug.org.uk](mailto:oxford@srug.org.uk)

## Plans 2017/2018

During the second half of 2017, we will host the last of the seminar series to celebrate the **V Anniversary of our Society**. This seminar will be dedicated to **Ramón y Cajal** and the advances in neuroscience, with invited speakers from the United Kingdom and abroad. We will also organise a roundtable on the **gender gap in science** and will continue to organise several mini-symposia, talks and social events.

# CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

## The Cambridge Regional Board

**Anna Vilalta** (Director)

**Fernando González Zalba** (Vice-Director)

**Carlos González** (Secretary)

## The Cambridge Working Group

**Ana Aviñó**

**Cecilia Huertas**

**María Jesús Gómez** (Press Officer)

**Ana López** (Online Manager)

**Marta Luna**



*The Cambridge Working Group*

## Plans 2017/2018

For next year, we are going to have further exhibitions from “Art&Science, a SRUK initiative” in Cambridge and in Madrid, where the winner couples will present and exhibit their work. We will also hold a seminar about Impact in research and we will continue to have our “Pints ok knowledge. Don’t miss out the opportunity to attend to our well known social gathering: The Cambridge Summer BBQ!

Cambridge has one of the best Universities in the world, which makes it a perfect scenario for research of all kind, discussion and public engagement. The University of Cambridge is the institution with more affiliates that have received a Nobel Prize, 96 in total since 1904.

## Events 2016/2017

We said goodbye to the summer with our traditional **Summer BBQ**, preceded with a college tour. Then, we welcomed autumn with a “Pints ok knowledge”; the intriguing talk “The mechanical force awakens, cooling with solids” given by **Dr Xavier Moya**. We then welcomed the year with a scientist and artist networking event, which was the first round of “**Art&Science, a SRUK initiative**”, aiming to create pairs for a collaborative artistic process. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science was commemorated with a talk from **Dr Deborah Pardo** from the British Antarctic Survey on “What happened when I spent a month in Antarctica with 75 international women scientists determined to change the world”. Also, we hosted a Pint of Knowledge and a barbeque in Norwich, where we met the members of the constituency based in this city. **Dr Fernando González** gave the talk “The Art of Computing with parallel universes: Quantum Computing explained”. In June, we had the closure event of “Art&Science, a SRUK initiative” where we enjoyed the talk of the keynote speaker **Arthur Miller** “The Colliding Worlds of Art, Science & Technology”. We then listen to all the artist-scientist couples about their collaboration and their final piece of arts. We finished the event announcing the 3 winners pairs of the initiative.



*“Art&Science, a SRUK initiative”-*

*Networking event*

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge ha contado este año con actividades muy diversas. Hemos disfrutado las charlas divulgativas “Pint of Knowledge” entorno al enfriamiento mecanocalórico a cargo del Dr Xavier Moya, la computación cuántica gracias al Dr Fernando González-Zalba y el liderazgo de la mujer de la mano de la Dra Deborah Pardo, que nos explicó su experiencia en la Antártida junto con otras 75 mujeres científicas y el proyecto Homeward Bound, enmarcado en el día internacional de la mujer y la niña en ciencia. Hemos podido también despertar nuestra creatividad con “Art&Science, a SRUK initiative” donde artistas y científicos han creado un espacio de entendimiento, creación y aprendizaje mutuo. A nivel social hemos disfrutado también de dos BBQ, en Cambridge y en Norwich.

For more information please contact  
[cambridge@sruk.org.uk](mailto:cambridge@sruk.org.uk)

# THE SOUTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

## The South-West Regional Board

**Sara Alvira de Celis** (Director and Online Manager)  
**Alejandro Lorente Pons** (Vice-Director)  
**Jon Palacios** (Secretary)

## The South-West Working Group

**Zuriñe Antón**  
**Victoria Bueno González**



*The South-West Regional Board*

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE SOUTH-WEST

La delegación del South-West reparte la mayoría de sus socios entre las ciudades de Bristol, Bath, Cornwall y Cardiff. Tras un periodo de inactividad, esta delegación ha realizado con gran éxito durante el último año, eventos de carácter científico (taller sobre Arduino) y sociales/informativos (South-West Battle). Esto ha repercutido en el incremento en el número de miembros nuevos en todas sus ciudades. Esta delegación es espacialmente extensa y abierta, y su punto más fuerte consiste en la diversidad que la forma, lo que permite establecer conexiones entre muchas instituciones a través de su territorio. Esto sin duda ayudará a la formación de nuevas colaboraciones y transferencia de conocimientos.

