



Society of
Spanish Researchers
in the United Kingdom

Annual Report

JULY 2019 - JULY 2020

SRUK / CERU

Informe anual
JULIO 2019 - JULIO 2020

Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom
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London, July 2020



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

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends of SRUK,

This has not been a usual year! In all the years that SRUK has been around, members and volunteers have had to deal with unexpected challenges that have provided us with many learning opportunities and have shaped the Society to what it is now. Of all unexpected challenges, an international public health crisis tops the ranking!

I look back at the past few months and I am truly amazed and grateful for the passion and enthusiasm that our members and volunteers have shown in these trying times. More than 150 volunteers, including the 17 members of the Board of Directors, have worked tirelessly to continue delivering our activities and implementing our vision. Even as we had to adapt to new ways of working, the quality and impact of our initiatives have not diminished one bit and to that, I can only say the biggest 'thank you!'

I am extremely proud of having had the chance to chair SRUK this year. We have grown in the number of members, continue delivering our flagship initiatives and events and strengthening our relationships with key actors in Spain and the United Kingdom. Our role as a society that facilitates contacts between researchers in both countries, supports relationships among its members and brings the gap between society and research will be even more important in the following years, as the aftermaths of the current public health crisis and the impacts of Brexit are more noticeable.

I sincerely hope that you will find these pages interesting and will enjoy reading what SRUK has been up to this year. Personally, I would like to highlight the following achievements:

- We have published the 'SRUK Survey on Gender Equality in Research' and we presented the main conclusion in Madrid, in collaboration with Cotec Foundation. The results of this survey were published in Plos One, being this the first SRUK peer-reviewed paper!
- We hosted the first of a series of Cancer Research Networking events in Manchester to promote a European network of young researchers within the cancer research field. A second event in Madrid had to be postponed due to the pandemic and we hope to be able to welcome all of you soon!
- We have run the 3rd edition of Science-me a Story with more than 200 submissions from all over the world! Some very exciting developments are underway, so keep an eye on this in the following months.
- We have adapted well to new ways of working and hosted several events and webinars online (even a couple of social events!). Professional development webinars such as the Phyton courses, the VIII Oxford Minisymposium or the 2nd SRUK LGTBIQ+ Day were all hosted online with great success.



Rocío Gaudioso Pedraza

- We are still monitoring very closely the effects of Brexit on our members. We have run a survey to understand how it will impact the research community. We have continued our close collaboration with other European research diasporas to send a unified message to different institutions and key stakeholders.
- We have continued to support our member's careers and recognised their research excellence by awarding 10 'SRUK Travel Grants' and the 5th edition of the 'SRUK Emerging Talent Award'. Our mentoring programme keeps getting stronger, currently facilitating 40 pairs and continuing being an example of fostering good mentorship relationships.
- We have been working very hard on a recommendation report for the Spanish R&D system, to be published later in 2020.
- We have continued supporting our members' professional development by widening our offering of workshops and courses, such as the statistics for research course or the Python webinars.
- We have also been very busy behind the scenes. A massive effort has been done this year to bring to fruition the vision of a more user-friendly website that helps our members find and make the most out of SRUK opportunities.

We have also invested in a more sustainable future for our society by working to future proof our bylaws and operations guidelines. We hope that these changes will bring a more robust infrastructure to help us continue growing and delivering our high impact initiatives.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to our collaborators and sponsors, who have been incredibly supportive and accommodating to cancellations and last-minute changes to our plans. In particular, I would like to mention the Fundación Ramon Areces, the Fundación Banco Santander, the Spanish Embassy in London and its Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, Fundación Lilly, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology, and the Manchester Cancer Research Centre. Their support helps us achieve our mission and we are very proud to share our passion for research and society with them. I can only say that this has been a very intense and interesting year. From a personal point of view, my term as President of SRUK ends in the anniversary of the fifth anniversary of my first involvement with SRUK, when I joined the organising committee of the IV SRUK International Symposium.

I look back at what we have achieved during these years and I cannot help but feel an enormous sense of pride of having had the opportunity to contribute my grain of sand, in the company of an incredible group of people. I will always feel very grateful for this opportunity, that has taught me so much, both personally and professionally, and that have given me some very cherished friends. I know for a fact that SRUK remains in the best possible hands with a Board of Directors full of ideas and enthusiasm to lead the society to the next step. I am very looking forward to seeing what the future will bring to SRUK, while I admire with pride from a safe distance.

Un abrazo



Rocio Gaudioso Pedraza, President of SRUK/CERU 2019/2020

For more information contact president@sruk.org.uk

WHAT IS SRUK AND WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK) is a non-profit, independent 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 y la investigación al público en general.
3. Ser los portavoces de los investigadores 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 2019/2020, more than 125 members have actively participated in our departments, working groups and committees, which is what makes possible the Society as it is today.

SRUK is managed by the **Board of Directors**, formed by 17 directors representing all our SRUK members. They work together to pursue the aims of the Society and define the strategic plan for the coming years. The directors in charge of the general management and the different departments are elected during the Annual General Assembly. In addition, SRUK is organised in eight established Regional Constituencies across the UK and the directors of these constituencies are also part of the Board and elected by their local members. This facilitates the direct communication between our members and the Board. We also count with Ambassadors in Spain, who are our main link and represent our members there.

Many volunteers are part of our departments, working groups and committees. SRUK counts with four departments: **International Collaborations, Science Policy, Press and Communications**. Also, each constituency has a **Local Working Group** to shape their regional activities and events. In addition, **SRUK committees** work to achieve specific goals of the Society. Currently, SRUK has seven committees: Fellowships and Awards; Scientific; International Symposium; Mentoring; Women, Equity and Research; Science-me a Story, and EnFoco.

As in previous years, we have grown, achieved goals and consolidated ourselves as a key player within Spain and the UK. As always, we welcome any member interested in participating actively on board of our amazing team of volunteers!



ESTRUCTURA DE CERU

La Sociedad funciona gracias al trabajo de más de 125 voluntarios y voluntarias que hacen posible el crecimiento y la consolidación de CERU. La Junta Directiva es la encargada de representar a los socios, desarrollar los objetivos de la Sociedad y delinear el plan estratégico de la misma. Cada año la Asamblea General elige los directores administrativos y de los departamentos. Además, CERU se divide en ocho Delegaciones Regionales cuya Directiva Local, elegida a nivel regional, también forma parte de la Junta Directiva. Así se facilita la comunicación entre los socios y la Junta Directiva. Los voluntarios de CERU participan en los grupos de trabajo de las delegaciones, en los departamentos y en los distintos comités, que desarrollan objetivos específicos de la Sociedad.

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



Board of Directors



Committees

Fellowships & Awards
Wom=n Equity & Research
Scientific Committee

Science-me a story
Mentoring
Annual Symposium

Members

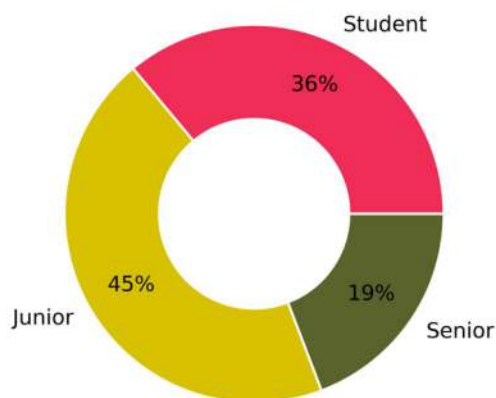
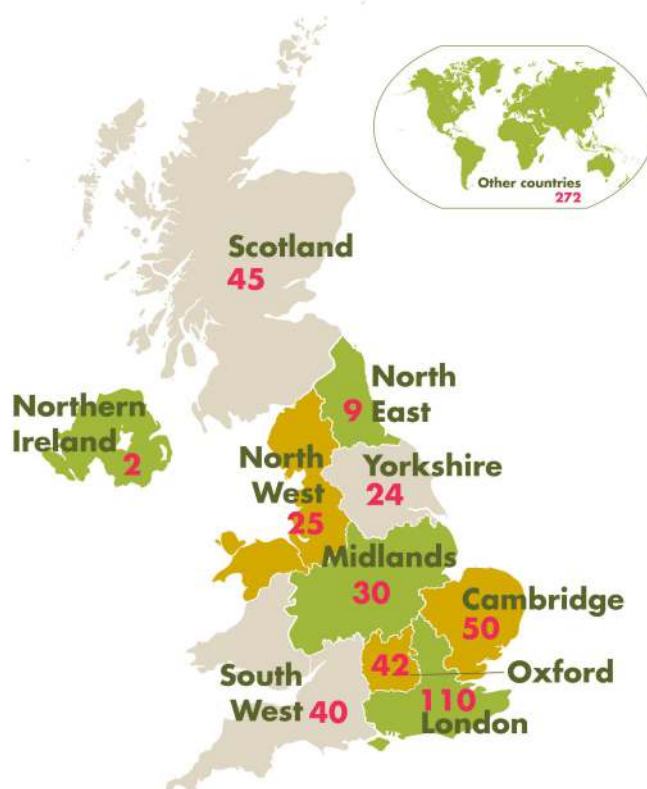
Regular
Friends

Associated
Honorary

OUR MEMBERS

SRUK has reached a state of maturity and maintained its community of **over 700 members** during the course 2019-2020. They are grouped in eight established constituencies and two in the process of being developed. Also, we have a remarkable number of friend members in Spain and other countries.

Type of membership	Description	%
Regular	Spanish researchers working in the UK	43 %
Associate	Non-researchers or Non-Spanish working in the UK	3 %
Friend	Working outside the UK	54 %



Type of regular membership



SRUK accommodates all research disciplines and career stages. Most of our academic members are in the "career consolidation stage", between being a PhD student and an independent group leader. We also count with members working in industry and in the public sector.

NUESTROS SOCIOS

El número de socios de CERU se ha mantenido estable en más de 700 miembros durante el curso 2019-2020, 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 (fuera del Reino Unido), dando la bienvenida a todo el mundo interesado en ser parte de CERU.

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

SCIENCE POLICY

Science Policy Department

Pablo Izquierdo (Director)
 Rocío Gaudioso Pedraza
 Carmen Sánchez Cañizares
 Francisco Martín-Martínez
 Diego Sainz de la Maza
 Isabel López-Neira
 José Pedro Manzano
 Fernando Jiménez
 Javier Pardo
 Carlos Fresneda
 Sergio Pérez
 Javier Escudero

In the Science Policy Department, we identify and work with key stakeholders both in Spain and the UK – including researchers, officials, parliamentarians and the media – and seek to inform decisions with our reports and evidence submissions.

At SRUK, we have taken and continue to take an active role in defending the interests and rights of Spanish researchers – both during the Brexit negotiations and beyond. We also perform impartial analysis and provide recommendations to foster the Spanish R&D system, based on our perspective from within the British system. We have established a good working relationship with journalists, officials and politicians. This included media appearances in *El País*, *Cuatro*, and *Diario Médico* and *Research Fortnight* to discuss the effects of Brexit or concerns about the Spanish Higher Education System.

Last summer, through a collaboration with the **Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)**, we organised a workshop on delivering research impact at the UK Parliament. Policy-making is no doubt a complicated process, and research and scientific evidence is only one element, but we believe that building bridges between researchers and policy-makers can lead to improved policies.

In August 2019, after following cases of members who struggled with the Spanish Higher Education Assessment and Accreditation system, and subsequent discussion with officials, we published a report on the obstacles faced by UK-based researchers when applying for **accreditation by Spain's agency ANECA**. Our report described these problems and included suggestions to improve the application procedure by making it more transparent, efficient and amenable to international applications.

Since then, we have focused our efforts on writing a **new report of science policy recommendations**, which we are expecting to publish soon and present to representatives from the Spanish government and main political parties. This report features recommendations on funding and management, research and career support, as well as a request for a political pledge on long-term R&D investment and strategy and a chapter on research culture. We have taken an innovative approach, which stemmed from an **'Ideas lab'** we organised last year to get an initial round of input from people at various career stages, and both from within and outside of academia. Likewise, during the last stages of preparation of the report, we have requested feedback to relevant stakeholders – both Spanish and international – from various disciplines and complementary expertise.

