



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

Annual report

July 2020 - July 2021

Informe anual julio 2020 - julio 2021

Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom SRUK/CERU
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**Society of
Spanish Researchers
in the United Kingdom**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends of SRUK,

What an intense and challenging year for all of us! For many of us the pace this past year has been relentless. Despite the circumstances, I am amazed by the number of initiatives we have achieved and the quality of our online events. We have learnt, adapted, innovated and collaborated to keep SRUK running at its highest standards. This could not have been possible without the tirelessly work and enthusiasm of our more than 120 volunteers, including 17 members of the Executive Committee. We have all given ourselves 100% to meet the SRUK aims and implement the vision of our Society. I look back at the past few months and I am truly amazed and grateful for the passion and dedication that our members and volunteers have shown in these challenging times. I can only express my admiration and acknowledgment for what we all have accomplished together!

I am extremely proud of having had the chance to chair SRUK this year. We have grown in number of members, securing those that have been in the UK for long, while continuing delivering our flagship initiatives and events and strengthening our relationships with key actors in Spain and the United Kingdom. Through hard work and professionalism, and learning new ways of working, our Society has become a key player within the international research environment in both countries, minimising the impact of the current public health crisis and Brexit on our activities.



Carmen Cañizares

This annual report includes our work over the past 12 months. I sincerely hope that you will find these pages interesting and will enjoy reading what SRUK has been up to this year. I would like to highlight the following achievements:

- We have published our report **“Por Un País Innovador”**, which features **recommendations on the R&D system in Spain** and we did a public presentation with partner organisations in Spain, as well as privately in meetings with political parties and officials from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the Ministry of Universities.
- The Department of Science Policy had a major impact this year and published brief pieces about our main recommendations in outlets like **The Euroscientist and The Conversation** Spain, as well as a peer-reviewed policy memo on open science in the *Journal of Science Policy and Governance*.
- We have successfully launched the **2nd edition** of our **“SRUK On The Move”** programme, enabling researchers to visit groups abroad either in Spain or the UK. We have also offered once again our **“SRUK Studentships”** for Spanish undergraduates.
- We have maintained our commitment to recognise the research excellence of our members and facilitate their development by running the **5th edition of the “SRUK Emerging Talent Award”** and offering our first **“SRUK Professional Development Grants”**.
- We have consolidated our outreach initiatives, running the **4th edition** of our popular contest **“Science-me a Story”** with more than 200 submissions from all over the world, as well as our **blog “1, 2, 3... Explore!”** with **23 posts** published this year and our **radio programme “En Fase Experimental”**, that had over **1,000 monthly downloads**. We also launched our first **photography contest “Investigación EnFoco”**.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- We have successfully adapted to new ways of working and hosted several social events and online webinars, including our **first virtual Annual Symposium**, different **programming courses** and the **“Alternatives to Academia” series**, all uploaded in our YouTube channel and visited numerous times. We have participated once again in the events with the occasion of the **“International Day of Women and Girls in Science”**.
- We have monitored very closely the **effects of Brexit** on our members. We have run a last survey to understand the impact on our research community. We have continued our close collaboration with other European research diasporas to send a unified **#DealForScience** message to different institutions and key stakeholders. We have also taken part in **“Ponencia para el estudio de las consecuencias derivadas de la salida del Reino Unido de la Unión Europea”**, by the Spain’s Congress of Deputies.
- Our **mentoring programme** keeps consolidating, currently facilitating **33 pairs** and continuing being an example of fostering good mentorship relationships.
- We have been working together with the rest of the societies that are part of the larger network that is **RAI-CEX**, generating several policy reports, such as our feedback to the roadmap for science in Spain. Together, we continue giving visibility to the research done by more than 3,600 members and to deliver this aim, we have hosted our first joint event with the support of the Ramón Areces Foundation.
- Last but not least, we have also revised our internal way of working. We have sought professional help to revise the legal framework of our Society and generate an **updated version of the Articles of Association**. We have also renewed our website, with a new **Members’ Zone** and exciting developments on our main site that are underway. And we have launched our **SRUK Instagram account** to have a closer and more personal liaison with our members.

SRUK volunteers have been very busy behind the scenes. Our more user-friendly website has helped our members to find and apply to our open calls and opportunities. We have also invested a lot of work in a more sustainable future for our Society, defined by good operations guidelines and a revision of both our legal and financial frameworks. We hope that these changes will bring a more robust infrastructure to help us continue growing and delivering our high impact initiatives. I would like to thank all our volunteers and Executive Committee, with a very special mention to Dr Javier Burgos, our Vice-president during this year, whose professionalism and support has been incredibly remarkable to go together through all the challenges we have faced. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to our collaborators and sponsors, who have been incredibly supportive and accommodating our proposals in a year that has been fully virtual. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Fundación Ramon Areces, Fundación Banco Santander, the Spanish Embassy in London and its Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, Fundación Lilly and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology. Their continued support helps us to achieve our mission and make us very proud of sharing our passion for science and research with them.

This has been a very intense and unique year, full of uncertainty but with lots of surprises, also at a personal level. My term as SRUK President has coincided with the arrival of twins and it ends at the doors of the SRUK 10th anniversary. I remain confident that when we look back at this time, we will be proud of how we came through it together and what SRUK has achieved. I will always feel very grateful and honoured for this opportunity, that has taught me so much, both personally and professionally, and that has given me the chance to experience the amazing work done by the SRUK backstage in first person and contribute with my personal vision to this great project. I am certain that SRUK remains in the best possible hands and I wish we could all meet in person soon.

Un abrazo,



Carmen Cañizares, President of SRUK/CERU 2020/2021

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

WHAT IS SRUK? WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

SRUK was created in July 2011 and was formally established in June 2022. At that time, SRUK was registered in the Companies House of England and Wales. The Society was created with four main aims:

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

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 organisations, general public, and the media. We aim to serve as scientific advisors for both public and private organisations. 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 (SRUK/CERU) es una organización independiente sin ánimo de lucro y sin afiliación política. Se creó en 2011 y se constituyó de manera oficial en junio de 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.

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

OUR STRUCTURE

SRUK/CERU is run by volunteers. During 2020/2021 more than 100 members have actively participated in our departments, working groups and committees, which is what makes possible the Society as it is today.

SRUK/CERU is managed by the **Executive Committee (EC)**, formed by 17 directors representing all our SRUK members. They work together to pursue the aims of the society and the different departments are elected during the Annual General Assembly. In addition, SRUK is organised in ten established Regional Constituencies across the UK, and the directors of these constituencies are also part of the EC and elected by their local members. This facilitates the direct communication between our members and the EC. 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 nine committees: Fellowships



and Awards, Evaluation, International Symposium, Mentoring, Women, equity and research, Cancer-ASEICA, Science-me a Story, En Foco and Design, together with the teams of the Blog, Radio, YouTube and Instagram, and the members of our Scientific Advisory Board.

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 100 voluntarios y voluntarias que hacen posible el crecimiento y la consolidación de CERU. El Comité Ejecutivo (CE) es el encargado 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 a los miembros del Board, a los directores administrativos y a los de los departamentos. Además, CERU se divide en diez Delegaciones Regionales cuya Directiva Local, elegida a nivel regional, también forma parte del Comité Ejecutivo. Así se facilita la comunicación entre los socios y el Comité Ejecutivo. Los voluntarios de CERU participan en los grupos de trabajo de las delegaciones, en los departamentos y en los distintos comités, que desarrollan los objetivos específicos de la sociedad.



Executive Committee



* Also part of the Executive committee: Antonio de la Vega (Secretary until Feb'21); Julio Ríos (Roving Dir. from Oct'21 to Feb'21); Laura Martínez Maestro (VP until Aug'21).

Committees

Fellowships & Awards
 Women Equity & Research
 Evaluation
 En Foco
 Cancer-ASEICA

Science-me a story
 Mentoring
 Annual Symposium
 Design

Members

Regular Friends	Associated
Founding Former Presidents	Honorary

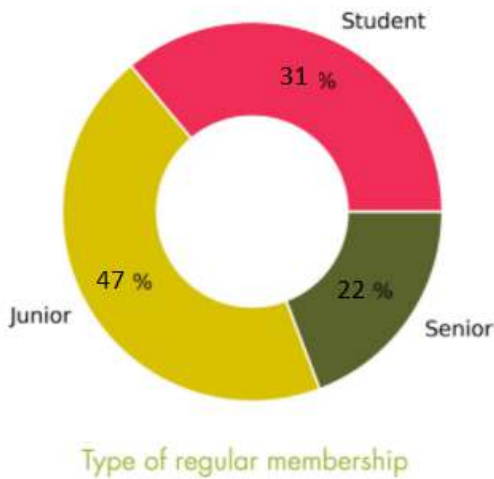
OUR MEMBERS

SRUK/CERU has reached a state of maturity and grown as a community with **over 800 members** during the course 2020-2021.