For more information please contact  
[southwest@sruk.org.uk](mailto:southwest@sruk.org.uk)

The South-West Constituency includes several scientific nuclei throughout the South-West area. Bristol, Bath and Cardiff share the higher number of members and their research diversity and proximity potentiate interaction and networking. We work hard in involving and engaging people from different research areas.

## Events 2016/2017

The South-West Constituency has worked to establish a local Board and a motivated and successful working group. In the **Summer Meeting in 2016**, we could gather an excellent group of new people and draft the lines for the 2017's events calendar. The 24th of September 2016, we travelled to Oxford in a joined **day with our Oxford Constituency**

colleagues, where we enjoyed the city, promoted professional collaborations and exchanged opinions and ideas in a Career Orientation Workshop given by Dr Lorenzo Melchor.

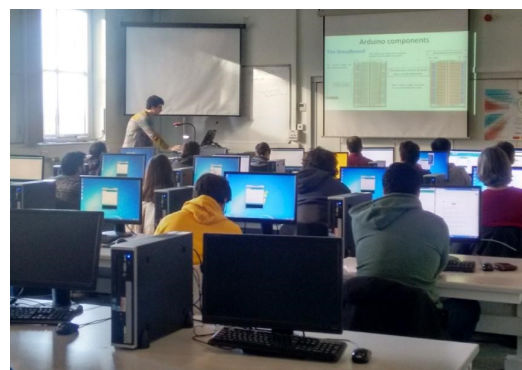
On the 14th January, we organised at Bristol an **Arduino**

**Workshop** with a great attendance, where participants could learn about electronics and robotics. Following the workshop, we elected the new Regional Board. On the 22nd April, the South-West Constituency showed its support to the **Global March for Science** at Bristol. We enjoyed an amazing day of performances and demonstration around the city.

On the 13th May, the first round of **South-West Battle** took place at Cardiff where we could visit the city in a touristic walk followed by a lunch and a pub quiz where the Cardiff team won amazing prizes. All those events and other casual ones have created an excellent atmosphere and collaboration opportunities between our members and friends.

## Plans 2017/2018

In 2017/2018, we have an exciting events' calendar in Bristol, Bath and Cardiff. In September, we will launch the second round of South-West Battle in Bath. In October, we will host in Bristol the Energy Access in refugee camps Symposium in collaboration with the University of Bristol and in December we will have in Bristol the last round of South-West Battle, Christmas dinner and the Annual Regional Assembly.



*Arduino workshop*

# THE MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY

## The Midlands Regional Board

**Daniel Escalera López** (Director from April 2016) and **Xavier Monzó** (Director until April 2016)

**Manuel Daza Martín** (Vice-director and Treasurer)

**Maria Cuenca** (Secretary)

## The Midlands Working Group

**Miguel Ángel Molina**

**Sara Priego** (Online Manager and Press officer)

**Jose Luis Brioso**

**Elsa Martinez**

**Paramaconi Rodriguez**



*The Midlands  
Regional  
Board*

## Plans 2017/2018

One of our main future goals is to engage with more researchers across the Midlands that are keen on joining us. In addition, we also want to develop new **outreaching activities** that will allow us to communicate our work, not only to the scientific community but also to the general public. To do this, we are planning a **workshop in presentation skills** in the autumn.

The Midlands constituency was re-established after the III International Symposium SRUK, and re-structured soon afterwards. Currently, The Midlands constituency encompasses eleven cities and involves more than 25 members. Its dynamic working group is working hard to organise several social and scientific events throughout the year.

## Events 2016/2017

In the past year, we have organised three “**Science in the pub**” events. Our first one commemorated the 400th anniversary of Cervantes’ and William Shakespeare’s death. For such a memorable date, we received a talk from **Dr Francisco A. González Redondo**, lecturer in History of Science at the Complutense University of Madrid. Francisco presented a stimulating talk, where he drew parallel lines between the milestones achieved in both scientific and literary fields for the 1547-1616 period. **Sara Priego**, PhD student from the Institute of Cancer and Genomics Science at Birmingham University, run the second “Science in the pub” in October, where we learned about the mechanism of DNA replication. Finally, our third session was given by **Dr Paramaconi Rodríguez**, Birmingham Fellow at the School of Chemistry at the University of Birmingham in November. He gave a talk about possible sustainable alternatives to petrol and how we could gain advantages from sustainable energy.