Finally, in the context of **Brexit** we have remained vigilant about events and close both to SRUK members and to the wider diaspora community. We continued to engage with politicians, holding meetings with officials from the Embassy of Spain and with MEPs where we discussed the main concerns for SRUK members, including the settled status and visa schemes. Now that the UK is no longer a member of the EU as of the 31st of January 2020, a transition period will run until the end of the year while further negotiations take place. For SRUK, it remains important to know what impact this process has had on our community. To gather updated information to guide our future activities on Brexit, we conducted a new survey in March and have now published the results.

All our activities, reports and statements can be found on our website.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE POLÍTICA CIENTÍFICA

Desde el Departamento de Política Científica de CERU, interaccionamos con distintos actores en España y Reino Unido para defender los intereses de los investigadores españoles en ambos países. Continuamos haciendo encuestas y reuniéndonos con políticos y medios con respecto al Brexit, y estamos ultimando un informe de recomendaciones en materia de política científica que creemos mejorarían el sistema español de I+D+i.

For more information contact sciencepolicy@sruk.org.uk

5th MEETING OF THE SPANISH NETWORK OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION DIPLOMACY AND RAICEX

At the end of September, representing **SRUK**, Rocío Gaudioso Pedraza as President, and Carmen Sánchez Cañizares, as Vice-president attended the meeting about Scientific Diplomacy co-organized by **Ramón Areces Foundation** and the **Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology** (FECYT) with the **Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities**, representatives from **Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID)** and **RAICEX**. The meeting, which took place in the headquarters of Ramón Areces Foundation in Madrid, brought together the 16 associations that constitute the Red de Asociaciones de Científicos e Investigadores Españoles en el Exterior (RAICEX). Officially established last year, it currently represents more than 3,700 Spanish researchers and scientists abroad. The RAICEX Board of Directors is currently composed of ECUSA - USA (Alicia Pérez) as President, CED - Denmark occupies the Vice-presidency (Paula Fernández), ACES - Sweden the General Secretariat (Hugo Gutiérrez) together with a base in Spain (Eva Ortega), and RECEMEX - Mexico the Treasury (Marta Martín).

This meeting was an unbeatable framework for transmitting in person the concerns of our communities to the R&D agents in Spain. On the first day, we defined the strategies to accomplish the objectives of RAICEX in an internal meeting. Our mission is to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge between Spanish researchers abroad and all agents of the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation, serving as an advisory body, as a channel of information, and a catalyst of international relations and multi-directional research, thus contributing to the progress of science and research. SRUK has actively worked to create this network for the past four years with the conviction that a framework that brings together all the counterpart associations strengthens our message and opens doors of collaboration that are very beneficial to all. SRUK, with Javier Escudero, held the position of Presidency during this first year. In just one year RAICEX has achieved institutional recognition in Spain.

The representatives from the **16 associations that form RAICEX** were later received by **HM the King Felipe VI of Spain** and the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Pedro Duque, at the Zarzuela Palace. In addition to giving institutional recognition to RAICEX, we were able to discuss the challenges encountered by the Spanish research system, the consolidation of the figure of the researcher and the attraction of international talent. At SRUK, we asked about the **post-Brexit situation** regarding collaborations in research and staff mobility. The King stressed his intention to formalize a meeting with the researchers of our associations in those countries he visits on an official trip, whenever the agenda allows, as he did in the United Kingdom in 2017.



Reception at the Zarzuela Palace with the Representatives of RAICEX, HM the King Felipe VI of Spain and the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Pedro Duque

The second day was dedicated to strengthening the communication between all the representatives of the R&D management institutions in Spain and the **Spanish Scientific, Technological and Innovation Diplomacy Network** that attended the meeting. During this meeting, the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Pedro Duque and the General Secretary of Scientific Coordination, Rafael Rodrigo, held a **roundtable** with the **16 representatives from RAICEX** where they discussed the steps taken to improve and internationalize the R+D system in Spain. All the associations had the opportunity to ask a question and present the obstacles and difficulties of the Spanish R&D system perceived from abroad. Some of the most recurring themes were the lack of internationalization of Spanish universities and the flexibility in university accreditation programs, the scarce relationship with the industry world, and the absence of a clear, stable and future-probing research career. To close the meeting, RAICEX, FECYT and AECID created three working groups: "Research and Gender", "Attraction of Talent" and "Professional Development" with the goal of discussing current issues and developing new short-term strategies.

At the end, we had the opportunity to meet at the headquarters of **Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)** with the President, Prof. Rosa Menéndez, and the Vice-presidents for Research (Dr. Jesús Marco) and International Relations (Dr. Elena Domínguez). We discussed their current and future commitments to strengthen research, and initiatives to attract talent.

We, at SRUK, lived the days with great enthusiasm, delighted to be able to share future visions and common goals. We will continue working to represent the interests of the Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom.



Representatives of the 16 societies of Spanish researchers abroad in a Q&A session with the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Pedro Duque

Collaboration with other associations of research diasporas in the UK

SRUK continues to foster our relationship with other associations of European researchers in the UK (**PARSUK, AISUK, Polonium Foundation and DANinUK**) to explore the concerns and interests that our communities share. These relationships are particularly important in the context of Brexit, as we believe that collaborating with other associations representing European diasporas in the UK would make our message of supporting international collaborations and international researchers stronger.

Following a successful joint workshop exploring diverse scenarios for research after Brexit held in 2019, a joint letter co-signed by all hosting organizations (SRUK, PARSUK, Polonium Foundation and AISUK) was published in Nature to warn of the risks of a no-deal Brexit for the research community in the UK (**Danger to science of no-deal Brexit**, Nature 572, 312 (2019)).



PARSUK
PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION
OF RESEARCHERS AND
STUDENTS IN THE UK



**POLONIUM
FOUNDATION**

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

International Collaborations Department:

Sara Alvira de Celis (Director)
Nerea Irigoyen
Silvia Corrochano
Cristina Delgado
Antonio de la Vega de León
Cecilia Alda Vidal
Miguel Cacho Soblechero
Jacobo Elies Gómez
Ivan Ferrer Vicens

SRUK-Cancer Sub-committee:

Angélica Santiago
Desirée Villahermosa Caballero
Pilar Acedo Núñez
Alba Rodríguez Meira
Clara Domingo Sabugo
Laura Gómez Cuadrado
Teresa Valero
Ana Cristina Carvajal Duperier

SRUK-Physics Sub-committee:

Julia Campa
Fernando González-Zalba

SRUK-Industry Sub-committee:

David Gutiérrez
Patricia Forcén
Cristina Delgado

SRUK aims to bridge the collaboration gap between Spain and the UK enhancing the scientific success of both national R+I systems. We want to facilitate scientific collaborations amongst public and private organizations in the UK and Spain.

To achieve this goal, agreements will focus on 3 key aspects: (a) providing a collaboration platform that enhances the visibility of research groups in both countries and raise awareness of potential partners; (b) facilitating bi-directional mobility of researchers to improve career development and attract talent to Spain, and (c) overcoming the difficulties of Brexit related to research mobility, partnerships and funding opportunities.

The new and already established collaborations allow the development of SRUK initiatives encompassed in:

1.- International research mobility UK-Spain. Fellowships focused on training and collaborative stays for undergraduates, master, PhD students, postdocs and lecturers (e.g. SRUK Summer studentships and On the Move fellowships)

2.- Talent recruitment and networking opportunities. Short-term fellowships and forum events to connect British, Spanish & European researchers and research groups to facilitate new collaborations for funding and job opportunities. Collaboration with initiatives of RAICEX to promote and support the connections between Spanish researchers and research organisations around the world.

3.- Professional development and awards. Informative, training and mentoring schemes that advise about alternative or complementary research pathways and enrich the CVs of our members.

2019/2020 HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

1st Cancer Networking event: A networking day was held in November 2019 at the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) bringing together world-leading scientists from the UK, Germany and Spain. We discussed and showcased the latest advances in cancer research, fostering a forum to nurture a European cancer research network. This one-day event with around 100 attendees, had 3 sessions covering topics in cancer metastasis, tumour microenvironment and cancer metabolism, combined with informative sessions about funding opportunities, mentoring and a roundtable about diversity, equality and inclusion in academia. This event was supported by Fundación Ramón Areces and MCRC, with the collaboration of CERFA, CRIScancer, IDIBELL and BACR.

1st edition On the Move Fellowships: The first edition of this brand new bi-directional mobility programme between UK and Spain was completed with the stay of 34 researchers in research groups in the UK & Spain for periods of 3-6 months. The reports and surveys of the participants showed a high rate of satisfaction; the programme fulfilled their expectations, considering this stay as a starting point or consolidation of long-term collaborations.

SRUK Summer and Winter Studentships: During 2019-2020 we launched two calls of SRUK studentships, in Summer and Winter. 11 students from the UAM, 1 from UNIZAR and 15 from UFV enjoyed research stays of 4-6 months at different research hosting groups of SRUK members around the whole British geography.

FUTURE INITIATIVES

2nd Cancer Networking event: Due to the coronavirus outbreak, SRUK has delayed the second cancer event to Autumn 2020 at the CNIO, Madrid. With the same objectives of the first edition, this new event will bring world-leading scientists in the fields of cancer genomics, immune system and paediatric cancer. As in the previous event, the day will be complete with networking, mentoring activities and interesting roundtables related to science policy or funding opportunities in Spain, UK and Germany. Our supporters are Fundación Ramón Areces, ASEICA and Mission Bio and with the collaboration of CNIO and CERFA.

2nd edition On the Move Fellowships: Due to the success of the 1st edition of the programme in collaboration with CRUE, SRUK is pleased to announce the launch of the 2nd edition of the On the Move Fellowships in September 2020 to enjoy the research stays starting from March 2021. The main novelty in this call is the inclusion of "Centros mixtos" that are linked to the Spanish Universities adhered to the call, as a hosting destination for researchers.

Partnerships

SRUK have signed different agreements with several Spanish institutions:

Universities	Networks	Charities and Foundations	Societies	Research Institutes
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid - UAM	Conferencia de Rectores de las Universidades Españolas – CRUE	Fundación Damián Rodríguez Olivares (DRO Foundation)	Asociación Española de Investigación sobre el Cáncer – ASEICA	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas – CSIC
Universidad de Zaragoza - Unizar	Red de Universidades Valencianas por el fomento de la I+D – RUVID	International Mentoring Foundation for the Advancement of Higher Education (IMFAHE)	Real Sociedad Española de Física (RSEF)	Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Aragón – IIS Aragón
Universidad Francisco de Vitoria - UFV	Fundación Pública Andaluza para la Investigación Biosanitaria Andalucía Oriental (FIBAO)	Fundación CRISCáncer	Sociedad Española de Bioquímica y Biología Molecular (SEBBM)	Instituto de Investigaciones Biomédicas de Málaga – IBIMA
Universidad de La Laguna - ULL			Sociedad Española de Ingeniería Biomédica (SEIB)	

DEPARTAMENTO 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. Las iniciativas desarrolladas dentro del departamento de colaboraciones internacionales de SRUK engloban programas de movilidad para estudiantes e investigadores, posibilidades de transferencia de conocimiento, reclutamiento de talento así como desarrollo profesional y premios a la carrera investigadora.