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.



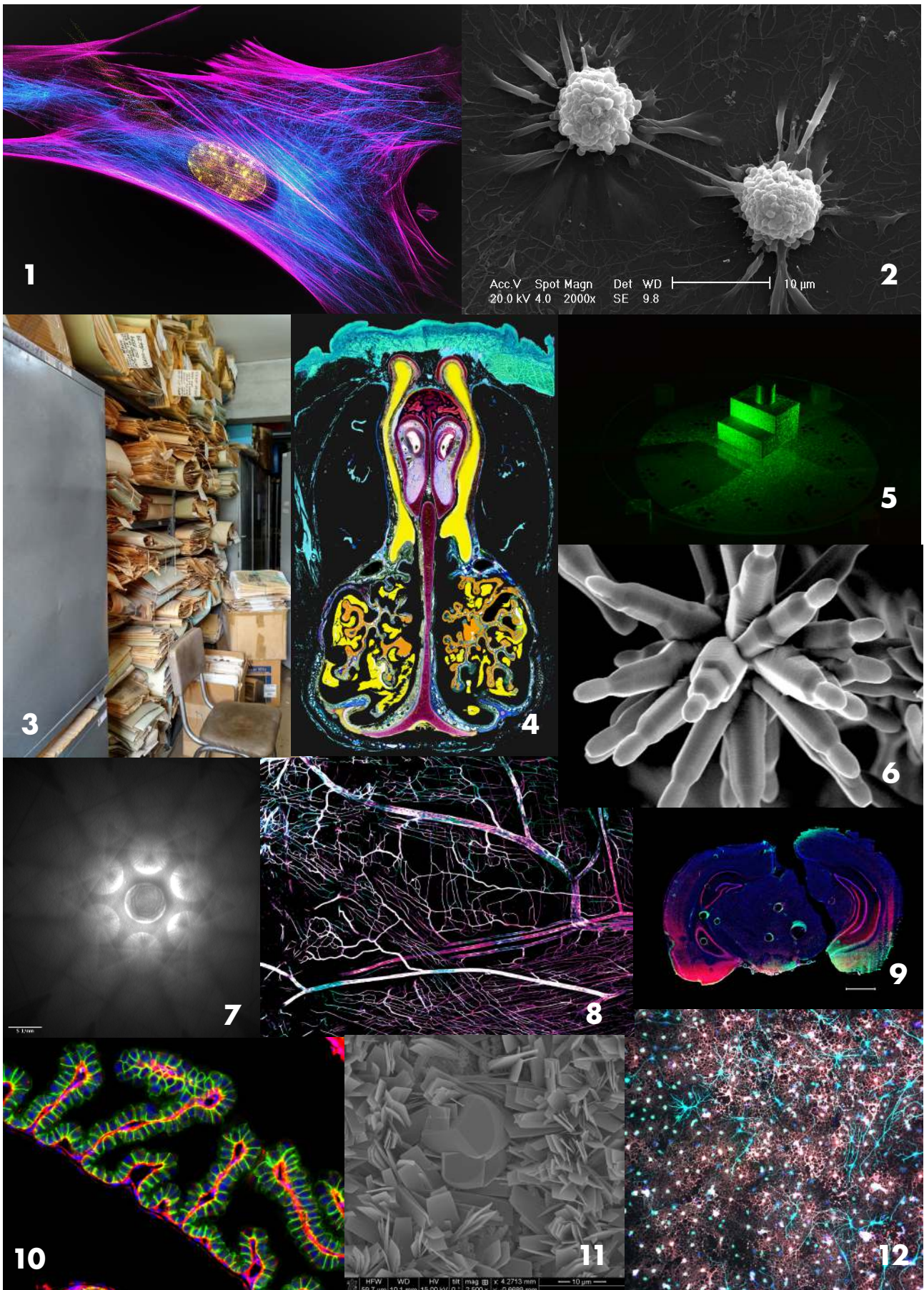
Type of membership	Description	%
Regular	Spanish researchers working in the UK	31 %
Associate	Non-researchers or non-spanish working in the UK	1 %
Friend	Working outside the UK	68 %



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 CERU ha crecido y ya somos más de 800 miembros durante el curso 2020-2021, agrupados en ocho delegaciones oficiales y dos en fase de constitución. 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 de Reino Unido), dando la bienvenida a todo el mundo interesado en formar parte de CERU.



1. *Lively Cytoskeleton*, by Beatriz Castejón Vega. Winner of Technique and quality of the photograph. **2.** *I do not want to die!*, by Pilar Acedo Núñez. Winner of Research communication. **3.** *Hidden diversity*, by Pablo Muñoz Rodríguez. Winner elected by SRUK members and Friends. **4.** *Inspire*, by Paula Rodríguez Villamayor. Winner of Originality and artistic character of the image. **5.** *Laser speckle photogrammetry*, by Gonzalo Arias de Diego. **6.** *Nano-Sea Urchin*, by Carlos García Nuñez. **7.** *Convergent-Beam Electron Diffraction pattern in CrMnFeNi high entropy alloy*, by Antonio Fernández Caballero. **8.** *The vascular maze*, by Natalia Reglero. **9.** *Silence, we are... thinking!*, by Marta Méndez-Couz. **10.** *The yolk sac roller coaster*, by Vicente Pérez García. **11.** *Crystals of degradation*, by Rafael Leiva García. **12.** *Gial cells: the beauty of the brain*, by Alerie Guzmán de la Fuente.

Find out more in: <https://sruk.org.uk/finalists-enfoco-2020/>

SCIENCE POLICY

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.

The Science Policy Department

Pablo Izquierdo, Director
Carmen Sánchez Cañizares
Diego Sainz de la Maza
Isabel López-Neira
José Pedro Manzano
Rocío Gaudio
Javier Escudero
Helena Rodríguez Caro
Francisco Martín-Martínez
Javier Pardo Díaz
Sergio Pérez
Carlos Fresneda
Fernando Jiménez

At SRUK, we have taken and continued 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 year, our work has been featured in Research Fortnight, El País, Radio Exterior and Onda Cero, among other media.

All our activities, reports and statements can be found in our website:
<https://sruk.org.uk/teams/science-policy-department-backstage/>

In the UK

We continue to monitor the new regulations being rolled out in the UK that affect research and researchers, as well as their families and dependents. For instance, we published our **analysis and response to the UK Research and Development Roadmap** and to the **UK Points-Based Immigration System**.

We also published a new survey on the **impact of Brexit on Spanish researchers and students living in the UK**, which revealed increased uncertainty and lower appeal of the UK compared to previous surveys, and highlighted access to European funding as well as citizens' rights as prominent concerns of our community. We will continue to monitor the situation with new surveys as the UK's withdrawal from the EU has now become effective.

In January, given the importance of Brexit for our daily lives as UK residents, we organised a **Q&A event in collaboration with the Home Office and the Spanish Embassy**. More than 100 attendees were able to gain first-hand information and advice from officials, and we remain committed to fluid collaboration with our partners in the months to come.

In Spain

In September, we published our report **"Por Un País Innovador"**, which features recommendations on funding and management, support structures, career support and transparency of selection processes - as well as a request for a political pledge on long-term R&D investment and strategy and a chapter on research culture.

This report was written by our Science Policy department with input and feedback from internal and external stakeholders at various stages of their research careers, and both from within and outside of academia.

The document was presented in a members-only preview and then in a public presentation with partner organisations in Spain, as well as privately in **meetings with parliamentary groups and officials from the Spanish Ministries of Science and Innovation, and Universities**.

Besides ample press coverage, this report led to us publishing brief pieces about our main recommendations in outlets like The Euroscientist and The Conversation Spain.

In March, **we published our recommendations on open science policy as a peer-reviewed policy memo** in the Journal of Science Policy and Governance, providing the Spanish Government with key strategy recommendations toward implementation of open science and open access.

With regard to **Brexit**, we took part in October in the “**Ponencia para el estudio de las consecuencias derivadas de la salida del Reino Unido de la Unión Europea**”, a joint Reporting sub-committee of Spain’s Congress of Deputies and Senate. We used the opportunity to provide a briefing about consequences of the UK’s exit from the EU, outlining challenges and opportunities that Brexit raises for Spain in the context of research.

We also remain vigilant about how Brexit impacts researchers looking to return to Spain. Specifically, we have provided guidance to members about **procedures for accreditation with ANECA**. We are in contact with the relevant entities and have sought information about how protocols will change after Brexit, and about the situation faced by applications submitted in 2021 - which, as of April 2021, are pending until new regulations are in place.