We also organised a guided tour to the **Birmingham Botanical Gardens**. For this occasion, **José Luis Brioso Jiménez** gave a tour of around the park where he explained some fascinating wonders about the flora surrounding us. Emphasis was made on the plant’s climate native environments, as well as other non-scientific applications for cooking lovers!

Lastly, to carry on our aim of encouraging networking among the SRUK Midlands members, we organised several dinners as well as our typical Christmas dinner, where enjoyable scientific and non-scientific conversations were the prevailing custom. Also, in June we hosted a fantastic gathering of the Northern constituencies, where we welcomed to Birmingham members from the Northwest, Oxford and Yorkshire Constituencies.

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE LAS MIDLANDS

La delegación de Midlands se formó en abril de 2015 tras la restructuración de las delegaciones del norte de Inglaterra. Desde entonces ha ido aumentando regularmente el número de eventos y de miembros en su delegación. El año pasado realizamos tres “Science in the pub” contando con la presencia de Francisco A. Gonzalez Redondo, de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid, para uno de ellos. Además en el mes de julio de 2016 organizamos una ruta guiada al jardín Botánico de Birmingham y un encuentro de las delegaciones del norte, donde agrupamos a socios del Northwest, Oxford y Yorkshire.

For more information please contact  
[midlands@sr.uk.org.uk](mailto:midlands@sr.uk.org.uk)

# YORKSHIRE CONSTITUENCY

## The Yorkshire Regional Board

**Jacobo Elies-Gomez** (Director from March 2017) and **Javier Iglesias-González** (Director until March 2017)

**Margarita Segovia Roldan** (Vice-Director from March 2017 and Press Officer) and **María Huete-Ortega** (Vice-Director until March 2017)

**Miguel Figueres Esteban** (Secretary from March 2017 and Online Manager) and **Jacobo Elies-Gomez** (Secretary until March 2017)

## The Yorkshire Working Group

**Martín Santocildes Romero** (Online Manager)

**Laura Llorente Rodríguez** (Treasurer)

**Alberto Diego Taboada**

**Belén Rebollo**

The  
Yorkshire  
Regional  
Board



## LA DELEGACIÓN DE YORKSHIRE

Durante este año la delegación de Yorkshire ha desarrollado un productivo programa de eventos a los que han asistido multitud de socios de toda la región, pero también no-miembros de la CERU. Hemos organizado dos talleres de desarrollo profesional (Networking y Comunicación científica a través de Medios Sociales), el popular seminario Navideño centrado en Epigenética y un ciclo de Cinescience en Leeds y Hull. Además, hemos organizado eventos sociales de bienvenida a nuevos socios y divulgación científica. Para finales de este año tenemos previsto una nueva sesión del Cine-science en Sheffield y el cuarto Seminario Navideño.

For more information please contact  
[yorkshire@sruk.org.uk](mailto:yorkshire@sruk.org.uk)

Established in October 2015, the Yorkshire Constituency is currently formed by members working in a wide range of disciplines at the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and York.

## Events 2016/2017

In the last 12 months, the constituency has organised a range of social and scientific events and workshops. We have also launched the highly popular cinema series, “**Cinescience**”, in collaboration with other organisations such as the Royal Society of Chemistry, Instituto Cervantes, and the Society of Biologists.

In September 2016, **Dr Steve Hutchinson** (Hutchinson Training & Development) led an excellence **workshop in networking for academics**, at the University of Sheffield. Six weeks later we organised our social event “Welcome to Yorkshire” and the Annual Regional Assembly in York.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of our traditional **Christmas Seminar** was focussed in “Epigenetics: Beyond DNA Sequence”. **Dr Manel Esteller** (IDIBELL Institute, Spain) and **Dr Ron Chen** (University of Leeds) presented their work on molecular mechanisms of epigenetic regulation underlying human diseases. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 ‘El Abuelo’ (Jose Luis Garci, 1990) was screened at the Instituto Cervantes in Leeds. **Dr Karla Robles** chaired a round table discussion focused in the elderly in current society. In April, **Dr Maria Huete-Ortega** introduced the documentary ‘**Before the Flood**’ (Fisher Stevens and Leonardo DiCaprio, 2016) and chaired a debate around global warming and climate change. This event was hosted by the University of Hull in collaboration with the Royal Society of Chemistry.