PRESS DEPARTMENT

The Press Department

Laura Martínez Maestro (Director)
Margarita Segovia Roldán
Susana de Lucas
Olaya Muñoz Azcarate
Clara García Gorro
Miguel Jodra Davó
Beatriz Castejón

SRUK Blog "1,2,3... Explore!" editors in chief

Susana de Lucas Arias
Margarita Segovia Roldán
Sandra Álvarez Carretero

Linking scientific research with wide audiences

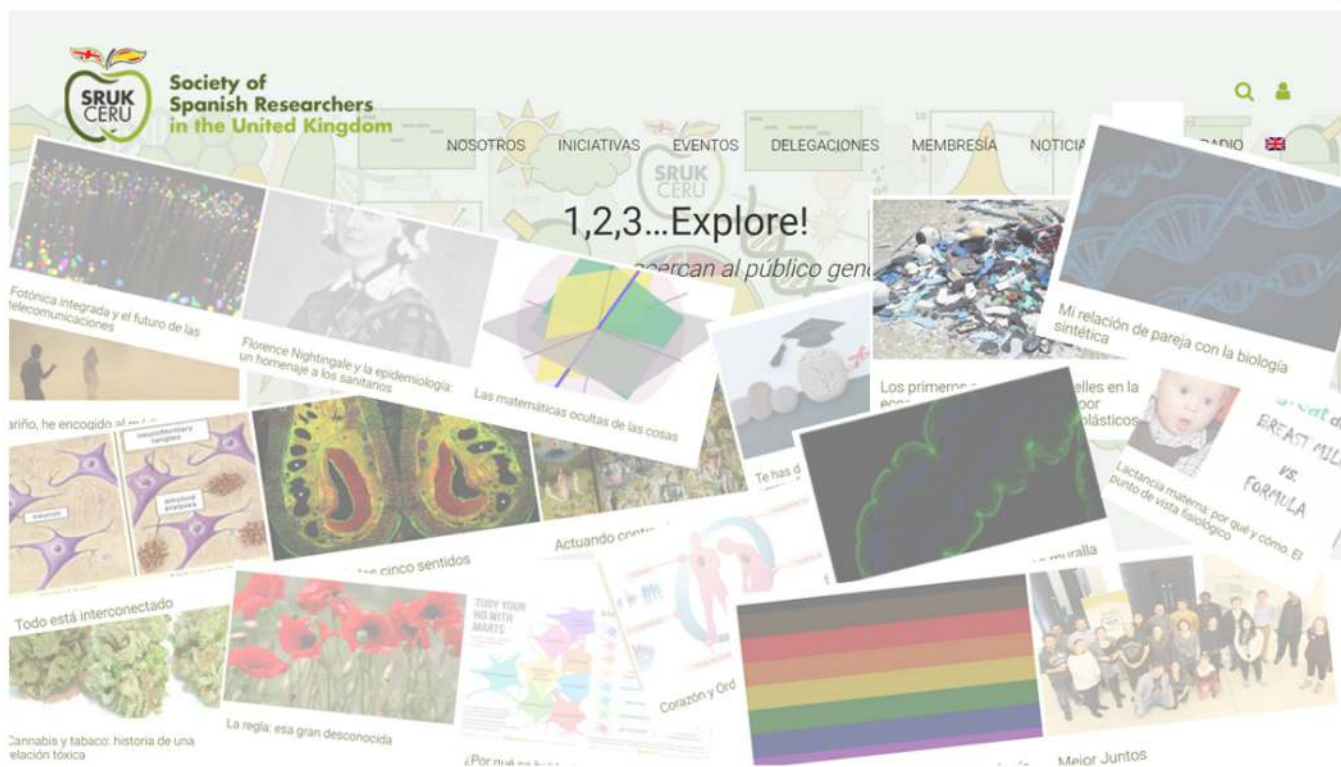
The Press Department aims to improve the visibility of SRUK initiatives by helping SRUK members, constituencies and departments to connect with the national/international media to better reach the general audience.

This department is composed of an enthusiastic team of volunteers which, from July 2019 has issued (alone or in coordination with partner institutions) 13 press releases, including our Annual Symposium and other initiatives such as the SRUK Emerging Talent. This year, SRUK appeared in the media around 100 times, including general and specialised press, radio, television and digital media.

Regional press officers

Alba Abad Fernández (Scotland)
Lourdes Riquelme Dominguez (Scotland)
Ana Rodríguez (from November 2019, Scotland)
Sandra Álvarez Carretero (London)
Berta Terre Torras (London)
Beatriz Baño Otálora (until February 2020, NorthWest)
Iñigo Urrutia (until September 2019, SouthWest)
Sergio Silva (until September 2019, Oxford)
Javier Pardo (September 2019 - February 2020, Oxford)
Helena Rodríguez Caro (from February 2020, Oxford)





The Press Department not only promotes SRUK's activities, but it also disseminates the research carried out by our members. Last year, our members' achievements in their research area were covered by the media more than 13 times in different newspapers and journals. In addition, as part of the SRUK outreach program, the Press Department coordinates the **SRUK Blog 1,2,3... Explore!** and the radio program "**En Fase Experimental**". Our monthly radio program includes an insider's view of science and advocates for women in STEM, serving as the perfect platform to engage with the general public. 'En Fase Experimental' can be followed on the main podcast platforms such as iVoox, iTunes, Spotify and Youtube; where our programs have reached more than 3,000 listenings, it has also been highlighted at The Node.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE PRENSA DE CERU

El departamento de prensa de CERU se encarga de la comunicación directa entre los investigadores de la asociación y la sociedad.

Difundir las actividades de CERU y de sus socios en los medios de comunicación del Reino Unido y España es el principal objetivo del departamento de prensa de CERU. Más de 15 voluntarios trabajan desde distintos puntos de Reino Unido para llevar a cabo las labores de prensa de CERU. El departamento de prensa potencia la visibilidad de las iniciativas de CERU en los medios a través de notas de prensa y de la publicación de artículos de opinión. Además, difunde los trabajos de investigación de los socios de CERU tanto en los medios de comunicación como en sus propios canales de divulgación: El blog 1,2,3... Explore! y el programa de radio "En Fase Experimental".

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

Our loyal audience comes from Spain, UK and also Latin America! Likewise, the **SRUK Blog 1,2,3...Explore!** helps to spread the research led by SRUK members in an engaging way, which boosts their communication and outreach skills when writing their posts. Last year, our blog received more than 1,000 single visitors. Our posts cover a broad range of topics, going from dating Palaeolithic art to the use of maths in measuring urban pollution. Physics, chemistry, engineering, biosciences, social sciences, history and other topics are welcome!

The future goals of the SRUK Press Department are to promote the visibility of SRUK in the British media and to build a solid communication strategy for SRUK in collaboration with the Online and Communication Departments.

If you are interested in joining The Press Department, please contact us at: press@sruk.org.uk



The "En fase experimental" team during one of the programmes

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Communications Department

Miguel Cacho Soblechero (Director)

Regional Community Managers:

Larissa Zárate (London)

Irene Etxeberria Altuna (Oxford)

Teresa Vilanova Perez (Oxford)

Raúl de la Flor (Cambridge)

David Ruíz (NorthWest)

Isabel Peset (NorthWest)

Laura Bravo (Midlands)

Ana Isabel Rodriguez (Scotland)

Antonio de la Vega (Yorkshire)

Sara Alvira (Southwest)

Department and Committee Managers:

Sara Alvira (International)

Javier Pardo (Science Policy)

Patricia Bernal (Women in Science)

Alba Iglesias Vilches (Ciencia-me un cuento)

Alba Rodríguez Meira (Cancer Committee)

Clara Domingo Sabugo (Cancer Committee)

Olaya Muñoz-Azcarate (Press & Blog)

Sandra Álvarez (Press & Blog)

Teresa Rayón (Radio)

Joan Citoler (EnFoco)

Cecilia Huertas Fernández-Espartero (EnFoco)

Daniel Castillo (YouTube)

María Fernández (YouTube)

The SRUK Communications Department is responsible for the online communications strategy, keeping our community engaged with all our events and initiatives, as well as delivering the latest news about science and research.

"We are the face of our community online, increasing SRUK's visibility world-wide through our communications channels."

Our team keeps expanding, with 25 communication managers that bring to life our online campaigns: from social media to YouTube, our team of volunteers are key in spreading the word for a nation-wide success of our initiatives. Thanks to their committed work, this year we have achieved significant milestones that can be summarised in 3 main points:

Our internal website: This year we developed a new member zone, creating a better, more efficient way of interacting for all the SRUK community. The portal will serve as a meeting point for our members, making our initiatives more accessible while helping us manage our memberships and finances more efficiently.

Our YouTube Channel: Following the drive to revive our YouTube channel carried by our previous Director, Maria Barreria, we have established a solid YouTube group dedicated to the production of YouTube content. This channel is amplifying the impact of our initiatives, such as this year's successful YouTube campaign for 11F - International Women's Day, and will bring new opportunities for further impact beyond our public.

Our social media channels: The impact of our social media posts keep increasing, reaching now **5,505 followers in Facebook, 3,897 in Twitter and 995 in LinkedIn** and growing by the day. Covering upcoming events, initiatives, scientific news and live coverage of flagship gatherings, our communications managers are key to make SRUK a world-wise known community

We are always looking for new members that want to help us shape the future of SRUK communications. If you want to be part of our Communications team, or simply want to know more about us, you can contact us at: online@sruk.org.uk

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE COMUNICACIÓN Y REDES SOCIALES DE CERU

El Departamento de Comunicación Online y Redes Sociales se encarga de visibilizar el trabajo de toda nuestra comunidad a través de nuestra web, YouTube y nuestras redes sociales. Esta labor es clave para establecer vínculos entre los miembros de nuestra comunidad, conectando investigadores y eventos, y dando difusión a todas las becas, premios y nuevas iniciativas de la asociación. Este año ha sido sin duda clave por el lanzamiento de nuestra nueva área para socios en la web, que cambiará de manera radical la manera que tenemos de interactuar y comunicarnos como sociedad. Igualmente, nuestro canal de YouTube ha cobrado un renovado protagonismo a través de la campaña del 11F por el Día Internacional de la Mujer y la Niña en Ciencia, donde socias de SRUK nos contaron sus experiencias como científicas para animar a la nueva generación a desarrollar una carrera en ciencia. Por último, el impacto de nuestras redes sociales crece cada día, gracias al gran trabajo de nuestro fantástico equipo de comunicación, con más de 25 voluntarios trabajando por todo Reino Unido.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The SRUK/CERU Travel Grants 2020 awardees are:

Javier Cabello García
Joan Citoler
Álvaro Castaño Medina
Laia Delgado Callico
Kenny Malpartida Cárdenas
David March Morlà
Isabel Romero Camarero
Mario Saborido Beltrán
Sarah Sauchelli Toran
Enrique Valero Rodríguez

Members of the Fellowships Committee:

J. Javier Burgos-Mármol (chair)
Silvia Corrochano
Natalia Mallo
Marta Vila Pueyo
Desirée Villahermosa
Antonio de la Vega
Larissa Zárate



Some of the speakers and organisers of CienciaUK19

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

SRUK TRAVEL GRANTS 2020

In April 2020, for the 7th consecutive year, **SRUK awarded ten members** with no permanent positions a **travel grant** to help fund the costs of presenting their research at conferences all over the world. Sadly, 2020 will be remembered for the Covid19 pandemic, and the personal losses and long confinement measures it caused. It also had huge consequences on research events such as the conferences this 2020 call covers. To face these disruptions, the Board of Directors agreed to apply a "business as usual" policy on the evaluations and relax the conditions of use, so awardees whose **conferences were cancelled or postponed** due to the pandemic could still benefit from the grant either at a later time or at a similar conference. This year, 41 applications of very diverse topics were received and evaluated by the 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.

CIENCIA UK 2019

CIENCIA UK 2019 6ª Edición
LA CIENCIA EN EL SXXI

PROGRAMA

- Organización y sistemas de financiación
- Binomio empresa-universidad
- Horizon Scanning y mercados emergentes
- ¿Existe ciencia más allá del laboratorio?
- Sostenibilidad y ética en la ciencia
- Bases de la carrera investigadora
- Open Science
- Slow Science
- Brexit: ¿Y ahora qué?

15 NOVIEMBRE 2019
FUNDACIÓN RAMÓN ARECES
Vitruvio, 5. Madrid

Entrada libre
Imprescindible registro en: fundacionareces.es

Más info:
<https://sruk.org.uk/events/cienciauk2019/cienciauk@sruk.org.uk>
info@sruk.org.uk
#SRUK #CienciaUK2019

FUNDACIÓN RAMÓN ARECES

Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom

The 6th edition of CienciaUK took place in Madrid in November in Fundación Ramón Areces with more than 100 attendees. As in previous editions, it was an event to provide some insights into the research career the United Kingdom. However, this year, under the theme "**La ciencia en el siglo XXI**" (Science in the 21st century), we focused on the changes and challenges which have recently appeared in the career of the researcher. Coordinated by our SRUK members **José Pedro Manzano** (PhD Student, University of Nottingham) and **Javier Pardo Díaz** (PhD Student, University of Oxford), the main topics discussed were: scientific careers different from academic research, ethical and sustainability challenges derived from the research activity, horizon scanning and emerging markets analysis, industry-university relationship, the research career in the 21st century and the consequences of Brexit in research.