10 keys for an improved R&D system



1. **A cross-party agreement for R&D**, to guarantee a stable long-term budget and its implementation regardless of political hues. This Agreement must also ensure the continuity of a single Ministry with competence in Science, Innovation and Universities, which must be equipped with adequate structures and staff.



2. **Strengthening of the State Research Agency**, especially in terms of staff, to improve its capacity for regular management of all public funding calls for R&D at the state level.



3. **Increase and better monitoring of public investment in R&D**, increasing the amount spent on direct grants and diversifying the funding model, with the aim of enhancing sponsorship and innovative activity within the private sector as well.



4. **Design of a long-term national strategy**, which in addition to defining priority R&D areas and objectives, provides financial stability to achieve these goals - with sufficient grant calls, which must be regular and timely.



5. **Reduction of bureaucracy and bolstering of research support structures**, both to identify funding and collaboration opportunities and to ease the administrative burden on researchers applying for grants or managing funded projects.



6. **Creation and boost of structures that promote public-private research**, in order to promote entrepreneurship and build synergies between public organisations and their private partners.



7. **Support for a stable research career** with accessible, verifiable and clear hiring and promotion criteria, through actions that prevent inbreeding and a merit evaluation in selection procedures, as well as salary improvements based on experience, skills and level of responsibility.



8. **Internationalization of the Spanish R&D system**, fostering interdisciplinary networks, improving attraction and retention of talent, and streamlining the accreditation and homologation procedures.



9. **Promotion of research and science as a part of our cultural wealth**, highlighting its role in both society and institutions through the enhancement of scientific communication and the transparency of research practice.



10. **Advancement in diversity and equity**, by reinforcing prevention and intervention in discrimination or harassment, promoting reconciliation policies and the removal of barriers due to gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, functional diversity, faith, race, social background or place of origin.

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 actores políticos y medios con respecto al Brexit, y hemos publicado 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

RAICEX



Officially established in July 2018, the Red de Asociaciones de Científicos e Investigadores Españoles en el Exterior (RAICEX) currently represents 18 associations, which together account for more than 4,000 Spanish researchers and scientists abroad.

The RAICEX Board of Directors 2020/2021

Alicia Pérez, ECUSA - USA, President
Daniel Gómez, CED - Denmark, Vice-presidency
Hugo Gutiérrez, ACES - Secretary
Eva Ortega, General Secretary in Spain
Marta Martín, RECEMEX - Mexico, Treasury



Annual general assembly Raicex 2020

Our joint mission is to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge between Spanish researchers abroad and all the 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 five 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. RAICEX has achieved an important institutional recognition in Spain and in an effort to continue transmitting the concerns of our communities to the R&D agents in Spain, this year SRUK has collaborated with RAICEX in several actions:

- Briefing about the evaluation procedures to apply for a position as “científico titular” in the Spanish public research institutions (**Organismos Públicos de Investigación**, OPIs). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, travelling was cancelled due to national lockdowns in many countries and therefore, we asked the Ministry of Science and Innovation to establish an online selection process for the researchers working abroad.
- Feedback to the “**Deal for Science and Innovation**”. As official supporters of this document, the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation requested RAICEX views on this document. Our Department of Science Policy has been collaborating to help improve the national strategy for Science and Innovation in Spain, with special attention to the figure of tenure track and the transfer of technology.
- In collaboration with the **Cervantes Institute**, RAICEX has been part of the participants of a working group to foster science in Spanish (“**Ciencia en Español**”), in collaboration with the Ministry of Science and Innovation. SRUK helped highlighting the outreach events we have organised in our very own mother language during the past months.
- On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on the 11th of February, several of our volunteers participated with RAICEX and **ASEICA** (Asociación Española de Investigación en Cáncer) in the campaign named as “Get to know them” (“**Conócelas**”), telling about her research and personal passion.
- Participation on the first edition of the **Award ACES-Margarita Salas**. CERU has presented our nominee to this award, aiming to recognise internationally the research career of Spanish working abroad, who contribute to the progress and well-being of our society. The winner will be announced later in 2021.
- First joint event of all the associations that constitute RAICEX in collaboration with the Ramon Areces Foundation: “**Diálogos FRA-RAICEX**”. On the 30th of June, the first event took place on the topic: Effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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.

SRUK/CERU 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. This year we signed together the **#DealForScience petition**, led by The Wellcome Trust, EU-LIFE and EuroScience to **"Keep the EU and UK collaborating in science"**. On 24 December, the EU and UK secured a trade deal including the UK participation in Horizon Europe – crucial for the stability of scientific collaborations in Europe, the UK and beyond. This means that UK researchers will be able to apply for EU grants and can continue to be collaborative partners for EU researchers. This joint initiative showed the importance of demonstrating support from all Member States and the UK to make the case for continued EU-UK research collaboration.

In October, SRUK/CERU was also invited to the **EU delegation meeting with representatives of EU students and researchers in the UK** by Cyril Robin-Champigneul, (First Counsellor – Research and Innovation, EU Delegation to the United Kingdom). Eight invited associations, representing nationals of six EU countries, confirmed their participation, and so did all Education and Research Counsellors of the respective Member States, as well as from France and Germany, in addition to the Ambassador João Vale de Almeida. We exchanged information, views and suggestions about the impact that Brexit has had on our communities and discussed possible avenues for joint action.

DIÁSPORAS



Science is stronger when we work together

PARSUK
PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS IN THE UK

POLONIUM FOUNDATION

SRUK CERU
Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom

DANinUK

#DealForScience
openpetition.eu/dealscience

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

SRUK aims to create a bridge between private and public institutions in Spain and in the UK and to contribute to the success of both national Research & Innovation systems.

The International Collaborations Department

Desirée Villahermosa Caballero, Director
Cristina Delgado
Cecilia Alda Vidal
Sara Alvira
Antonio de la Vega de León
Iván Ferrer
Silvia Corrochano
José Luis Chinestra Colom

Cancer-ASEICA committee

Angélica Santiago
Sara Alvira
Pilar Acedo Núñez
Alba Rodríguez Meirara
Clara Domingo Sabugo
Laura Gómez Cuadrado
Teresa Valero
Ana Cristina Carvajal Duperier

We communicate and negotiate with Spanish and British organizations (academic and non-academic), explore opportunities for interaction and generate agreements for collaboration; we collaborate and share knowledge with other Societies of Spanish Researchers around the world; and we manage a portfolio of Education, Awards, Networking and Mobility programmes.

We focus on some key aspects:

- **International agreements.** We facilitate collaborations and increase visibility of both Spanish and British research groups.
- **International movement.** We provide a connection platform and foster bidirectional mobility of researchers at different stages of their career enabling stronger relationships between the research groups.
- **Career development.** We organise workshops and seminars and we improve the career prospects of both visitor and supervisor in our mobility grants.
- **Networking and Information.** We organise networking activities and informative events. We study how Brexit affects research mobility, and in particular the implications on the programmes we offer, to support our members.

Our new and established collaborations allow the development of **SRUK initiatives**:

- **International research mobility UK ↔ Spain.** Manage mobility grants focused on training and collaborative placements for researchers at different stages of their careers (from undergraduates to non-permanent lecturers or researchers).
- **Talent recruitment and networking opportunities.** Create and support forum events to connect British, Spanish and European researchers and research groups to facilitate new collaborations for funding and job opportunities.
- **Professional development and awards.** Offer informative and training schemes that advise about alternative or complementary research pathways and enrich the CVs of our members.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

SRUK/CERU tiene como un objetivo fundacional ser intermediaria en Ciencia e Investigación y para ello establece acuerdos con instituciones de investigación españolas. Con estos convenios estimulamos colaboraciones entre organizaciones e instituciones en España y Reino Unido, tanto privadas como públicas y facilitamos la movilidad entre ambos países.

Las iniciativas desarrolladas dentro del departamento de Colaboraciones Internacionales de SRUK/CERU engloban programas de movilidad para estudiantes e investigadores en diferentes estadios de la carrera investigadora, oportunidades para la transferencia de conocimiento y el desarrollo profesional, reclutamiento de talento y premios a la carrera investigadora.

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

2020/2021**Highlighted programmes and events**

- **2nd edition On the Move Fellowships:** On the Move is a bi-directional mobility programme designed for PhD and non-permanent research staff in Spain and in the UK in partnership with the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE). This edition included research institutes with academic affiliation. Despite the pandemic, we awarded this year 8 placements in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and England, from 16 opportunities. Placements in Spain remained vacant while eight researchers from Spanish Universities will enjoy a 3-month placement in the UK.
- **SRUK Summer Studentships:** This year's Winter Studentship call has been postponed and merged with the Summer Studentship, therefore 3 Spanish universities participated. At least 16 students have secured a 3-month placement in one of the 11 UK institutions with SRUK supervisors participating in the call. Many hosting groups are repeating every year, which shows how popular and satisfactory the programme is.
- **Hosting group database:** We are piloting a Supervisor and Hosting Group database for SRUK members. You can join the database by writing to our department and we will notify you when an opportunity for hosting a researcher is available in your area of expertise.