One of the biggest events this year was the **workshop on ‘Communicating Science through Social Media’** held in May at the University of Sheffield presented by Dr Rob Baker and Wasim Ahmed. All our events were followed by informal discussion and networking. Additionally, in May 2017 we have collaborated with the British Science Association in the organisation a Science outreach event (The Secret Life of Tomatoes) as part of the **Sheffield Food Festival**.



Social media workshop

## Plans 2017/2018

We are proud to say this year we received very positive feedback from members (and non-members) who attended our workshops. We have planned an exciting Christmas Seminar on TV broadcast and documentary. Also, the last session of Cinescience (Jason Becker: Not dead yet, Jesse Vile, 2012) will be held in October at the University of Sheffield.

# THE NORTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

Covering the North-West area of England, our constituency is currently formed by 40 members. We just said *good-bye* to Irene de Lázaro del Rey, former director who established the group three years ago!

## Events 2016/2017

During this year, we have strengthened our collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester, co-organizing a series of outreach events. In this context, we hosted an event about the **Mediterranean Diet**, where **Dr Antonio Sanchez Porto** (La Linea Regional Hospital, Spain) explained the benefits of this diet. Also, Julio Ríos de la Rosa (PhD candidate, University of Manchester) talked about **"Hyaluronic Acid: From beauty creams to targeted anti-cancer therapies"**, discussing the benefits of hyaluronic Acid for the delivery of anti-cancer drugs.

Networking and meeting other Spanish researchers are our main objectives. We organized a **pre-Christmas reception**, to welcome new members and present our Society and activities. We joined the **March for Science** that took place all over the world the 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Finally, in May we celebrated the second of the V Anniversary seminar series, **"Tiny Science – Nanotechnology and its applications"**. In the Instituto Cervantes, we brought together world-renowned researchers such as **Prof Nazario Martín** (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain), **Prof Laura Lechuga** (Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, ICN2, Spain) and **Prof Nicola Tirelli**

(University of Manchester) to discuss the future and applications of nanomaterials and nanomedicine. During the day, the audience (over 50 attendees) learnt about the potential use of nanocarriers for drug delivery to specific organs by Prof Tirelli; the amazing work of Prof Martín using carbon nanostructures to fight Ebola virus; and Prof Lechuga highlighted their relevance in the diagnosis and follow-up of diseases using personalized nanodevices. Finally, in June, we joined our neighbour Constituencies, Yorkshire and Midlands, in their events to promote networking and impact of SRUK activities across the UK.

## The North-West Regional Board

**Alba Maiques-Díaz** (Director from March 2017 and Online Manager) and **Irene de Lázaro** (Director until March 2017 and Online Manager)  
**Angélica Santiago-Gómez** (Vice-director and Press Officer)  
**Itziar Peñafiel** (Secretary from April 2017) and **Pelayo García-Gutierrez** (Secretary until April 2017)

## The North-West Working Group

**Isabel Romero-Camarero** (Online Manager)  
**Irene Lázaro del Rey** (Community Manager)  
**Beatriz Baño** (Press Officer)  
**Carmen Arpa Sacristán** (Treasurer)  
**Pablo Palazón**  
**Paz Arenega Bou**  
**Gloria López-Castejón**  
**Laura Castanar Acedo**  
**María Pin Nó**  
**María Morlan**

The North-West Working Group



March for Science in Manchester

## Plans 2017/2018

We will continue co-organizing outreach activities with the Instituto Cervantes, and we aim to expand the topics and areas of research covered. We are planning a workshop in science communication and our first event in Liverpool!