SRUK SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The SRUK Scientific Committee participates in scientific evaluations of applications for certain SRUK initiatives and provides advice to the Board of Directors on scientific matters. The Scientific Committee evaluates the SRUK Travel Grants, abstracts submitted for presentation in our annual Symposium when required, and other initiatives in which SRUK collaborates, such as the British Spanish Society scholarships.

Members of the SRUK Scientific Committee

J. Javier Burgos-Mármol (chair), University of Liverpool, UK. **Nerea Alonso**, University of Edinburgh, UK. **Pedro Ballester**, Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (Inserm), France. **José Miguel Bermúdez Menéndez**, International Energy Agency, France. **Silvia Corrochano**, Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica del Hospital Carlos III, Spain. **Carmen Domene Núñez***, University of Bath, UK. **Nuria Ferrándiz Díaz**, University of Warwick, UK. **Moisés García Arencibia**, Universidad de la Laguna, Spain. **Rocío Gómez**, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain. **María Hernández Fuentes**, UCB Pharmaceuticals, UK. **Julia Herrero Albillos**, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain. **Francisco José López Cantos**, Universitat Jaume I, Spain. **Gloria López Castejón**, University of Manchester, UK. **Natalia Mallo**, Clúster de Acuicultura de Galicia, Spain. **Victoria Pastor**, Universitat Jaume I, Spain. **Juan Suárez**, University of Swansea, UK. **Marta Vila Pueyo**, King's College London, UK.

Other regular members:

Cecilia Alda Vidal, University of Manchester, UK. **Alfredo Miguel Antón Sánchez**, GMV, Spain. **Miguel Cacho Soblechero**, Imperial College London, UK. **Cristina Delgado**, Protein Pharmaceuticals, UK. **Javier Feijoo**, EHU - Universidad del País Vasco, Spain. **Francisco Flórez Revuelta**, Universidad de Alicante, Spain. **Víctor Flors**, Universitat Jaume I, Spain. **Roberto Carlos Naranjo Rosario**, University of Edinburgh, UK. **Desirée Villahermosa**, University of Sussex, UK.

The scientific committee is renewed periodically. Please contact roving@sruk.org.uk

SRUK/CERU Photography Competition - "Investigación en Foco"

The aim of this first competition is to reinforce the need and beauty of our daily research in all fields through images and to make it more accessible to a broad audience. It represents a unique opportunity to capture our daily life and work as researchers and share it in a different way.

The competition is open for SRUK members and friends submitting a single photograph able to capture any particular theme on a research field, including Mathematics, Biology, Medicine and Health, Chemistry, Ecology and Environmental Science, Physics, Astronomy, Engineering Technology, Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Science Communication. Photographs will be evaluated in 3 different categories: originality, technique and research communication. The 12 shortlisted photographs selected by an **external panel of experts** will be used to produce our first SRUK annual calendar! There will be 4 prizes to the best photographs according to the criteria of originality, technique, and impact; three of them awarded by our external jury and the fourth one by SRUK members.

This competition has been organised by Cambridge and North West Constituencies. For more information, please contact enfoco@sruk.org.uk.

Members of the organising committee:

Cecilia Huertas Fernández-Espartero (Cambridge), **Gentzane Sánchez Elexpuru** (Cambridge), **Joan Citol-er Tomas** (North West), **Laura Castañar Acedo** (North West)

Members of the external jury:

Caitlin Griffiths, **Juan Aballe**, **Laura Llera-Arnanz**, **Helena González-Burón**, **Daniela Riva Rossi**, **Jose Luis Ruiz**, **Clara Novo**, **Gem Toes-Crichton**



MENTORING PROGRAMME

The Mentoring Committee

Patricia Forcén (Chair)
David Gutiérrez
María Jiménez
Estrella Luna
Itziar Peñafiel
Ana del Río



EL PROGRAMA DE MENTORING

CERU ha sido uno de las organizaciones pioneras en desarrollar un Programa de Mentoring para apoyar a los investigadores españoles en el progreso de su Carrera profesional en Reino Unido. El Programa lleva activo desde 2016, a lo largo de tres ediciones con más de 150 participantes. Actualmente está viviendo su tercera edición con un grupo de 80 mentores/mentees activos y nuevas iniciativas como el "Online Mentoring Café" que, con gran éxito de participación, sirvió como plataforma para que los mentores compartieran y aprendieran de las experiencias de otros. Además, nos enorgullece anunciar que la satisfacción del programa ha seguido aumentando; el 86% de los participantes consideran que el Programa de Mentoring CERU es "Bueno" o "Muy Bueno".

El compromiso del Comité de Mentoring es seguir mejorando el Programa en las próximas ediciones para asegurar en la medida de lo posible, unas gratificantes y fructíferas relaciones entre mentores y mentees que aseguren el máximo beneficio para nuestros participantes.

For more information please contact
mentoring@sr.uk.org

SRUK is aware of the issues that most researchers will face when developing their research career. Along a career-building path, it is necessary to acquire additional skills and expertise to plan next steps and to learn how to interact with students, colleagues and collaborators.

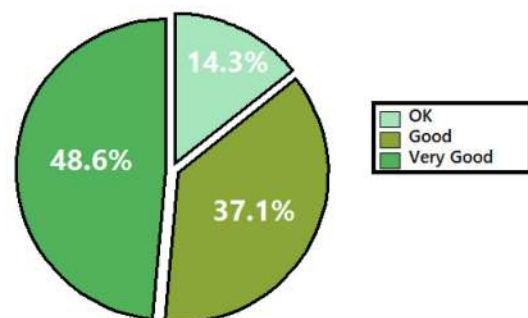
SRUK has been one of the pioneering organisations to introduce a Mentoring Programme that supports Spanish researchers in the development of their careers in the UK. The importance of transferable skills in an increasingly challenging professional world, and the awareness of alternative careers beyond academia, are critical aspects of the knowledge and expertise required for a successful career development, onwards and upwards.

The SRUK Mentoring Programme has been operating since 2016 with three editions accumulating over 150 participants. The Programme is currently living its **3rd Edition** with **80 active mentors/mentees**; 40% of them were continuing with their mentoring partnership from the past editions, and 60% are new joiners. The SRUK Mentoring Committee has put in place a big effort not only to maintain but also to improve the quality of the programme amid the increase of participants in every new edition; innovative initiatives such as "**Online Mentoring Café**" have been successfully launched to facilitate a platform for mentors to share and learn from everyone's experiences. Joyously, we are proud to announce that the satisfaction of the programme has kept rising; 86% of the mentors/mentees consider that the SRUK Mentoring Programme is "Good" or "Very Good":

For an outstanding mentor role in the 2nd edition of the SRUK mentoring Programme (2018-2019).

Mentor awardees nominated by their mentor:

Lucía Serrano, Eduardo Oliver, Mónica Gañán, Alejandro Cámara, Lorenzo de la Rica, Chistine Reynet, David Gutiérrez, Anna Cupani and María Jiménez.



The commitment from the Mentoring Committee is to keep improving the Mentoring Programme in future editions to maintain the encouraging, rewarding and productive Mentoring relationships that secure the maximum benefit for our participants.

Recognising and fostering Spanish talent in the United Kingdom

We are very pleased to have launched the fifth edition of the **SRUK Emerging Talent Award**, supported by **Fundación Banco Santander** under its "Young Talent" programme. The aim of this award is to recognise and support a promising young Spanish researcher who has developed her/his career in the United Kingdom.

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

Dr Susana García López wins the 2020 SRUK Emerging Talent Award

Dr Susana García López joined the Heriot-Watt University as a post-doctoral researcher in 2014, where she rapidly progressed in her career and now works as an Associated Professor in Chemical Engineering, and holds the position of Associate Director in Carbon Capture and Storage at the Research Centre for Carbon Solutions (RCCS). Susana's research has had a significant impact from very early stages in her career. During her PhD she developed a novel rig to conduct experiments on CO₂ storage, together with the software needed to perform the computational simulation approach, a research for which she received several recognitions and awards. She is currently working towards the discovery of new materials from a multidisciplinary approach, with more than 50 scientific articles published and over 1,000 citations. She has trained a total of 35 students and postdocs, and secured substantial funding (~ € 3 M directly managed by her, out of project totals worth ~ € 30 M in which she is either Co-Investigator or project leader), including European projects under the ERA-NET Co-fund scheme.

Susana will use the Award money in three different areas, which include:

- i) the organisation of webinars, workshops and/or other type of small strategic events to disseminate her scientific outcome and build an international network of experts interested in bridging the gap between engineering and basic science, a subject of significant interest for her;
- ii) favouring the mobility and training of students and researchers; and
- iii) public engagement, especially focusing on events aimed at bridging the gender gap in academic positions in engineering by disseminating her work to girls and undergraduate young women whom she aspires to engage as a female role model in Engineering.

We received **24 high-quality applications** that have been assessed by the designated scientific panel. Based on their evaluations, the awardee will be ratified by a jury composed by representatives of **SRUK**, the **Emerging Talent Award evaluation panel**, the **Fundación Banco Santander**, **Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT)**, and the **Office of Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom**.

SRUK EMERGING TALENT 2020

Supported by:



SRUK Emerging Talent Award

2019 Finalists:

Lucía Prieto Godino
The Francis Crick Institute
Jesús Rodríguez Manzano
Imperial College London
Ignacio Martín-Fabiani Carrato
University of Loughborough
David Alonso
University of Oxford



Dr Susana García López - Winner

SRUK Emerging Talent Award

Evaluation Panel:

Mercedes Maroto (Chair)
Heriot-Watt University

Xosé Bustelo
Universidad de Salamanca & CSIC
Javier García Martínez
Universitat d'Alacant
Marisa Martín Fernández
STFC & University of Oxford
Alessandro Patti
University of Manchester
Javier Salguero
Public Health England
Carmen Torres Sánchez
University of Loughborough

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

SCIENCE ME A STORY

The 2nd edition of Science-me a Story sponsored by Lilly Foundation and with the collaboration of Principia was a great success.

Supported by:



We received more than 150 scientific stories from all over the world. The high participation and quality of the stories showed that short stories are a powerful tool to communicate science to primary school children.

The winning stories together with the finalist were published in the on-line Principia magazine, and the Literature and Science Hub (University of Liverpool).



Heat Map showing the origin of the stories submitted in Science-me a story 2019.

We hold the award ceremony at the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester where Claire Culliford adapted one of the winning stories to storytelling. This year, we also collaborated with the Spanish supplementary school "Nuestra Escuela Tandem Manchester" bringing the winning stories to their classroom. After reading some of them, the children made some fantastic illustrations.



Winners and organisers during the awards ceremony at Instituto Cervantes de Manchester



Awarded stories in the Spanish category:

- 1st "Los descubrimientos de Meli" de Sonia Patricia Castellanos Jiménez
- 2nd "El secreto de las chaquetas plateadas" de Magdalena I. Domper
- 3rd "Ciencia de princesas" de Leticia Labat de Hoz
- 3rd "Copep-mar y el globo verde" de Laura Ibáñez-Tejero

Awarded stories in the English category:

- 1st "The Nodes of Ranvier" by Alice Hutchins.
- 2nd "The good inside us all" by Nicholas Edward Ilott.
- 2nd "As tough as the dinosaurs" by Nicky Purser.
- 3rd "Nanuq" by Nicole Pearson.

Falling Walls Engage 2019

This year the initiative was world-wide recognised, as María Pin Nó presented Science-me a Story in the final of Falling Walls Engage 2019 in Berlin (Germany), a global platform for breakthroughs in science engagement. It was one of the twentieth selected from eighty applications.



María Pin Nó presenting in Berlin

Members of the Science-me a Story committee:

Isabel Peset, María Pin Nó, Alba Iglesias, Eva García, Ester Pascual

Members of the external jury:

Greg Lynall, Izzie Clarke, Claire Culliford, Viktoria Korzhova, Salvador Macip, Francisco Vega, Maruxa Martínez-Campos, Daniel Ramón

SRUK WOM=EN

Equity & Research

The SRUK Wom=en Equity & Research Committee Members

Patricia Bernal (Chair)
María Jiménez-Sánchez (Chair until December 2019)
Diego Alonso
Patricia Forcén
Judit García González
Nerea Irigoyen
Alba López
María José Martínez-Bravo



Promoting gender equity and diversity in research

The main objectives of the committee are 1) to raise awareness of the role of women in research, 2) to promote women professional development and 3) to support work-life family balance.