Future initiatives

- **2nd event on the SRUK Cancer Networking Series:** This is a series of international symposiums to take place in the UK and Spain that aim to promote scientific discussion, networking and collaboration between UK, Germany and Spain-based cancer researchers and institutions. The second event will bring world-leading scientists in the fields of cancer genomics, immune system and paediatric cancer to the CNIO, Madrid. The day will alternate seminars, networking, mentoring activities and roundtables on science policy and funding opportunities. Our supporters are Fundación Ramon Areces, ASEICA and Mission Bio and we collaborate with CNIO and CERFA.
- **Other:** Expand On the Move and establish it as an annual programme. Organise a closing event for the OnTheMovers. Participate in the organisation and talks of CIENCIA UK 2021 together with other SRUK departments and constituencies. Develop short-stays grants to set initial meetings with potential collaborators. Establish new collaborations and maintain previous partnerships between Universities, Research Centres and certain public and private organizations related to R&D in the United Kingdom and Spain.

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	
			Federación Española de Biotecnólogos - FEBiotec	

PRESS DEPARTMENT

SRUK Press Department, bringing science closer to society.

The Press Department

Beatriz Castejón Vega, Director
Margarita Segovia Roldán
Sandra Álvarez Carretero
Laura Martínez Maestro
Alba Abad Fernández
Olaya Muñoz Azcarate
Berta Terre Torras

Regional Press officers

David Ruiz Izuriaga (from September 2020)
Diego Alonso Alvarez (from March 2021)
Cristina Fernandez Garcia (from April 2021)
Ana Rodríguez (until October 2020)
Miguel Jodra Davó (until December 2020)
Helena Rodríguez Caro (until January 2021)
Clara Garcia Gorro (until February 2021)
Lourdes Riquelme Dominguez (until Feb. 2021)
Silvia Alvarez (until May 2021)

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

This department is formed by a motivated and enthusiastic team of volunteers which, from July 2020 has issued (alone or in coordination with partner institutions) 10 press releases, including one for our Annual Symposium and for other initiatives such as the SRUK Emerging Talent or the Merit Award. This year, SRUK appeared in the media around 50 times, including general and specialised press, radio, television and digital media.

The Press Department not only promotes SRUK's activities, but it also disseminates the research carried out by our more than 800 members. Last year, our members' achievements in their research area were covered by different media more than 5 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 (podcast) "En Fase Experimental".

The future goals of the SRUK Press Department are to improve 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.



“En Fase Experimental” Radio Program team

Season 6

Laura Martínez Maestro, co-director

David Ruiz Izuriaga, co-director

Carlos Bricio

Our monthly radio program includes the latest scientific news and interviews to researchers, serving as the perfect platform to reach the general public.

‘En Fase Experimental’, with 9 releases this year, can be followed on the main podcast platforms such as iVoox, iTunes, Spotify and Youtube; where our programs have reached more than 15.000 listenings, it has also been highlighted at The Node. Our loyal followers come from Spain, UK and also Latin America!



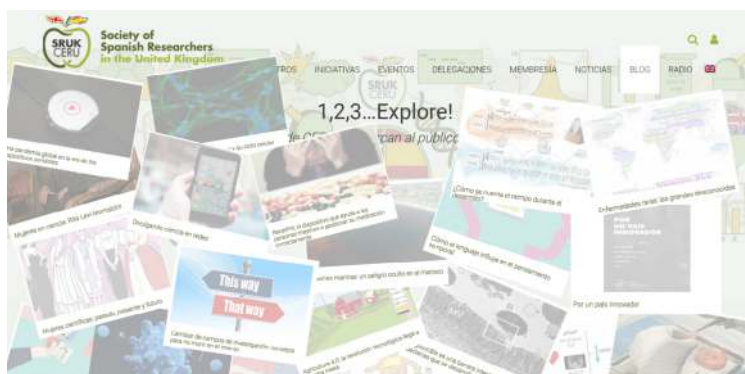
David Ruiz & Laura Martínez

SRUK Blog “1,2,3... Explore!” Editors in chief

Margarita Segovia Roldán

Sandra Álvarez Carretero

Likewise, the SRUK Blog 1,2,3...Explore! helps to disseminate the research made by SRUK members in an enjoyable way, which improves their communication and outreach skills when writing their posts. This year, in addition to being the most popular SRUK initiative, the most read post has more than 9.500 visits. 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!



EL DEPARTAMENTO DE PRENSA

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 10 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, da difusión a 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”**.

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

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The SRUK Communications Department is the face of our community online, increasing SRUK's visibility worldwide through all our communication channels. Responsible for the online communications strategy, it keeps our community engaged with all our events and initiatives, as well as delivering the latest news about science and research.

The Communications Department

Miguel Cacho Soblechero

Director

Regional Community Managers

Larissa Zárate	London
Helena Rodríguez Caro	Oxford
Maria Isabel García Ibáñez	Cambridge
David Ruíz	NorthWest
Isabel Peset	NorthWest
Laura Bravo Merodio	Midlands
Miguel Angel Aleñá Rodríguez	Midlands
Paula Sotelo Parrilla	Scotland
Enric Arasanz Picher	Yorkshire
Teresa Rodríguez Muñoz	SouthWest

Department and Committee Managers

Sandra Álvarez	Webmaster
Sara Alvira	International
Alba Rodríguez Meira	Cancer Committee
Clara Domingo Sabugo	Cancer Committee
Javier Pardo	Science Policy
Helena Rodríguez Caro	Science Policy
Alba Iglesias Vilches	Ciencia-me un cuento
Olaya Muñoz-Azcarate	Press & Blog
Sandra Álvarez	Press & Blog
David Ruíz	Radio
Joan Citoler	EnFoco
Pablo Duro Ocaña	EnFoco
Cecilia Huertas Fernández-Espartero	EnFoco
Daniel Castillo	YouTube

In this difficult year, the Communications Department has been giving voice to our volunteers and members across the UK, updating our community on all our events and initiatives as well as delivering the latest news about science and research. This year has been special and exciting for our online community, with a growing number of initiatives that are taking SRUK brand further than ever before.

Our team has expanded to over 35 volunteers that bring to life exciting content online for the SRUK community every day. Our social media channels have been growing both in followers and in impact, spreading the word for a nation-wide success of our initiatives, while new communication channels such as YouTube or Instagram have successfully launched. Thanks to the committed work of our volunteers, this year we have achieved significant milestones that can be summarised in 3 main points:

- **Our new SRUK website:** After last year's success of the SRUK Members Zone, this year we were committed to offer a better experience to our members online. Based on our new Members Zone, our team enhanced our membership benefits through our SRUK Job Centre, where you can find the latest scientific jobs in the field, or our Grants & Awards dashboard, making it easier than ever to participate in our initiatives. Furthermore, in Summer 2021 we launched a new SRUK web portal, with a new design and an intuitive user experience that will completely change our way of interacting. Our new portal will serve as our window to the world, making our initiatives more accessible and our community more approachable.