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE NORTH-WEST

Este año hemos consolidado nuestro acuerdo con el Instituto Cervantes de Manchester para organizar conjuntamente eventos de divulgación. Para conmemorar el 5º aniversario de CERU organizamos un seminario de un día de duración sobre las aplicaciones y el futuro de la Nanotecnología, donde contamos con la presencia del Prof. Nazario Martín León (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), la Prof. Laura Lechuga (Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia) y el Prof. Nicola Tirelli (Universidad de Manchester), expertos reconocidos mundialmente. Participamos, además, en la March for Science en Manchester y organizamos un evento pre-navideño para favorecer el networking entre los investigadores del Noroeste y presentar nuestras actividades.

For more information please contact [northwest@sruk.org.uk](mailto:northwest@sruk.org.uk)

# SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY

## The Scotland Regional Board

**Nerea Alonso López** (Director)  
**Eduardo Gómez Castañeda** (Vice-Director and Online Manager)  
**Jesús Monge Álvarez** (Secretary)

## The Scotland Working Group

**Pablo Casaseca** (Treasurer)  
**Maria Alba Abad** (Press Officer)  
**Juan Suarez**  
**Mario Gonzalez**  
**Natalia Torreá**  
**Beatriz Larraz**



*The Scotland Regional Board*

## LA DELEGACIÓN DE SCOTLAND

Durante este año, la delegación de Escocia ha llevado a cabo varios eventos orientados a mejorar la carrera investigadora, incluyendo un taller sobre diferentes oportunidades en academia y varias charlas comparando los distintos sistemas educativos. El papel de la mujer en ciencia también ha estado representado en uno de nuestros eventos más populares. Sin duda el seminario organizado sobre la aplicación de la técnica CRISPR, donde contamos con la presencia de su descubridor, tuvo gran acogida, con más de 100 asistentes. Además, llevamos a cabo distintas actividades sociales, incluyendo la tradicional comida navideña. Durante 2017/2018 se realizará un taller de colaboración entre industria y academia, así como otras actividades lúdicas.

For more information please contact  
[scotland@sruk.org.uk](mailto:scotland@sruk.org.uk)

The Scotland Constituency was officially established in March 2015, becoming the second largest constituency in SRUK, with 78 members up to date.

## Events 2016/2017

In October 2016, **Dr Sara Shinton** conducted the workshop **"Making the most of academic opportunities"**, about how to improve our professional career as researchers/academics in the UK. In the same month, Prof Francisco Gonzalez Redondo gave us a lecture about **"Science in Cervantes and Shakespeare's times: 1547 – 1616"**, to conclude our celebration of Cervantes' year. In November, to provide some information on the differences between the academic models used in Scotland and in Spain, we invited Prof Neil Spurway, Prof Enrique Alegre and Dr Pablo Casaseca.

Informal networking has followed all our scientific events. Besides, we have also organised social events, including the **"Scottish Walk of fame: a day with the most relevant Scottish scientists in History"**. In November, Dr Mario Gonzalez and Dr Alba Abad, two members of the working group, led tours around Edinburgh and Glasgow, an opportunity to discover the city's history and to welcome new researchers in town. We finished the year with our traditional Christmas meal, bringing together more than 30 members.

We started 2017 joining the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, with the talk **"Science is**

**also a girl thing"**, given by Prof Eva Hevia (SRUK Emergent Talent 2016 winner) and Dr Fiona Henriquez. To date, our most important event took place in April 2017: **"From food to babies: what CRISPR can do for you"**. It was the first of the seminar series to commemorate the V Anniversary of our Society. **Prof Francisco Martinez Mojica** was the keynote speaker, accompanied by **Prof Bruce Whitelaw**, **Dr Antonella Fidanza** and **Dr Sarah Chan**. More than 100 delegates attended the event, which included poster tours and a mentoring café. Two SRUK members were awarded a travel grant. A number of networking opportunities were provided during the day, including lunch, drinks reception and dinner.



*V Anniversary Seminar about CRISPR*

## Plans 2017/2018

We are planning similar initiatives for the following year, including a networking event with industry between October and December, and some social events, like a day trip to the Trossachs and an informal meeting for scientists and artists to establish collaborations.