2019 SRUK Survey on Gender Equality in Research

The committee has examined researchers' experiences, expectations and perceptions of gender equality in Spanish institutions. In 2018, SRUK circulated a survey and collected a total of 1,295 responses among 63 research institutions in Spain. The survey, based on a previous study in the UK, the Athena Survey of Science, Engineering and Technology (ASSET) 2016, highlighted women and men differences in the perception of gender equality in research.

The results of our survey were analysed and the study, describing gender differences in the perception of gender bias in research institutions in Spain and in the UK, was published in Plos One in December 2019 entitled "**Men and women differ in their perception of gender bias in research institutions**" [García-González J, Forcén P, Jimenez-Sanchez M (2019). PLoS ONE 14(12): e0225763. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0225763] and constitutes the first publication from SRUK. The scientific news agency of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (SINC) selected this study among the **top 20 most relevant studies of the Spanish science in 2019**. The conclusions from this study were **presented in Madrid in September 2019** to researchers and representatives of universities, scientific societies, scientific foundations and parliamentary groups **in collaboration with the Cotec Foundation**.

The main conclusions of the 2019 SRUK Survey on Gender Equality in Research in Spain:

- 1) Women perceived greater **gender inequality** in their **departments** compared to men and felt they are not valued as good leaders by men.
- 2) Women perceived that their departments had significantly lower commitment to promote gender equality compared to men. And many researchers felt their departments are not supportive regarding gender equality. Does Spain need an **Athena Swan**?
- 3) Women felt that **resources** that allow for professional development in research and that are considered as markers of esteem are more easily allocated to men. Men think these are more equally distributed between genders.
- 4) **Compared to the UK**, researchers in Spain felt that women and men are treated more equally in their work place, yet they perceived their departments are less supportive regarding gender equality

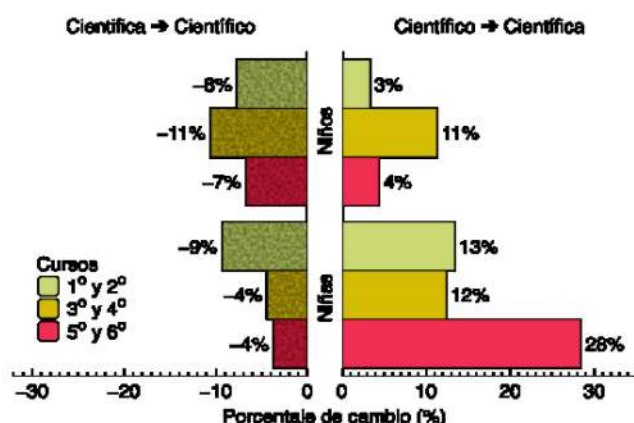


Presentation of the report in Madrid by the committee members María Jiménez, Patricia Forcén and Judit García, and the SRUK President Rocío Gaudioso Pedraza



Awakening vocations program

Focus on young children, the aim is to awake scientific vocations and to understand the genre stereotypes that pupils hold for scientists. To counteract a male-dominated vision, the program inspires girls into STEM careers by exposing them to female-scientist role models through science outreach. Last school-year, we reached 315 girls and 278 boys aged 6-12 from 6 primary schools across Spain and the Spanish primary school in London Cañada Blanch.



The results of this study, which can be found in our website, show two important findings:

- 1) From a young age, girls consider themselves less able than boys to pursue careers in STEM.
- 2) This is reversible, most girls change their perception after the exposition to a female-scientist role model.

Other initiatives

In partnership with **11febrero.org**, SRUK celebrated the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**. Five events took place in different constituencies during February 2019 to give visibility to the work of women in science.

SRUK has encouraged the celebration of events that facilitate the development of a research career while having family care responsibilities through the organization of **"family-friendly" events**.



MUJ=ER EN INVESTIGACIÓN E IGUALDAD

El Comité de Mujer en Investigación e Igualdad de CERU pretende dar visibilidad al papel de la mujer en ciencia, promover su desarrollo profesional y favorecer la conciliación familiar. El comité ha analizado y dado difusión a los datos sobre la percepción y experiencia de género recogidos en una encuesta distribuida entre 1.295 investigadores en 63 instituciones españolas. Este trabajo, que pone de manifiesto las diferencias de percepción de igualdad de género entre hombres y mujeres, se presentó en Madrid en colaboración con la Fundación COTEC y los resultados se recogen en el primer trabajo científico de CERU, "Men and women differ in their perception of gender bias in research institutions" publicado en Plos One. Además, CERU ha trabajado con colegios de primaria para despertar vocaciones científicas y entender la percepción de alumnas y alumnos en educación Primaria con respecto al género de los profesionales de la ciencia. En febrero 2020, CERU participó en multitud de eventos para dar visibilidad a la mujer en investigación con motivo del Día Internacional de la Mujer y la Niña en Ciencia.

THE VII INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SRUK

Members of the organising committee

J. Javier Burgos-Mármol (chair)
Sandra Álvarez Carretero
Miguel Anaya
José Miguel Bermúdez
Ana Carvajal Duperier
Rebeca Díaz
Elena García Martín
Jesús García Ovejero
Gala Guillán Carballeira
Natalia Mallo
María Roel
Lorena Santamaría
Marta Vallejo



The organising committee



Delegates enjoying the conference dinner

The VII International Symposium SRUK/CERU, entitled "Here comes the Science", our annual meeting, was held in Liverpool on 28-30 June 2019.

The VII International Symposium SRUK/CERU, entitled "Here comes the Science", our annual meeting, was held in Liverpool on 28-30 June 2019.

This was the second time our most important event was organised outside of London, and the first time ever in North West England and was attended by nearly 100 people from all over the UK and Spain. The University of Liverpool accommodated the whole event, except the conference dinner.

The inaugural session of the Symposium was held on the evening of Friday 28th at the Victoria Art Gallery & Museum, a beautiful 1892 Victorian building designed by Alfred Waterhouse that inspired Prof Edgar Allison Peers to coin the concept "red brick university". After the welcome cocktail, the inaugural session of the conference included welcome speeches by our SRUK President **Dr Javier Escudero**, the Liverpool City Council Deputy Mayor **Ms Wendy Simon**, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology Secretary General **Dr Paloma Domingo**, the Executive Pro-Vice Chancellor for Science and Engineering at the University of Liverpool **Prof Wiebe Van der Hoek**, and **Dr J. Javier Burgos-Mármol**, chair of the Symposium. To conclude the inaugural session, the first scientific talk of the conference was delivered by **Dr Alejandro Sánchez de Miguel**, from the University of Exeter, who taught us about Light Pollution and its health, environmental and economic repercussions. He also described Cities at Night, a project where amateur photographs from around the world contribute to measure light pollution in hundreds of cities.

On Saturday 29th, four thematic sessions were held. The first session focused on Biomedicine and started with **Prof Robert Bristow**, Director of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre, speaking about Tumour Genomics and Tumour environment, like hypoxia, have retroactive effects on each other. The session continued with **Prof María del Puerto Morales**, from the Institute of Material Science (ICMM-CSIC) in Madrid, who lectured us on the development of magnetic iron-oxide nanoparticles with complex nanostructural topologies for advanced new treatments of different pathologies.



VII INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SRUK/CERU
HERE COMES THE SCIENCE - LIVERPOOL, 28-30 June 2019

The second session aimed at research on Humanities and Arts, usually away from the spotlight. It started with **Prof Joasia Krysa**, contemporary art curator and Professor of Exhibition Research at Liverpool John Moores University and Liverpool Biennial. Her talk focused on the implications of being a curator today, shifting from the historical focus on objects and collections to dynamic contexts and advanced technologies. **Dr Gregory Lynall**, from the School of English at the University of Liverpool, gave a lecture on the presence of Solar Power in Literature, from Renaissance to present day, which was full of vintage science fiction and satire. This immersion in historical English Literature was followed by the lunch break and the poster session.

The first afternoon session, which comprised Physics and Chemistry topics, started with **Prof Luis J. Garay**, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Universidad Complutense de Madrid, talking about his theoretical work on Black Stars, a recent proposal that represents a set of bouncing geometries that regularise the classical singular behaviour and modifies the near-horizon geometry, and how this proposal could change our present understanding of astrophysical black holes. This speaker combined his work with artistic representations of dance. Then, **Prof Magdalena Titirici**, Professor of Sustainable Energy Materials at Imperial College London, gave her lecture on the production of carbon nanomaterials and chemicals, and the application of amorphous carbon materials for energy storage and electrocatalytic reactions.

The final sessions on Saturday were allocated for Environmental Sciences. **Prof Robert Ward**, Director of Groundwater Science at the British Geological Survey, spoke about groundwater resource protection, explaining how the world's main source of freshwater regenerates, the places that have suffered irreparable damage, and this resource's vulnerability. Finally, **Prof Micaela Carvajal**, from the Centre for Edaphology and Applied Biology Segura (CEBAS-CSIC), in Murcia, gave her lecture on the retroactive effects of crops on climate change and climate change on crops.

On Sunday, after the Annual General Assembly, a round-table entitled "How can we fight the influence of pseudosciences?", allowed the engagement of attendants with the panel to discuss the role played by researchers, science journalists and science communicators in teaching people about evidence-based results and how to distinguish them from charlatans' quackery. The panel included **Ms Rebecca Asher**, from Sense about Science, **Mr Fernando Cervera**, from APETP, **Ms Ainhua Goñi**, Science journalist at Spanish media, and **Mr Michael Marshall**, from Merseyside Skeptics Society and the Good Thinking Society.

During lunch time and the afternoon sessions, the second edition of the Science Zone, a science mini-festival open to the public, showed four experiments on circadian clocks, building of your own solar cells, oceanic currents and replicas of fossil bones. The afternoon session focused on professional development, and included **Dr Izascun Lacunza**, from FECyT, **Dr José Miguel Bermúdez**, who talked about Ciencia en el Parlamento, and **Ms Judit García-González**, from the SRUK Women's Equity & Research Committee.

In addition to Friday's reception, the social programme included the Conference Dinner held at Liverpool Marriott Hotel City Centre, where on finishing dinner a music session was improvised. After leaving the dinner venue, many of the participants headed together for the famous Cavern Pub, where live music was performed. To close the VII International Symposium SRUK/CERU, the poster and Science Zone awards were announced, and the certificates of the SRUK Travel Grants 2019 were handed to the awardees.



Attendees to the VII International Symposium in Liverpool

LONDON CONSTITUENCY

The London Regional Board

Larissa Zárate García (Director,
London Online Manager)

Sandra Álvarez Carretero (Secretary,
London Press Officer)

The London Working Group

Marta Broto

Berta Gallego Páramo

Carlos González Hernández

María Gordillo Marañón

Luis Moliner Cachazo

Pilar Acedo

Miguel Cacho Soblechero

Diego Alonso Álvarez

Sergio Pérez

Diego Sainz de la Maza



The London Regional Board

Plans 2020/2021

During the second half of 2020, we will turn our activity towards digital channels. We will stream the **SRUK 2nd LGBTIQ+ in STEM Day** and organise virtual **Cañas & Pints** to give members not living in London the opportunity to meet and chat.

First constituency to be founded in 2011, it covers the southeast of England, from Hampshire to Kent and up to Bedfordshire. Being based in the UK's capital, London's vibrant lifestyle is imprinted in our broad and assorted portfolio of annual events. Currently, we are more than 110 members. We range from MSc Students, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and principal investigators working in some of the world leading Universities and Research Centres, as well as in the private sector.

Events 2019/2020

This year we took great care in developing events that the members of our Constituency demanded, leaving scholar events aside and increasing our activity in social gatherings, outreach and career and personal development, which brought together SRUK members and many new professionals in the London society.