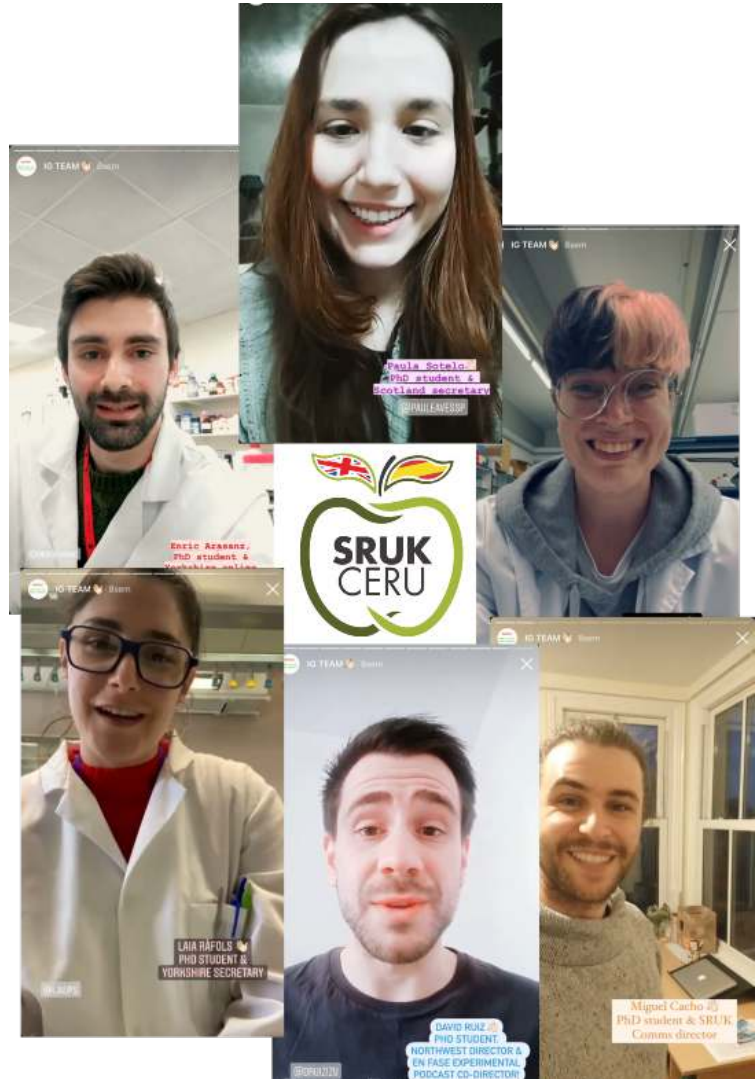
The new SRUK website

- **Our Instagram Channel:** This year, we decided to take our social media one step further by launching our Instagram channel, with a dedicated team of content creators approaching our community in a more visual and personal way. More exciting events upcoming in the following months, so don't miss a thing and follow our channel at <https://www.instagram.com/srukceru/>

Instagram Content Creators

Elisabet Batlle Rocafort,
Chief Creator @bbetbatlle

David Ruiz @druizizu
Eric Arasanz Picher @enricarasanz
Laia Rafols @laiups
Loreto Gestoso @zelaya.orama
Paula Sotelo Parrilla @pauleavessp
Beatriz Castejón @beatrizcasveg



- **Our Design Committee:** Our volunteers have always been in between art and science, and this year we decided to build a team around this talent. This is how our Design Committee started, bringing together a team of scientists and researchers with a hidden artist in them, putting colour to our events and initiatives.

Design Committee

Cristina Gallego Páramo, Chief Designer
J. Javier Burgos Mármol
Loreto Gestoso
Berta Gallego

Some members of the Communications Department

In a year of uncertainty, the communication team has been key to keep our community active and engaged. My last words are a big “thank you” to every volunteer that made possible this success, every social media manager that tweeted, posted, re-tweeted, or simply liked on our social networks and help us all build bridges between us and the world with a clear message: #LaUnionHaceLaCiencia.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE COMUNICACIÓN Y REDES SOCIALES

El Departamento de Comunicación 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, dando difusión a todas las iniciativas de la asociación. Este año hemos expandido nuestra presencia online a través de nuestro nuevo canal de Instagram y nuestra nueva área para socios, fomentando la comunicación entre socios. Igualmente, nuestro canal de YouTube sigue aumentando en videos y visitas. Por último, el impacto de nuestras redes sociales crece cada día, gracias al gran trabajo de nuestro fantástico equipo de comunicación, con más de 35 voluntarios en todo Reino Unido.

If you want to be part of our Communications team, or want to know more about us: online@sruk.org.uk

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Fellowships and Awards Committee

Pilar Acedo (chair from Feb'21)

Julio Ríos (chair from Oct'20 until Feb'21)

J. Javier Burgos Mármol (chair until Oct'20)

The SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants 2021 awardees

Call 1:

- Sandra Álvarez-Carretero
- Carlos García Núñez
- Pablo González Suárez
- Marta Peña Fernández
- David Ruíz Izuriaga

Call 2:

- Guillermo Díaz de Liaño del Valle
- Jose Vicente Torres Pérez
- John Stewart Fabila Carrasco
- Segio Serrano Blanc

In February 2021, for the first time, the Board of Directors agreed to adapt the SRUK/CERU Travel Grants into the SRUK/CERU **Professional Development Grants**, to accomplished with the current international COVID-19 safety guidelines and restrictions, while still promoting the career development of its regular members. Thus, in this new 2021 edition, applications were accepted for **virtual** activities/events only.

The Professional Development Grants were divided into two different rounds, with the second call opening in August 2021. Ten grants of up to £200 were available for each round.

During the **first call**, 5 applications on diverse scientific areas were received. Since onsite meetings were again possible, £400-worth travel grants were also offered during the **second call**, for which 4 applications on different research fields were received. All members fulfilled the mandatory requested criteria and thus, SRUK awarded **nine members** a professional development grant.

These grants were aimed to help fund the cost of presenting their research outcomes at virtual international conferences, attending workshops, networking events or specialised virtual training courses, or to help organising and running online scientific events or meetings. All applications were required to respect and follow local, national, and international COVID-19 regulations.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The SRUK Evaluation Committee

Pilar Acedo (chair), University College London, UK

Carmen Domene Núñez, University of Bath, UK

Natalia Mallo, Clúster de Acuicultura de Galicia, Spain

Victoria Pastor, Universitat Jaume I, Spain

Julia Herrero Albillos, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

Nuria Ferrándiz Díaz, University of Warwick, UK

Francisco José López Cantos, Universitat Jaume I, Spain

Rocío Gómez Lencero, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

María Hernández Fuentes, UCB Pharmaceuticals, UK

Francisco Flórez Revuelta, Universidad de Alicante, Spain

Alfredo Miguel Antón Sánchez, GMV, Spain

Silvia Corrochano, Fundación para la Investigación Biomédica del Hospital Carlos III, Spain

Rodrigo Ledesma Amaro, Imperial College London, UK

Sara Alvira de Celis, University of Bristol, UK

The SRUK Evaluation Committee participates in scientific evaluations of applications for certain SRUK initiatives and provides advice to the Board of Directors on scientific matters. The Evaluation 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.

Other regular members

Moisés García Arencibia, Universidad de la Laguna, Spain

Gloria López Castejón, University of Manchester, UK

Cristina Delgado, Protein Pharmaceuticals, UK

Marta Vila Pueyo, King's College London, UK

Pedro Ballester, Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (Inserm), France

Miguel Cacho Soblechero, Imperial College London, UK

Desiree Villahermosa, University of Sussex, UK

Nerea Alonso, University of Edinburgh, UK

The evaluation committee is renewed periodically. Please contact roving@sruk.org.uk for more information.



MENTORING PROGRAMME

The uncertain situation experienced during last 2020 has contributed to reinforcing our conviction about the importance of additional and transferable skills for the development of a research career. In this context, SRUK Mentoring Programme benefits from the diverse range of members' skills and areas of research to support young Spanish researchers in the planning of a successful career path, either in Academy or industry.

Luckily, new technologies have allowed us to successfully carry out the 3rd edition. Nowadays, the Programme is running its 4th edition with more than 60 participants; 33% of the mentoring partners continue from past editions and the rest, around 66%, are new joiners.

The regular feedback received from participants along with the increasingly clear link that has been established between committee members, encourage us to work with enthusiasm in maintaining and improving the programme.

We are also very happy to observe that for the second consecutive year, the satisfaction of the programme is very high, with nobody giving us negative feedback on the programme and 80% of the participants considering it as "Good" or "Very Good". Our main objective is to establish rewarding relationships between mentor and mentee since those kinds of mentoring relationships provide satisfaction and benefits for them. Therefore, the mentors and mentees inputs have been building valuable examples of what a successful mentoring relationship may be and advice to overcome some of the situations that could arise during the relationship. To address that, in the committee we have been delivering activities, such as recurrent "virtual mentoring cafes" where mentors can share their experiences, always anonymously, that were highly successful in previous editions, as well as fresh ideas that will help mentors to improve their skills and be more helpful for the mentoring relationship.

Satisfaction with the mentoring programme in the three editions

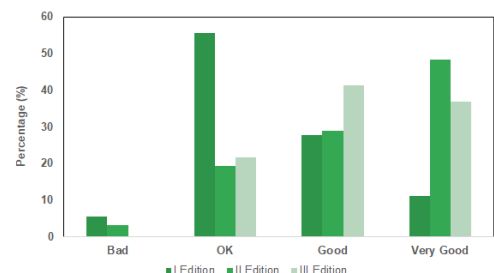
The Mentoring Committee

Patricia Forcén, Chair
 María Jiménez
 Estrella Luna
 Itziar Peñafiel
 Ana del Río
 Cristina Fernández García

3rd Edition (2019-2020) Mentoring Recognition Awards

To outstanding mentors who have been nominated by their mentees. Congratulations to the awardees!

- Diego Alonso
- Anna Cupani
- David Fairén
- Patricia Forcén
- Estrella Luna
- Alba Maiqués
- Itziar Peñafiel
- Inés Pineda
- Ana Río-Machín
- Isabel Romero



EL PROGRAMA DE MENTORAZGO

El Programa de Mentorazgo de SRUK busca apoyar a los investigadores españoles en la planificación de su carrera profesional tanto académica como industrial. En la actualidad, el Programa lleva a cabo su 4^ª edición con más de 60 participantes. El 33% de los socios mentores continúan de ediciones pasadas y el resto, alrededor del 66%, son nuevos miembros.