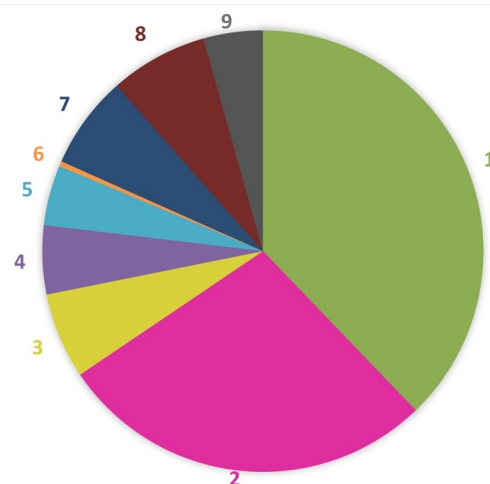
# ECONOMIC REPORT

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, the Board has presented proposals and applied to specific calls to public and private institutions. It is thanks to our supporters that SRUK has developed an ambitious range of activities. **Our main supporter is the Fundación Ramón Areces that contributed to 38% of our income.**

## Income

1	Fundación Ramón Areces	£30,026	37.82%
2	Fundación Banco Santander	£22,021.6	27.73%
3	Fundación Telefónica	£5,000	6.30%
4	OCSA—Embassy of Spain in the UK	£4,000	5.04%
5	FECYT	£3,500	4.41%
6	Centre for Genomic and Experimental Medicine (CGEM)	£300	0.38%
7	SRUK Membership Fees 2017	£5,400	6.80%
8	SRUK Membership Fees 2016	£5,700	7.18%
9	Surplus Budget 2016	£3,453.3	4.35%

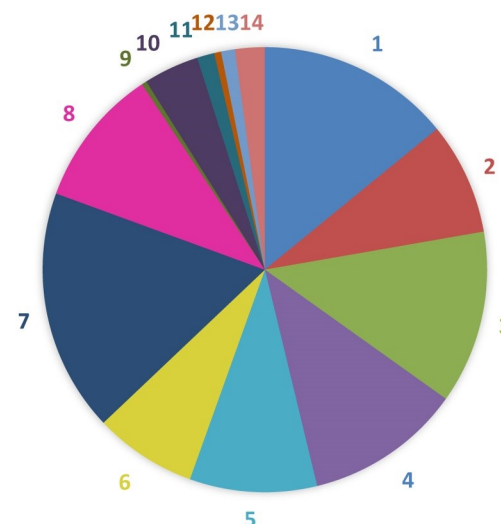
Total £79.4K



## Expenditure

1	Seminars and Outreach Event 2017	£11,200	14.11%
2	Workshops 2017	£6,475	8.15%
3	V Annual Symposium	£10,000	12.59%
4	CienciaUK	£9,026	11.37%
5	Art & Science Event 2017	£7,351	9.26%
6	Web	£5,920	7.46%
7	Emerging Talent Award Price	£14,000	17.63%
8	Emerging Talent Award Ceremony and associated costs	£8,021.6	10.10%
9	Marketing	£300	0.38%
10	Travel Grants 2017	£3,200	4.03%
11	Mentoring	£1,000	1.26%
12	Travel Boards of Directors	£400	0.50%
13	Others	£800	1.01%
14	Surplus 2017 (Fees 2017)	£1,707	2.15%

Total £79.4K



Our income has increased by 63% with respect to last year. Nevertheless, we continue operating with **an efficient economic policy**, that is, we try to make the most out of the income received.

For more information please contact [treasurer@sruk.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@sruk.org.uk)

# STRATEGIC PLAN

SRUK has achieved many objectives as a Society. However, things move on and priorities change, and as we grow, we also want to set new strategies that will **broaden our horizons**. To support the plans described below, we will seek to increase the number of funding partners, specially from British organisations.

## OBJECTIVE 1: Scientific and Social Network

### On-going and immediate plans

Grow in number of regular and associate members: reach senior researchers and students  
Webinar on how to use the members directory  
Establish the constituency of The North East  
Second round of the Mentoring Programme  
Target Networks: Junior Group Leaders

### Long-term plans

Open newsletters for non-members  
Improve communication and collaboration between our members through the new website  
Establish the constituency of Northern Ireland  
Target networks: Social Sciences and PhD students  
Support and administrative staff for SRUK

## OBJECTIVE 2: Science Outreach

### On-going and immediate plans

New website and corporate identity  
Consolidation and increased impact of outreach events (i.e. "Science in the Pub", "CineScience", "Art and Science" and city festivals)  
Collaboration with the British Science Association  
Second edition of the SRUK Emerging Talent Award and first Young Basque Investigator Award