We welcomed a warm summer with a **Summer Picnic** in Hyde Park in July 2019. We organised our **Annual Assembly** and **Welcome Party** for "New Londoners" in October 2019. Here we met some of the winners of the "On the Move" Fellowships and SRUK Studentships, who talked about our initiatives and ways to get involved. We closed 2019 with the traditional festive **Christmas dinner**. In addition, we organised a new monthly social **Cañas & Pints** every second Thursday of the month.

Our personal development events season started with **SRUK 1st LGBTIQ+ in STEM Day**, which brought to London Javier Armentia, founder of Ciencia LGTBIQ in Spain, and Dr Marta Román, trans rights activist and group leader at Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques (Barcelona), among others. They compared representation of LGBTIQ+ researchers in UK and Spain and discussed ways to improve issues and visibility. We also run the workshop **The PhD Journey: Psychological Tools to Pack** with Elena Montero (Sentido Psicología) and Clara García (@Cerebrotres) to promote practical psychological strategies and overcome the challenges of academia, minimizing the effect of stress. SRUK commitment with gender equality was celebrated on the International Day of Women in Science and Technology with the **CineScience Mission Blue** and the presentation of the results collected from **SRUK's Awakening Vocations in STEM**. We also held the **CineScience International Premiere of El Enigma Agustina**, with the presence of the directors and actors of the film. We discussed the excellence of the Spanish research in Physics in the first part of the 20th century, and how scientific communication can be done in new and poorly explored formats.

It was with the idea of communicating science that our fellow SRUK member Dr Pablo Barrecheguren talked about filming and storytelling in the **CineScience: Use of Audiovisual Tools in Science Communication**. We continued organising **Meet the Scientist** events, in partnership with the UK Chapter of the Marie Curie Alumni Association to discuss open and reproducible research in the pub. Last but not least, we also ran our successful **III Scientific Computing** training course about the basics of programming. During this year, SRUK London has partnered with the Spanish Consejería de Trabajo, Migraciones y Seguridad Social to co-organise **Workers' Rights and Brexit**, which brought together representatives of the Spanish administration in UK to talk about the impact that the UK exit from the EU will have on pensions and social security contributions in the Spanish researcher community.

DELEGACIÓN DE LONDRES

La delegación de Londres es la más numerosa de la CERU. Desde nuestra posición central en la capital del Reino Unido, tenemos la oportunidad de colaborar con numerosos organismos, asociaciones e instituciones cuya sede está en Londres. 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.

For more information contact london@sruk.org.uk

SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY

The Scotland Regional Board

Mario González (Director)
Alba Abad (Vice-director, press officer)
Ana Rodríguez (Secretary)

The Scotland Working Group

Guillermo Díaz de Liaño
Cristina Gallego
Ignacio Jiménez
Beatriz Larraz
Irene Olivé
Oriol Roig
Juan Suárez
Enrique Valero
Paula Sotelo
María Rodríguez



Discovering women in Science

Plans 2020/2021

During the next academic year 2020/21, besides exciting new events, we want to recover the events that the health crisis of 2020 has not allowed us to carry out, like Jings! Science left the toon, the first science festival held in one of the most deprived areas of Glasgow. Moreover we will also aim to recover our seminar series Science connect, which will be organised for the first time in collaboration with the **Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival**.

Since it was founded in March 2015, the SRUK Scottish constituency has grown to include members from all the major cities in the region: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Paisley, Saint Andrews, and Stirling.

Events 2019/2020

The SRUK Scottish delegation has held a wide range of events in this period. Consistent to our past efforts on making science available to everyone, this year we were also part of the Bang goes the Borders Science Festival in the Scottish Borders. The workshop we delivered was titled: **Discovering Women in Science** and participants learnt about the lives of amazing scientists that changed the world.

Since its foundation, a priority of our constituency has been to act as a meeting point for Spanish researchers in Scotland. Thus, there are two events that have already become a tradition for us and that we could not miss this year: the **Christmas Lunch** (celebrated with a Spanish food banquet at the University of Edinburgh catered by a Spanish-family business in Edinburgh), and the **Summer Barbecue** (in which the Scottish weather did not prevent us from enjoying a great day in the beaches of North Berwick). Within the social aspect we also organised a **Welcome Party** accompanied by a tour of Glasgow's scientific historic places for the new members of the delegation and for the Spanish researchers who had recently arrived in Scotland.

In 2020, we also celebrated, once again, the International **Day of Women and Girls in Science**. On this occasion, we celebrated the day with a themed **Pub Quiz** on scientific discoveries made by women in one of Edinburgh's most popular Pubs, The Royal Dick, in collaboration with Goose's Quizzes. The event was a complete success, filling the venue completely with people eager to learn about the amazing roles of women in science throughout history and have a good time.

Finally, we would like to highlight the **Mini-symposium** we organised at the historic building of the Old College of University of Edinburgh in which the members of the delegation presented their research with short talks and received feedback on their presentation skills from their more experienced colleagues. It was a fantastic activity, which lasted a whole day, where we could also get to know each other better and see how we can help each other with our research.



Christmas lunch 2019

DELEGACIÓN DE ESCOCIA

La delegación escocesa de CERU se constituyó en marzo de 2015 y desde entonces se ha convertido en una de las más grandes, contando con miembros en las principales ciudades de esta región del Reino Unido (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edimburgo, Glasgow, Paisley, Saint Andrews y Stirling).

Durante el curso 2019/20, la delegación ha celebrado una gran variedad de actos sociales y eventos de divulgación, entre los que cabe destacar un pub quiz temático para celebrar el día de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia o un simposio para conocer mejor los proyectos de investigación de nuestros miembros.

CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

With more than 50 members based in Cambridge but also in Norwich and Ely, we count with PhD students, post-doctoral researchers and principal investigators. They are based in multiple departments across universities and research institutes, but also in the private sector, working in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and engineering companies. The main distinctiveness of our constituency is the presence of a strong and dynamic network of researchers concentrated in a relatively small town; Cambridge University makes our constituency a perfect scenario for scientific discussion and engagement with the public in all sorts of research fields. These aspects have facilitated SRUK/CERU to become known and to grow fairly easy in Cambridge since its constitution in 2012.

Events 2019/2020

Cambridge constituency has been very active planning and running multiple events, from scientific seminars to social and networking events. As a tradition, we started the academic year in September with our **Summer BBQ**, which is always a fantastic way to catch up with SRUK friends after the summer and welcome new members to our community. In October, we celebrated our **Annual Assembly** where the new regional board was announced followed by a **Pint of Knowledge** talk "(Taste) Test my steel! Swords, technology and violence" by the archaeologist Dr Marc Gener. We also co-organised a **Pint of Science** together with the European Chemical Society, an event that took place simultaneously in several European cities with Dr Claudia Bonfio and Dr David Fairen Jimenez talking about their research in Cambridge. This event was sold out and was a great success! For the first year, we got together for a very special **Christmas lunch** hosted in Cambridge.

In January 2020, a member of our working group, Dr Vicente Pérez García, presented his research "Placenta tales: The Beauty and the Beast" in a **Pint of Knowledge**. In 2020, our events aimed to emphasize the role of women in science. To commemorate the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, we celebrated the second edition of **Mum, I want to be a scientist**, co-organised with Hughes Hall College, with short talks by four distinguished women, Dr Nancy Lane, Dr Benedicte Sanson, Dr Maria Eugenia Herva Moyano and Dr Amita Ummadisingu, and an active discussion with the audience. We listened to their experiences and advise as women in science, from chairing the Athena Project to running a research group. In march, we celebrated the **International Women's Day** with Dr. María Jiménez Sánchez, who talked about the recent study by the SRUK/CERU Women Equity and Research Committee "Men and women differ in their perception of gender bias in research institutions". Finally, together with the Northwest constituency, we have launched this year the first SRUK/CERU photography competition, **Investigación en Foco**, to show the need and beauty of our daily research in all fields.

CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

The Cambridge Regional Board

Celia Alda Catalinas (Director)
Julia Falo Sanjuan (Vice-Director)
Ana López (Secretary)

The Cambridge Working Group

Gentzane Sánchez (Treasurer)
Raúl de la Flor (Online Manager)
Maria Pin Nó
Cecilia Huertas
Vicente Pérez
Miguel Anaya



The Cambridge Regional Board

Plans 2020/2021

After mid-March, we unfortunately had to cancel some of our future plans due to COVID-19. We are however hoping to run the event "Science is a different story" in the Cambridge Science Festival of 2021, a science-related storytelling with stories from the SRUK initiative "Science-me a story", combined with hands-on activities. We have plans to organise a series of seminars about different career options, both in the UK and in Spain. We also plan to host a CineScience event as well as a seminar about model organisms in disease studies, as well as other social events.

DELEGACIÓN DE CAMBRIDGE

La delegación de Cambridge se constituyó en 2012 y cuenta con más de 50 miembros. Durante este año, entre los eventos organizados, cabe destacar una "Pint of Science" organizada junto con la Sociedad Europea de Química, la primera comida de Navidad celebrada en Cambridge o la segunda edición del evento conmemorativo del Día Internacional de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia, "Mamá, quiero ser científica". De cara al año 2020-2021, planeamos desarrollar la actividad "Science-me a story" en el Festival de Ciencia de Cambridge y organizar una serie de seminarios sobre salidas profesionales, tanto dentro como fuera de la academia, en España y Reino Unido, entre otras muchas actividades científicas y sociales que contribuyen a la animada vida cultural de Cambridge.

The Oxford Constituency entered its 6th year with 42 members. Coming from all over Oxfordshire and surroundings, our members form a diverse group of researchers, representing both academic institutions and industry, mainly from biotechnology and engineering sectors. Our PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and principal investigators come from very different disciplines, which creates an inspiring atmosphere and fuels productive discussions.

Events 2019/2020

This year has been quite a active one for the Oxford constituency, with many social and scientific events taking place at least once a month. To keep the networking initiatives over the summer, we planned a picnic in July, but due to the weather we rebranded the event as a successful **Bring & Share** lunch hosted in a friendly pub. Heading towards a new academic year, we kept socialising in our recurring **De Cañas** monthly meetings. In September we were energised by Dr Morten Lennholm from the Culham Sciences Centre with his excellent **seminar on Nuclear Fusion**, and its promise of limitless energy hosted in The East Oxford Community Centre. As usual, we greeted all the new members and researchers starting the new term in the annual October **Welcome Event**, gathering in The Oxford Retreat. It was also there, where in November we discussed the **Psychology of Bilingualism** with Dr Nayeli Gonzalez-Gomez and our very own Dr Olivia Afonso. In December, we hold a very active **Annual Assembly**, brainstorming and planning the year ahead, which concluded with a delicious **Christmas Lunch** at the Home restaurant.

In January 2020, under the guidance of Dr Carlos Fresneda-Portillo, we could brush up our knowledge on data analysis celebrating a second edition of our one-day **Statistics Workshop**, kindly co-organised with Oxford Brookes University. In February, to support the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and coordinated with other constituencies, we hosted a **CineScience** and screened "**El Enigma Agustina**", courtesy of its directors Emilio García Gómez-Caro and Manuel González. Gathered in St Anne's college, we could all pay tribute and recognise female researchers who have been forgotten from history. Sadly, the arrival of COVID-19 forced us to cancel or postpone some of the panned events, like our popular Oxford guided tour about Women that changed the world. Instead, in June we went online for the first time to celebrate the 8th edition of our classic **Minisymposia**, where members of our constituency share their research findings. This time, we had a plant sciences thematic event with Dr. Pablo Muñoz and Dr. Sergio Cerezo.



Event organised by the Oxford constituency 2019

The Oxford Regional Board

Rubén González (Director)
Olivia Afonso (Vice-Director)
Fidel Alfaro (Secretary)

The Oxford Working Group

Cristina Delgado (Treasurer)
Irene Echeverría (Online)
Teresa Vilanova (Online)
Helena Rodríguez (Press officer)
Carlos Nieto
Javier Pardo
Pablo Muñoz
Sergio Cerezo
Sergio Silva
Virginia Casablanco



Oxford Working Group meeting, summer 2019.

Plans 2020/2021

As we adapt our events to this new normality, we are coming up with new ideas for the rest of the year. **Moving online**, we will organising **web-seminars and social events**. Cherishing our links to industry we are planning a panel discussion event about how to create a R&D company, which would neatly complement our last year career event.