Gracias al sistema regular de feedback entre el comité y los participantes seguimos mejorando el programa año tras año siempre teniendo en el horizonte nuestro principal objetivo: que los participantes logren establecer una relación gratificante con su mentor o mentee y que se sientan satisfechos con el beneficio que ésta les proporcione.

For more information, contact: mentoring@sruk.org.uk

VIII INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Organising Committee

Javier Pardo Díaz (Chair)
Marta Acebrón
Sandra Álvarez Carretero
Virgínia Casablanças
Sergio Cerezo
Cristina Delgado
Irene Echeverría
Marta Pina
Mercedes Regadío
Helena Rodríguez

Former members

Olivia Afonso
Fidel Alfaro
Carlos Fresneda
José Pedro Manzano
Alba Rodríguez
Teresa Vilanova
Larissa Zarate

Social media and design

Cristina Gallego Páramo
Elisabet Batlle
Berta Gallego
J. Javier Burgos Mármol
Loreto Gestoso Suárez

The VIII International Symposium SRUK/CERU, entitled “Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”, was

held on 19-20 June 2021. Due to the pandemic, this edition was the first one that took place online. The event was a huge success. Part of this success was due to the use of the virtual platform GatherTown. This platform allowed the more than 90 registered attendees to chat and interact among themselves and walk around the different rooms as if they were physically together.



Virtual coffee break in GatherTown

On Saturday morning, the inaugural session was led by our SRUK President, **Dr Carmen Sánchez-Cañizares**. There were also welcome speeches from **Mr Miguel Oliveros**, Minister Counsellor for Cultural and Scientific Affairs at the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom, **Mr Raimundo Hernández**, Director of the Ramón Areces Foundation, and **Mr Javier Pardo Díaz**, Chair of the Symposium. Right after, we started with the first session, titled “*Magic perception and its role in history*”. The two keynote speakers were **Prof Susana Martínez-Conde**, Director of the Laboratory of Integrative Neuroscience at the State University of New York, and the archaeologist **Prof Chris Gosden**, from the University of Oxford. Prof Martínez Conde presented the neuroscientific basis of perception and its relationship with visual and cognitive illusions, whereas Prof Gosden focused on how magic, religion and science have shaped the image of the world we have.

After a virtual coffee break when attendees were able to chat among themselves, we attended the talk “*Magic at the kitchen!*”. During this talk, **Prof Félix M. Goñi**, from the University



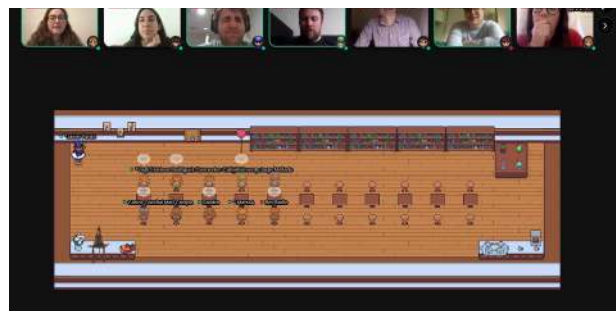
Poster session in GatherTown

of the Basque Country, discussed the biophysical properties of food and how we make use of them during the cooking processes. There was also time for mentioning several interesting recipes and tasty dishes. With all this information in mind, we treated ourselves to a well-deserved lunch break. During this time, we had the **poster session**, where some SRUK members presented their research.

The session in the afternoon was a round table on ecology and climate crisis, moderated by our very own **Dr Pablo Muñoz Rodríguez** (University of Oxford). The three invited panellists were **Dr Daniel de Miguel** (University of Zaragoza), **Dr Imma Oliveras** (University of Oxford) and **Ms Paula Solascasas** (Autonomous University of Madrid). They managed to help us understand how ecosystems have fluctuated over time and still keep changing. Some of the topics discussed were the use of the fossil record to infer climate variations, the role of human action in wildfires and climate change, and some examples of how to maintain and manage natural ecosystems.

Later in the evening, we enjoyed the third edition of the **Science Zone**, which counted with different outreach activities. We learnt about marine animals and the role of women in science through history. We were also able to attend a storytelling session with the winners of the SRUK literary contest Science-me a Story, sponsored by the Lilly Foundation. Afterwards, we had some **networking activities** in which the attendees got to know each other's interests and even look for possible scientific collaborations.

On Sunday, we kicked off with the keynote talk by **Prof. Esther Rodríguez Villegas**, our SRUK Merit Award 2020. She highlighted the role of medical devices in preventing repeating death in patients with epilepsy, from their conception until their market release. On a more personal note, she also pointed out the main achievements in her professional career. After this inspiring talk, we moved on to the



Networking: Scientific "speed dating" in GatherTown

research presentations by SRUK members. In line with the symposium theme, they acted as if they were minstrels explaining the magic component of their work. This session allowed the SRUK community to get to know the details of the work of other members.

To finalise the symposium, we had a series of **workshops on science communication.** The objective of these activities was to teach how to best deliver their research depending on the audience. We had a total of eight workshops organised by professionals, namely *Collaboration journey academics-industry* (by **Jara Pascual**), *Communicating with policy-makers* (by **Leonor Sierra**), *Science communication for children* (by **Sara Marques**), *Youtube and science: from paper to challenge* (by **Guillermo Pérez**), *How to Beat Digital Distraction and Writing for Productivity* (by **Andy Tattersall**), *Making science become news* (by **Adeline Marcos**), *Lasting impression: How to make a memorable presentation* (by **Jamie Gallagher**), and *How to shape science for social networks* (by **Daniel Pellicer**). All the workshops were very engaging and highly valued by the attendees.

Overall, the VIII International Symposium SRUK/CERU was very well received by the attendees and a great success according to the organisers. However, we cannot wait until next year when we can meet each other again. Hopefully, by then, it will be in person!



MERIT AWARD

2020

SRUK/CERU Merit Award 2021, recognising her remarkable career and her contributions to the development of low-power electronics, as well as her role as innovator and entrepreneur.

The Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) was pleased to announce the winner of the SRUK/CERU Merit Award. This award is aiming to recognise the career of an internationally renowned senior Spanish researcher based in the UK who has been instrumental to the advance of science. Candidates for this award are nominated every two years by members of SRUK/CERU, the SRUK/CERU Awards Committee and partner institutions. For the 2020 edition, postponed due to the Covid-19 health crisis, the awardee is **Prof. Esther Rodriguez Villegas, Chair of Low Power Electronics at Imperial College London, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, director of Wearable Technologies Lab and founder of Acurable company**, for her prolific and outstanding scientific career both in Spain and in the UK.



Prof. Esther Rodriguez Villegas

Prof. Rodriguez Villegas started her career studying Physics at the University of Seville, in the area of electronics, graduating first of her promotion. She completed her PhD at the same university in 2002. After finishing her PhD, Prof. Rodriguez Villegas joined Imperial College London, where she has developed over the years an exciting career in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Her area of expertise, low power electronics, has driven her interests towards the development of wearable sensors for physiological monitoring and low-power integrated circuits with a focus on healthcare applications. Over the years, she has balanced a prolific career as an academic, with intense activity in the area of innovation and technology transfer, backed up by multiple awards. Examples include two European Research Council Grants, Starting and Consolidator, an Innovation Award from the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), an XPRIZE and, in 2020, the Silver Medal from the Royal Academy of Engineering, becoming an elected member of the Academy (FREng) in that same year. In addition to her academic career, Prof. Rodriguez Villegas has also had an intense activity in the industry. In 2016, she founded Acurable, a start-up that markets advanced wearable devices to accurately diagnose and monitor respiratory conditions. Among other things, Acurable has been named one of the 100 Most Disruptive Companies in the World (Disrupt100).



Prof. Esther Rodriguez Villegas

With this recognition, Prof. Rodriguez Villegas has also been awarded an honorary membership of the Society and she will become a distinguished adviser for SRUK/CERU. The president of SRUK/CERU, Dr Carmen Sánchez-Cañizares, highlights that "Prof. Rodriguez Villegas is a prime example of a world-leading Spanish researcher working in the UK. Her professional career represents a reference and role model for our members. As representatives of the community of Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom, SRUK/CERU is proud to recognise her outstanding career with our Merit Award".

In the words of Prof. Rodriguez Villegas "It is an honour to receive this unexpected award. It is truly emotional for me because, regardless of where I live or where I work, this is a Spanish award, and as such, it has a special meaning for me".