### Long-term plans

Develop collaborative agreements for outreach initiatives with British Societies  
Develop and consolidate science outreach activities in schools  
Increase our presence in major science festivals (e.g. Pint of Science, Science Week)  
Increase and consolidate our presence in the British media

## OBJECTIVE 3: Science Representatives

### On-going and immediate plans

Establishment of a SRUK Ambassador in Spain  
Develop a strategy regarding Brexit: surveys, case-studies, "Brexit Watch"  
Meetings with Spanish political parties  
Representation in the March for Science and similar initiatives

### Long-term plans

Impact British governmental decisions regarding Brexit  
Consolidate as an agent of public Science Diplomacy  
Federation of Societies of Spanish Researchers abroad  
Establish contacts with British research policy makers  
Serve as science policy advisors in Spain and in the UK

## OBJECTIVE 4: Science Mediators between Spain and the UK

### On-going and immediate plans

Seek to promote the interaction with companies in some of our most important events  
More collaborations with British and Spanish scientific societies (ASEICA, RSEF, SEBBM, etc.)  
More agreements with Universities and Centres to stimulate collaborations and mobility (RUVID, CSIC, CRUE)  
Online database to facilitate collaborations with our corporate partners

### Long-term plans

Academia-Industry exchange scheme  
International Mobility Fellowships: *SRUK On the Move*  
PhD Fellowships  
Undergraduate Summer Internships

# OUR MAIN SUPPORTERS

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom wishes to thank our 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 is able to offer its membership a whole range of activities and benefits year after year.

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 the 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 and professional development workshops all over the country) and our Annual International Symposium for five consecutive years. This year the Foundation has strengthened its support by sponsoring the V Anniversary Seminar Series and the highly ambitious 3-days International Symposium. Moreover, every year we organise together 'Ciencia UK', a career advice workshop in Madrid. Finally, for the third consecutive year, the Foundation is supporting an annual meeting between the different societies of Spanish Researcher abroad.



### Banco Santander Foundation

Banco Santander Foundation, the sponsor of the Emerging Talent Award 2016, is committed to supporting 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 organise 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 second edition of the SRUK Emerging Talent Award in 2017. With this award, we want to recognise the work of a young Spanish researcher who has developed her/his career in the UK.



### Spanish Embassy in UK

The Spanish Embassy in the UK was the first to have an Office for Culture and Scientific Affairs (OCSA) and SRUK has received its support 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 to the celebration of the events to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SRUK. Their institutional support has been crucial to reach both Spanish and British institutions, to find and secure potential sponsors and to promote our activities. Also, in the light of news such as Brexit, the support of the Spanish Embassy has been especially important to maintain our membership updated of new developments, including meetings at the Embassy to inform on how Brexit could affect Spanish residents.



### Telefonica Foundation

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Telefonica Foundation collaborates with the Art & Science, a SRUK initiative. This activity brings art and science together to increase the awareness of the importance of science.

Through their projects and in collaboration with other institutions, Telefonica Foundation supports social, educational and cultural projects. Together with SRUK, the Foundation promotes the Art and Science initiative with the awards of the best artworks and by showcasing the winners art pieces during the 2017 Science Week, in Madrid.



### Bizkaia Talent

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Bizkaia:talent sponsors the “SRUK/Bizkaia:talent Young Basque Investigator Award” that aims to recognize the professional career of a young Spanish researcher linked to the Basque Autonomous Community who carries out his/her research activity in the United Kingdom. This award is framed within Bizkaia:talent’s line of action that recognizes the professional career of highly-qualified young Basques and gives young scientists the opportunity to do research in the most innovative areas of the sector through fellowships and special programmes.



### Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology

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Created in 2001, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is a public foundation dependent of the Spanish Ministry of Economic Affairs and Competitiveness. Among the activities to move forward science, technology and innovation, FECYT offers support to the societies of Spanish Researchers abroad, including SRUK. FECYT facilitates an online platform that SRUK uses to showcase webinars to members. Since April 2016, as part of a collaboration agreement, FECYT supports outreach activities organized by SRUK such as the attendance of speakers to the seminars of the V anniversary of our Society. FECYT has supported the SRUK Annual Symposium for the last three years. This year FECYT has also sponsored the attendance of speakers to the seminars of the V Anniversary of our Society.

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



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