DELEGACIÓN DE OXFORD

La delegación de Oxford ha crecido enormemente en sus seis años de vida y su dinamismo y actividad es fruto del entusiasmo de todos los miembros del grupo de trabajo, siempre dispuestos a colaborar y a aportar sus ideas, así como del apoyo de sus socios, que siempre se interesan por nuestras actividades. Entre los eventos que organizamos este año cabe destacar los seminarios sobre Fusión Nuclear o Psicología del Bilingüismo, talleres de desarrollo profesional en estadística o la celebración del Día de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia con la proyección de El Enigma de Agustina.

Established in October 2015, the Yorkshire constituency is currently formed by 24 members working in a wide range of disciplines at the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and York.

Events 2019/2020

This has been a very difficult year for the constituency, as some long-standing members left the UK to work in Spain. However, our team still carries on with our enthusiasm for science and communication intact. On the 26th of October 2019, we organised a **social event** simultaneously in Sheffield and in Leeds, to introduce the society to **recently arrived researchers**. The aim of this Welcome to Yorkshire was to gather some new students arriving at the Yorkshire Universities just after the beginning of the academic year. There were a total of 15 attendees across the two cities, which took place in a relaxed atmosphere in pubs within the respective city centres.

On the 8th of December 2019, we celebrated the **SRUK VI Christmas Seminar** focused on the Opportunities and challenges of **Big Data** at the Diamond (University of Sheffield). Four speakers from Academia and Industry sectors presented their work about opportunities of Big Data in biomedical research (Dr. Antonio de la Vega de León, University of Sheffield), opportunities of Big Data for social good (Daniel Sanz Becerril, DataKind UK), ethical issues of Big Data in the health sector (Itzelle Perea Medina, University of Sheffield), and foreseeable benefits and risks of Big Data in our society (Gabriela Arriagada Bruneau, University of Leeds). After these four short talks lunch was provided to attendees. The seminar ended with a friendly and exciting discussion between speakers and attendees about different topics related to the ethical and efficient use of technology in our society. The event, which was sponsored by the Fundación Ramón Areces, had several dozen attendees that engaged in a lively debate.



VI SRUK Christmas seminar (Dr. Antonio de la Vega de León) 2019

YORKSHIRE CONSTITUENCY

The Yorkshire Regional Board

Jacobo Elies-Gómez (Director)
Antonio de la Vega de León (Secretary)

The Yorkshire Working Group

Cristina Navarro Reguero



Welcome to Yorkshire event (Sheffield)

Plans 2020/2021

We are currently in the process of renewing our regional board and actively looking for new volunteers to grow the working group and help us organise new events. Within the following months, we are planning a new event (in line with the 500 years anniversary of the circumnavigation of the world) in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes in Leeds. We are also planning to **host a workshop between researchers and film studies to build science short films**. If you are interested in participating in this event (open to any SRUK member) please contact our constituency.

DELEGACIÓN DE YORKSHIRE

Este año ha sido complicado para la delegación con la salida de varios miembros del grupo de trabajo y directiva. Sin embargo, hemos continuado con ánimo organizando eventos sociales y de divulgación como nuestros eventos Welcome to Yorkshire en Leeds y Sheffield y nuestro tradicional Seminario de Navidad, que este año se centró en el tema de oportunidades y desafíos del Big Data y fue posible gracias a la generosidad de la Fundación Ramón Areces. Nuestra intención para el año que viene es renovar nuestro grupo de directiva y buscar nuevos miembros para el grupo de trabajo. Además, tenemos previsto organizar un evento junto al Instituto Cervantes de Leeds y un taller en el que científicos y estudiantes de cine trabajarán en conjunto para elaborar cortos sobre ciencia.

For more information contact yorkshire@sruk.org.uk

MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY

The Midlands Regional Board

Claudia Román Montañana
(Director)

Laura Bravo (Vice-Director)

Jorge Mellado Muñoz (Secretary)

The Midlands Working Group

Miguel Ángel Aleñá Rodríguez
(Online Manager and Treasurer)

Simon D'Arcy

José Luis Brioso Jiménez

David Olivenza León



The Midlands Regional Board

Plans 2020/2021

Due to the pandemic we had to cancel some of the events already planned such as the visit to the Botanical Gardens and the Archeological Lapworth Museum of Geology. In the meantime, we will celebrate our events using virtual platforms. We plan to celebrate a **Pint of Science** to investigate possible careers beyond academia and also **workshops** to learn useful tools in research such as **R** and **latex**. Our internal "De Cañas" events will be coupled to home quizzes and virtual games in monthly basis, so we can still have contact with our members and friends, which we consider very important in these difficult times.

Founded in 2015, The Midlands is one of the largest constituencies in SRUK and count with over 30 members from all over central England. Whilst the majority of our members study or work in Birmingham city, others are based all over the region, in towns and cities such as Coventry, Nottingham, Worcester, Leicester and Loughborough. Most members are PhD students and postdocs, although we are pleased to count with readers, lecturers and master's students over a wide range of disciplines. Our multidisciplinary environment is an excellent networking and social hub to share different ideas and experiences.

Events 2019/2020

To celebrate the start of the new academic year we organised a **Welcome Event** in October in the emblematic Westmere building in the heart of the Birmingham University with the aim of introducing CERU/SRUK and explaining the benefits of becoming a member alongside the type of events we do to all our newcomers. On the 25th of October we met again in one of the oldest pubs in Birmingham, the Spotted Dog, to participate in a **social** activity, a **Spanish party** organised by some of our colleagues. In November, we had a fantastic and motivational **Science in the Pub** with Dr Estrella Luna, lecturer in Plant Pathology at the University of Birmingham, who shared with us her knowledge and experience on pursuing an academic career in the UK transitioning from PhD into lecturership. This event was a great success and had a massive participation with many students and researchers asking Dr Luna for advice on how to succeed in the challenging academic pathway. In December we were delighted to organise an important and extremely useful **First Aid workshop** in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in collaboration with Firefighter Simon D'Arcy. On this occasion we travelled to Bournbrook fire station where Simon taught and supervised us on how to perform a correct CPR. To end the year, we shared **Christmas** time together by **visiting** our **Birmingham traditional German market**, followed by a delicious and warming Mexican-style Christmas dinner at Bodega restaurant. In April we hosted our first home **virtual quiz** which included questions of biology and chemistry but also about English idioms and Birmingham facts.



Science in the Pub with Dr. Estrella Luna

DELEGACIÓN DE MIDLANDS

Este curso académico ha sido todo un reto y ha resultado muy positivo para la delegación de Midlands. Uno de los eventos más populares fue el Science in the Pub "I was only meant to work here for 6 months: my 11-year career in the UK" de la mano de la Dr Estrella Luna en el cual se completó el aforo. También se celebró un workshop en primeros auxilios y otros numerosos eventos de tipo social como nuestros eventos "de cañas", comida de Navidad y home quizzes. El curso que viene seguiremos trabajando para acercar CERU a nuevas personas organizando eventos de distinta temática, así como promoviendo el networking y la participación entre nuestros actuales miembros.

The Northwest Constituency covers all the area from Liverpool to Carlisle. It currently has over 30 members, a vibrant group of people from diverse scientific backgrounds with different ideas and curiosities as reflected in our activities.

Events 2019/2020

We are really excited about the initiatives launched this year! In September, we had a **welcome event** for new members where we introduced SRUK and our initiatives. It was a fantastic opportunity to promote social and professional networking. In November, we organized our first **Symposium in Neuroscience and Neuroeducation**. We had an introduction to neuroscience by the science communicator Dr Clara García Gorro, followed by an insight to the links between neuroscience and education by Dr David Bueno i Torrens (University of Barcelona), and finishing with Dr Bo Yao (University of Manchester) showing the importance of the inner speech. We then held a debate led by our three speakers on how new advances in neuroscience can impact our learning and teaching, both scientifically and personally. The symposium was followed by the **Award Ceremony of Science-me Story** initiative, which also included a storytelling session for the youngest participants.

In 2020, we continued with the CineScience initiative. To raise awareness of the role of women in research, in partnership with 11febrero.org, we celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science with the screening of the film **"El Enigma Agustina"**. We followed the adventures of a History PhD student who is trying to solve the enigma of Agustina Ruiz Dupont. The film screening was followed by a discussion with Dr Laura Martínez (Lecturer in Physics at The University of Salford) and Dr Laura Castañar (Research Fellow in Chemistry at The University of Manchester) about the role of Women in Science. All our events were in collaboration with The University of Manchester and the Instituto Cervantes Manchester.



North-West working group

NORTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

The North-West Regional Board

David Ruiz (Director)
Laura Castañar (Secretary)
Joan Cítoles Tomás (Community Manager)
Rafael Leiva-García (Treasurer)
 (since March 2020)
Beatriz Baño Otálora (Press Department)
 (until January 2020)

The North-West Working Group

Laura Martínez Maestro
Isabel Peset
J. Javier Burgos Mármol
Carmen San Martín (since March 2020)

Plans 2020/2021

Sadly, year 2020 will be remembered for the coronavirus pandemic and the long confinement measures it caused. We had to postpone some of the events we were planning until life gets back to normal. Luckily, we are able to continue with the first **SRUK/CERU photography competition**, **"Investigación en Foco"** and to prepare **"The Quiz in the North"**, an online competition to test our knowledge about the North-west of England.

We will organize our **2nd Walking Tour** after the success of the 1st edition, where we discovered Manchester, linking iconic places to people who made decisive contributions to science and arts. Finally, we will continue organising more **CineScience** events, where we will project a film/documentary to bring different current science problems closer to everyone and raise awareness about certain topics.

DELEGACIÓN DE NORTH-WEST

La delegación del Noroeste de Inglaterra cuenta con más de 30 miembros, con los que organizamos eventos en los que promovemos la divulgación y comunicación científica como el primer concurso de fotografía **"Investigación en Foco"**, en colaboración con la delegación de Cambridge, o el CineScience, una potente herramienta para acercar temas científicos de relevancia social al público en general. También, no olvidarnos de nuestros eventos sociales como la Fiesta de bienvenida, la Comida navideña, el Quiz Online y la BBQ de verano.

SOUTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

The South-West Regional Board

Erik Rodríguez Vázquez

(Director)

Zuriñe Antón (Vice-Director)

Iván Ferrer Vicens (Secretary & treasurer)

The South-West Working Group

Iñigo Urrutia Irazabal

Sara Alvira de Celis (Online manager)

Alba Lopez Rioja (until November 2019)

Luis Espinosa Anke

Carla Pérez Almendros



The 2019 South-West Christmas Party

Plans 2020/2021

We are organising another two events for Summer-Autumn 2020: **"Python Webinar: Part II & Part III"**, where we will explore how new and existing IT methodologies and resources could help us during our everyday scientific life & how to communicate it via Google Collaboratory. Besides, we will have other social & scientific events to engage in our scientific routines and to show how technology is helping us to keep in touch and interact in this new collaborative age of information. We will continue celebrating regular social meetings to welcome to our growing new members (Welcome event and Christmas dinner) and exciting outreach events.

The South-West Constituency is composed of several scientific nuclei throughout the South-West area including Bristol, Bath, Cardiff and Exeter among other smaller cities. The coincidence of this constituency with the GW4 Alliance provides a fantastic opportunity to foster scientific collaborations between the most research-intensive and innovative universities of the South-West. We work hard in involving, engaging and bringing together SRUK members and local academics across the different research areas.

Events 2019/2020

This year we have gained important and invaluable visibility outside the city of Bristol, getting involved with several members around the whole constituency and starting new events in Wales. In July 2019 we celebrated a **summer barbecue** as a social event to bring together several people from the constituency. At September, we celebrated a scientific event to explore the relationship between Science, Story-telling and Cinema with our first **"The Story of Science in Cinema"** with Mr. Jay Clarke (University of the West of England), Ms. Laura Philips (BEEF Bristol), Dr. Amy Chambers (Manchester Metropolitan University) and Ms. Verity McIntosh (University of the West of England). This one-day event counted with several experts from both academia and industry to show us how science and technology can inspire new generations and how to tell a story via the "big screen". At the end of September we started a monthly social event **"De Cañas"**, where different members have the opportunity to know each other in our local and central microbrewery "Zero Degrees". We greeted all the new members in our annual **Welcome Event** at the end of October. To follow, we organised a new Pint of Knowledge, **"Eating Disorders and Food Myths"**, where Dr Sarah Sauchelli Toran (research associate, NIHR Bristol BRC) and Dr Helen McCarthy (visiting research fellow, University of Bristol) explored topics on psychology and physiology behind the eating disorders. We completed the evening with a **scientific quiz**.