Sponsored by



Dr Rodrigo Ledesma Amaro wins the 2021 SRUK Emerging Talent Award

Dr Rodrigo Ledesma Amaro worked as a Marie Curie post-doctoral fellow at INRA (Institut national de la recherche agronomique, France) from 2014 to 2017, and joined Imperial College London (UK), in 2017, with a competitive fellowship to begin an independent research group, becoming a Lecturer in 2019. Rodrigo is currently investigating topics at the interface of Synthetic Biology and Metabolic Engineering. He has developed new synthetic biology tools to understand and manipulate metabolic pathways such as multiplexed CRISPR technologies, Golden Gate libraries of DNA parts, or genome-scale metabolic models, which are now used worldwide in industry and academia. He has worked in different metabolic pathways, including the identification of novel target metabolic genes for the overproduction of vitamin B2 (riboflavin), which have been patented and are now used by BASF to produce 60% of the worldwide production of this vitamin. This



Dr. Rodrigo Ledesma Amaro

research led him to create the start-up CorNatural, founded in 2019, which has received investment from SOSV. Another important contribution to the research field is the development of a patented method to generate the largest gRNAs arrays for multiplexing CRISPR ever described, which allows the manipulation of up to 24 genes in a single transformation. The novelty of his approach has been supported by numerous grants accounting for more than £3.5M, including the prestigious ERC starting grant.

Rodrigo will use the Award money for multiple purposes; i) boosting sustainability by the dissemination of his research and promoting the involvement of his department in the LEAF initiative, a UK-wide program that recognises efforts in reducing waste and energy, plastics and water consumption; ii) dissemination of his research by the creation of a podcast via Researchpod, and the participation in outreach events like the Great Exhibition Road Festival or the New Scientist Live; iii) cover expenses of visiting PhD and MSc students from Spain, services fees for the use of equipment not covered by other grants and attending a training course about single cell RNA sequencing analysis.

This year, 20 candidates with a high-quality profile have applied for this award. These applications have been assessed by the designated scientific panel, made up of high-quality researchers from institutions both in Spain and UK. Based on their evaluations, the awardee ratified by a jury composed by representatives of SRUK, the Emerging Talent Award evaluation panel, the Fundación Banco Santander, the Fundación Ramón Areces, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECyT), and the Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom. **Info:** <https://sruk.org.uk/imperial-college-london-researcher-rodrigo-ledesma-amaro-wins-the-sruk-ceru-emerging-talent-award-2021/>

EMERGING TALENT 2021

Recognising and fostering Spanish talent in the UK

We are very pleased to have launched the sixth 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 junior 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.

SRUK Emerging Talent Award Evaluation Panel

Esther Rodríguez Villegas (Chair), Imperial College London

Elena Caro Bernat, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

José Antonio Carrillo de la Plata, University of Oxford

Mara Dierssen, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona

Carmen Galán, University of Bristol

Sergio Lozano, University of Oxford

Mercedes Maroto Valer, Heriot-Watt University

Carlos Roma Mateo, Universidad de Valencia

SRUK Emerging Talent Award 2021 Finalists:

Lucía Prieto Godino, The Francis Crick Institute
Ignacio Martín-Fabiani Carrato, University of Loughborough

Javier Escudero Rodríguez, University of Edinburgh

Nuria Tapia Ruiz, Lancaster University

SCIENCE ME A STORY 2020



Sponsored by



Awarded stories from the 3rd edition of Science-me a story

Spanish category

- 1st *“Doctora, ¿qué le pasa a mi elefanta?”* de Marta Renato Sánchez
- 2nd *“El nuevo mundo de Sofía”* de Jesús Victorino Santos
- 3rd *“Los caballeros de la mesa viruela”* de Paula Mariel Liveratore

English category

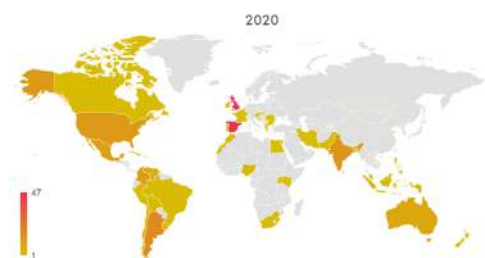
- 1st *“War”* by Alexandra Gurzau
- 2nd *“A pop and a pong”* by Hayley Down
- 3rd *“I wonder...”* by Olivia Brinkley-Green

Members of the Science-me a Story committee

Isabel Peset
Maria Pin N6
Alba Iglesias
Eva García
Ester Pascual

Members of the external Jury

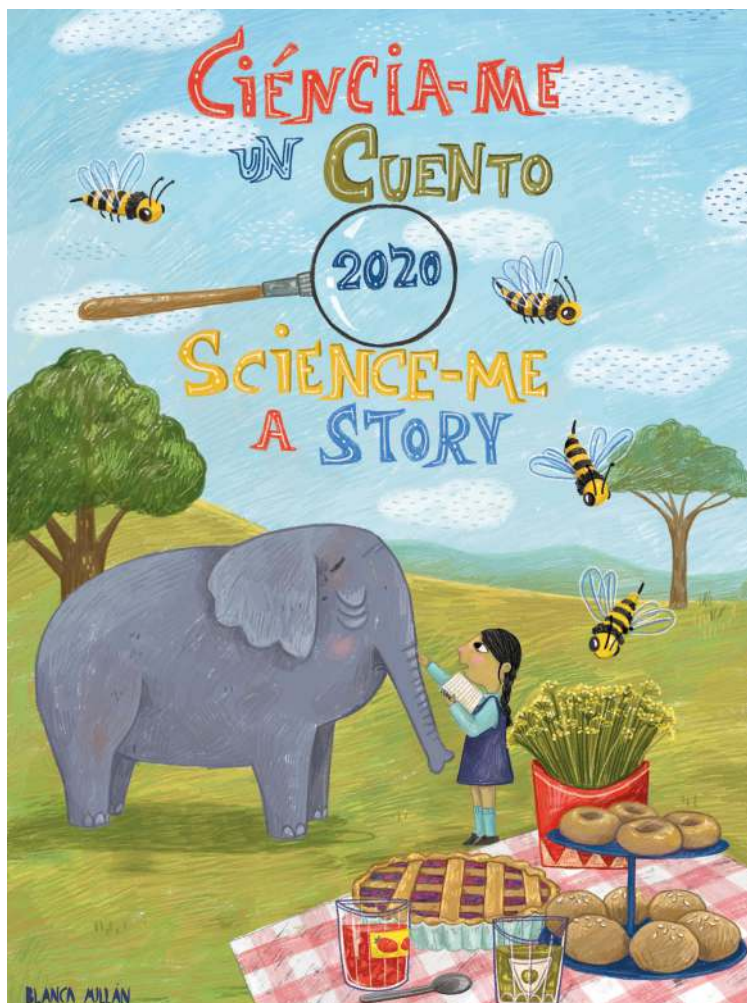
Greg Lynall, Izzie Clarke, Claire Culliford,
Viktoria Korzhova, Salvador Macip, Francisco
Vega, Maruxa Martínez-Campos, Daniel
Ramón



Heat Map showing the origin of the stories submitted in Science-me a story 2020

The 3rd edition of Science-me a Story has been a great success besides the circumstances. We have received more than 200 scientific stories from all over the world. For the first time, the number of entries in the English category has been like the Spanish category. Thanks to the continued sponsorship from Fundación Lilly and the collaboration with Principia, together with the high participation and the jury support, Science-me a story is starting to be a consolidated scientific writing contest.

The stories have been published in the on-line Principia magazine and the Literature and Science Hub (University of Liverpool). The winners have received a monetary price as well as an edited book with the 2020 winning stories. For this edition, we have not organized an award ceremony, but we prepared a video with short interviews to meet the authors of the awarded stories.



Science-me a story 3rd edition edited book. Illustration from Blanca Millan

This year, we have started different initiatives to make the stories accessible for children, teachers and families. **Dibuja-me un cuento** took place during the lockdown, kids participated through Facebook, and the winner got a Principia Kids subscription. We also uploaded the winning stories from the three editions to our Youtube channel. In these **audio stories**, the authors read their own stories, and volunteer illustrators have animated them. We have been amazed by the beautiful illustrations and the collaborative effort between the authors and the illustrators. We also have started to create some **teaching units** with Claire Culliford to provide supporting material for the stories, mainly when used at primary school.

We have also established further collaborations to use the scientific stories in other activities. With **SRUK Women in Science** we are working with primary schools towards changing the scientist stereotypes through the stories, as most of the authors and main characters of the stories are women. We have also launched a **series of storytelling** with the Instituto Cervantes de Manchester. During this online session, Claire Culliford is reading the stories from both categories and is also organising some activities for the children to better understand the scientific concepts. The first storytellings are covering the topic of vaccines according to the current pandemic situation. We have more sessions planned for next year and the intention that other Intitutos Cervantes will join the initiative.