2020 started with a social event **"De Cañas" in Cardiff** to create events outside of Bristol as one of our main goals for this year. In May, we celebrated the first SRUK online event during lockdown, named **Python Webinar - Part I**, an introductory session presented by Dr. Luis Espinosa Anke (Cardiff University). With an outstanding attendance of more than 150 people, we showed how free online resources could help you to develop research scientific skills.



Pint of Knowledge: Eating Disorders and Food Myths 2019

DELEGACIÓN DE SOUTH-WEST

La delegación de South-West se sitúa entre Gales, Londres y el resto del Suroeste Británico. Durante el año 2019 hemos incentivado la creación de eventos sociales que permitan aumentar nuestro grupo de trabajo, la interacción entre miembros residentes en diferentes ciudades y la captación de nuevos socios. Durante el año 2020 nuestro objetivo es la migración de actividades fuera de Bristol mediante actividades científicas y sociales en la capital de Gales, Cardiff. La desafortunada pandemia provocada por el Covid-19 ha desencadenado la creación de una nueva serie de eventos y cursos online para la divulgación científica, como nuestro curso sobre Python.

For more information contact southwest@sruk.org.uk

SRUK is a private company limited-by-guarantee, operating as a non-profit society. Over the last years, our Society has experienced a huge growth in the number of events and activities, needing the economic support of external sources.

ECONOMIC REPORT

"Since our foundation, our main supporter is the Fundación Ramón Areces, that contributes to 39% of our income, of which 54% has been allocated to events during 2019."

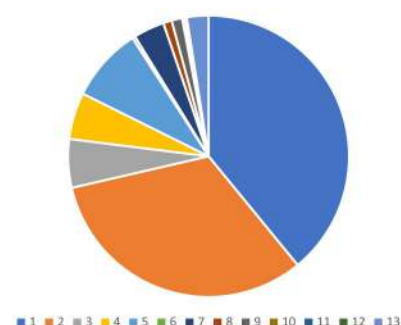
During the year 2019, the Board of Directors has presented funding proposals and applied to specific calls to both, public and private institutions; and it is thanks to our supporters that SRUK is able to develop an ambitious range of activities.

2019

Income

		GBP	%
1	Fundación Ramón Areces	27,998.73	39.06
2	Fundación Banco Santander	23,174.78	32.33
3	OCSA	4,000	5.58
4	FECYT	3,844.02	5.36
5	SRUK Membership Fees 2018	6,128	8.54
6	Surplus Budget 2018	239.06	0.33
7	Fundación Lilly	2,552.61	3.56
8	University of Bristol	700	0.97
9	Univeristy of Liverpool	871.11	1.21
10	ACCIÓN - GenCat	175	0.24
11	Francis Crick Institute	120	0.16
12	Universidad de Sevilla	83.45	0.11
13	On the move fees	1,792.04	2.50

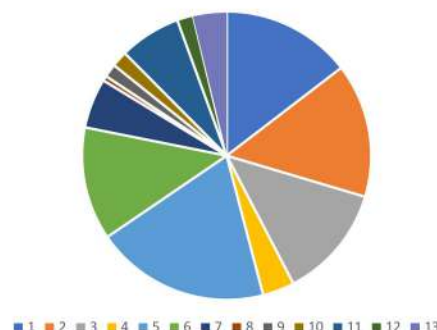
TOTAL £71.7k



Expenses

		GBP	%
1	Seminars, Workshops & Outreach Events 2019	10,442.19	15.13
2	VII Annual Symposium	10,776.59	15.62
3	Ciencia UK 2019	9,144.95	13.25
4	Program DIVULGA (Science-me a story & Science Zone)	2,552.61	3.70
5	2019 Emerging Talent Award	14,000	20.29
6	2019 Emerging Talent Ceremony	9,100	13.19
7	Travel grants 2019	4,000	5.80
8	Microgrants	400	0.58
9	Travel Board of Directors	1,073.98	1.56
10	Web Maintenance	1,274.65	1.85
11	Web design	4,931.68	7.15
12	Committees and departments	1,307.3	1.89
13	Other services	2,674.85	3.88

TOTAL £69.0 k



Our total income has slightly decreased by 4% 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

STRATEGIC PLAN

SRUK is achieving its objectives and broadening our horizons.

However, the current situation in the UK and Spain and the global health crisis keep posing new challenges and opportunities to our Society and our members. In this environment, we will seek to build on our successes and devise new strategies to consolidate SRUK and ensure our long-term sustainability that will allow us to keep bringing benefits to our members.

OBJECTIVE 1: Scientific and Social Network

On-going and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Grow in number of members: focus on senior researchers, members outside academia, and researchers from social sciences and humanities.	Support the administrative work of our volunteers by enhancing the usability of the website as a tool to apply internally to our calls.
Enhance the usability of our website as a tool to promote interactions among our members and improve our communications.	Open new channels to promote key information for non-members.
Maintain our flagship annual calls for professional development (e.g. Mentoring Programme or Travel Grants).	Establish the constituencies of The North East and Northern Ireland.
Support the presence of underrepresented research areas and disciplines in our activities such as Humanities.	Appoint support staff for SRUK

OBJECTIVE 3: Science Representatives

On-going and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Continue the collaboration with major British scientific institutions such as the Russell Group and BEIS regarding Brexit.	Consolidate a plan for further contacts with British scientific institutions on wider scientific policy issues.
Update the report with recommendations on Spanish science policy.	Serve as science policy advisors in Spain and in the UK.
Continue to meaningfully contribute to the activity of RAICEX.	Strengthen collaborations with Spanish councils and the Consejo de Residentes en el Exterior as the representatives of Spanish citizens in the UK.
Continue collaborating with other associations of research diasporas in the UK.	Continue our advocacy work with Spanish political parties, parliamentary groups and representatives of Government.

OBJECTIVE 2: Science Outreach

On-going and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Increased impact of outreach events with events such as Science in the Pub, CineScience or Science Festivals.	Expand collaborations with British outreach institutions.
Recognise and foster Spanish talent in the UK with our key awards (Emerging Talent Award and Merit Award).	Increase and consolidate our presence in the British media.
Consolidate our initiative Science-me a Story and broaden its impact with a printed edition and its potential in schools.	Consolidate and support activities with children and teenagers (Science Weeks in schools or Despertando Vocaciones programme).
Continue offering online events and adapting our initiatives to maintain the activity of the society and the benefits to our members at the UK level and abroad.	Provide opportunities to put a spotlight on equity and diversity through our events and initiatives (e.g. 11feb, SRUK LGTBQ+ day).

OBJECTIVE 4: Science Mediators between Spain and UK

On-going and immediate plans	Long-term plans
Strengthen our collaborations with Spanish institutions to offer placements and mentoring opportunities to Spanish early career researchers.	Academia-Industry exchange scheme.
Deepen the collaboration with Spanish societies and institutions (e.g., ASEICA, CRIScancer, Instituto Cervantes).	Increase the number of sponsors and partners, particularly UK and Spanish R&D companies to support new collaborations.
Consolidate the SRUK On the Move mobility fellowships.	Facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations between Spain and the UK.

For more information, please contact president@sruk.org.uk or vicepresident@sruk.org.uk

MAIN SUPPORTERS

FUNDACIÓN RAMÓN ARECES

The Ramón Areces Foundation is our principal and unconditional supporter. Thanks to them, we are able to promote a whole range of activities and benefits year after year.

From its creation in 1976, the Ramón Areces Foundation aims to support scientific development through the promotion of research activities, knowledge exchange, and the contribution to the generation of personal capital. This institution also supports novel training opportunities for young researchers and promotes the exchange of ideas in Science, Education, and Culture. This Foundation has strongly supported SRUK/CERU since our very beginning. This year, they have sponsored our annual programme of activities (with scientific seminars, outreach activities and professional development workshops all over the country), and our Annual International Symposium. Moreover, this Foundation sponsors every year the event 'CienciaUK', a daylong event focus on career development and opportunities inside and outside academia hosted in their headquarters in Madrid. This year, the Foundation has also maintained its commitment to support scientific events focus on areas with big potential for collaborations between Spain and the UK, such as research in oncology. SRUK/CERU is also very thankful to the Foundation for its continuous support to RAICEX, the network of societies of Spanish Researchers abroad.



Fundación Banco Santander, the sponsor of the SRUK Emerging Talent Award

This Foundation is committed to supporting cultural, humanistic, social projects and scientific initiatives. Their support to Science focuses on the promotion of three aims: the development of projects in the most innovative research fields; the organisation of Science outreach activities; and the commitment to foster the career development of young talents via the concession of grants and funding programmes. SRUK/CERU is delighted to have received the support of Fundación Banco Santander for five consecutive years. In 2020, together we have launched the fifth edition of the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award. With this award, we want to recognise the work of a young Spanish researcher who has developed her/his career in the UK.



Collaboration with the **Office for Culture and Scientific Affairs (OCSA)**

The Spanish Embassy in the UK was the first Embassy to formally perform Science Diplomacy by including this competence in its Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA). This Office aims to promote stronger links between Spanish and British scientific institutions. SRUK/CERU counts with the collaboration of OCSA from its very beginning. This year, SRUK has received again support from the Embassy that would allow SRUK/CERU to develop activities and strategies in order to make this society a reference in foreign scientific associations in the UK. This institutional collaboration has also been crucial to reach both Spanish and British institutions and to promote SRUK activities. Regarding Brexit, the collaboration of the Spanish Embassy has been paramount to maintain SRUK members informed of new developments on this subject, including the application for settled status and our rights as European citizens in the UK.



FECYT

FUNDACIÓN ESPAÑOLA
PARA LA CIENCIA
Y LA TECNOLOGÍA

Created in 2001, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (**FECYT**) is a public foundation dependent on the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. FECYT mission is to enhance the link between science and society, and to promote open and inclusive science as well as scientific culture and education. In this context, FECYT collaborates with the different Societies of Spanish Researchers abroad, including SRUK/CERU. As part of this collaboration, FECYT has participated in the organisation of SRUK/CERU outreach activities and events since 2012, including the SRUK Annual Symposium in which FECYT has been participating for the last five years. FECYT also supported the annual meeting that gathered this year the different societies of Spanish Researchers abroad (RAICEX) with the Spanish network of science, technology and innovation diplomacy.



Since 2001, the **Lilly Foundation** main aim has been to contribute to excellence in Science and Medicine in Spain. They achieve this through activities focused in the promotion of Science, Medicine, and Humanistic Medicine. In their framework of commitment to outreach and communicate Science, the Lilly Foundation has committed again its support to the program "DIVULGA" of SRUK/CERU. This outreach initiative focuses on the promotion of scientific vocations in children and young people. For this, the program DIVULGA decontextualizes the knowledge acquisition and involves adults in the activities in order to potentiate impact. The program builds on two activities, Science-me a Story, a contest for the best children stories based on Science, written in either English or Spanish which keeps growing and consolidating every year, and the Science Zone of the VIII International Symposium SRUK that took place in Liverpool this year.



The **Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC)** was established in 2006 by three founding partners: The University of Manchester, Cancer Research UK and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust. The vision of the MCRC is to be a world-leading comprehensive centre for translational cancer research – transforming the clinical care of cancer patients by developing and implementing an integrated personalised medicine strategy. During 2019, the MCRC has actively supported the first edition of the SRUK Cancer Research Networking Day with the aim of promoting an European network of young researchers within the cancer field, fostering scientific discussion and collaborations between cancer researchers and also bringing together world-leading cancer institutions from these countries.



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia



**Instituto
Cervantes**



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

Má n c h e s t e r



University of
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**native
scientist**



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British Spanish Society



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RAICEX Red de Asociaciones
de Investigadores y
Científicos Españoles
en el Exterior



UAM Universidad Autónoma
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DANinUK



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VICENTE CAÑADA BLANCH
SPANISH SCHOOL



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

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