And finally, we are happy to announce that Fundación Lilly has given us the support to edit a **digital book** with all Science-me a story winning stories. Fundación Lilly believes that the SRUK scientific writing contest is a powerful initiative to communicate science. Together with the **Penguin** book publishing company, we have worked with authors and volunteer illustrators to prepare **the first Science-me a story book**. It will be an on-line edition which will be free and accessible to everyone from the Fundación Lilly website. A certain number of books will be printed and distributed to institutions related to science communication. We have been very excited about this opportunity and have worked hard to have it ready for next year. We believe this book will open many new adventures for Science-me a story.

Collaborators:



PRINCIPIA
kids



One of the illustrations of Copep-mar y el globo verde by Loreto Gestoso



Dibuja-me un cuento 2020 awarded drawing by Vera Castellanos

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

INVESTIGACIÓN EN FOCO



I SRUK/CERU Photography Competition

Members of the organising committee

Cecilia Huertas Fernández-Espartero
(Cambridge)

Gentzane Sánchez Elexpuru (Cambridge)

Laura Castañar Acedo (North West)

Joan Citolera Tomas (North West)

Pablo Duro Ocaña (North West)

Members of the external Panel

Daniela Riva Rossi, Art historian and artist

José L. Ruiz, graphic designer

Clara Novo, scientist at PDRA Babraham

Institute, Cambridge, and photographer

Gem Toes-Crichton, photographer in Plant

Sciences department, Oxford

Helena González Burón, biomedical, CEO of

Big Van Ciencia

Laura Llera, Deputy vicepresident of Scientific

Culture, CSIC

Juan Aballe, professional photographer

Caitlin Griffiths, Lecturer on Photography BA

(Hons) at Salford University

The winners were:

- **Paula Rodríguez Villamayor** with "INSPIRE". Winner of Originality and artistic character of the image
- **Beatriz Castejón Vega** with "Lively Cytoskeleton". Winner of Technique and quality of the photograph
- **Pilar Acedo Núñez** with "I do not want to die!". Winner of Research communication
- **Pablo Muñoz Rodríguez** with "Hidden diversity". Winner elected by SRUK members and Friends.

**Don't miss the photographs
of our finalists on page 9!**

In 2020, the Cambridge and North West constituencies collaborated to organise for the first time the SRUK/CERU photography competition "Investigación en Foco".

The main objective was to allow the SRUK/CERU members and friends to express and reinforce the need and beauty of daily research through images. An important part of the competition was to make the research more accessible to a broad audience. Each participant was able to submit a single photograph to capture any particular theme in any research field, including Mathematics, Biology, Medicine and Health, Chemistry, Ecology and Environmental Science, Physics, Astronomy, Engineering Technology, Humanities, Arts, Social Sciences and Science Communication.

We had the collaboration of an external panel of eight members with different backgrounds such as photography, public engagement and Science and History, among others. They marked a total of 25 photographs, out of which 3 with the highest marks were the winners corresponding to the 3 categories of the contest: originality, technique, and research communication.

There was a 4th winner who was elected by the SRUK/CERU members and friends via e-vote.

On October 28, 2020, we had the pleasure to celebrate the online Awards Ceremony. We exhibited the 12 shortlisted photographs. Each author had the opportunity to explain the art, science and beauty of their work to a numerous audience. The 4 winners corresponding with each category were announced and awarded £100 each!

Finally, we gifted the authors with a 2021 Calendar made with the 12 photographs shortlisted by the external panel of experts. These photographs are exposed on the Investigación en Foco section of our website.

In 2021, we were delighted to present the second edition of "Investigación en Foco"! In addition, this year we organised the "From images to science stories" workshop in collaboration with Helena Gonzalez, director and co-founder of Big Van Science. The workshop aimed to improve the research communication and languages skills to emphasize the beauty of the research. This workshop was the first of several related to public engagement and science designing.

For more information, please contact us at: enfoco@sruk.org.uk

WOM=N EQUITY & RESEARCH

Day of Woman and Girl in Science. 11th February

To celebrate this day, we have delivered online talks to promote Science, Higher Education studies and careers in STEM among Spanish primary and high-school students.

In collaboration with “Science-me a Story”, we coordinated five online workshops in Spanish schools to bring Science to children using tales which highlight the role of female scientists. We aim to repeat the experience with English schools in future.



To promote Women in Science, we helped disseminate the video created by the Spanish Embassy and the Instituto Cañada Blanch where the students were filmed asking ques-

tions to Dr Susana García, winner of the Talento Emergente award whose research is focused on climate change.

Research in Education

In collaboration with Science-me a Story committee, we would like to test whether stories are better tools to awake scientific vocations rather than the video we were using in our previous project “Awakening vocations”. We expect to get the first results analysed by the end of the summer.

Following the success of the “Awakening vocations” project in Spain, we are developing this project in the UK. The results obtained in both countries will be summarised and compared in a scientific report to analyse whether the cultural background is playing a significant role in girls pursuing careers in the STEM field.

Our committee is part of the Women committee of RAICEX (Red de Asociaciones de Investigadores y Científicos Españoles en el Exterior). We aim to bring the Survey on Gender that our committee has run in Spain with very interesting results recently published in PlosOne to other countries in the world.

We have submitted several abstracts to the 11th European Conference on Gender Equality in Higher Education. The first abstract, in collaboration with RAICEX, shows the differences among different countries in reaching equality in Academia. The second abstract, this time in collaboration with CERFA (Científicos Españoles en la Republica Federal Alemana), analyses the relationship between gender and motility, with a special focus on the return of scientists to Spain due to the pandemic.

Promoting gender equity and diversity in research

The main objective of the committee is to promote gender equity and diversity in research through:

- raising awareness of the role of women in research
- promoting of women’s professional development
- supporting work-life / family balance.

The SRUK Wom=n Equity & Research Committee Members

María José Martínez-Bravo (Chair)
Patricia Bernal (Chair until December 2020)
Esther Anaya-Boig
Larissa Zarate
Lorea Valcárcel
Marta Acebrón



Promotion of women’s professional development

We have prepared a round of empowering talks for women in Science in the autumn. The first one is a round table after the visualization of the film Picture a Scientist with scientists who have suffered discrimination in their working place.

For more information, please contact us at:
women@sruk.org.uk

LONDON CONSTITUENCY

First constituency to be founded in 2011, when SRUK/CERU was created. It covers the southeast of England, from Hampshire to Kent and up to Bedfordshire. Today, we are more than 110 members.

The London Regional Board

Berta Gallego Páramo, (Director from November)

Loreto Gestoso Suárez, (Vice director from November)

Sandra Álvarez Carretero, (Secretary, London Press Officer)

Larissa Zárate García, (London Online Manager, Director until November)

The Working Group

Pilar Acedo

Diego Alonso Álvarez

Marta Broto

Luis Moliner Cachazo

Miguel Cacho Soblechero

Daniel Castillo

Andrés Crespo Vieira

Carlos González Hernández

María Gordillo Marañón

Diego Sainz de la Maza

Sergio Pérez

Pedro Verdia Barabara



Events 2020/2021

London had always been the centre of activity of our constituency, but the digitalisation during Covid allowed us to connect with people from other areas of the constituency and beyond. This has contributed to an increased sense of community and been reflected in several **collaborations**.

In November, we held the **Annual Assembly** and **Welcome Party** with a review of past activities and followed by online games. Due to the impossibility of celebrating our Christmas dinner, we organised, together with the Yorkshire constituency, the **Science and Cooking Christmas Webinar**. Patricia Jurado González (Science and Cooking researcher and teacher fellow at Harvard University) and David Santamaría García (R&D specialist technician at Mahou) prepared a menu consisting of two essential parts of the meal: bread and beer, and guided us across the biochemistry and socio- economics of their manufacturing through history.

Our **monthly social get-together** “Cañas and Pints” was adapted to an online setup. All participants enjoyed some laughs playing pictictionary and chatting. This social activity takes place every second Thursday of the month and it is open for everyone to come and meet people in our constituency.

On the 11th of February 2022 - the International Day of Women and Girls in Science-, we paid tribute to all women scientists with our **Celebrating Women in Science Quiz**, co-organized with the Scotland constituency. The event was hosted by Google’s Quizzes, whose expertise added to the fun.

To celebrate the beginning of the **United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**, and joining the spirit of the UN, we hosted an outreach webinar about how science can unveil the ocean’s mysteries and find solutions for more healthy and sustainable management with Dr. Iria Sala and PhD candidate Constance Schéré.

Plans 2021/2022

We will continue celebrating virtual events and return to some in-person activities when safe. In scope there is the 3rd part of the Scientific Computing workshop series (about Git and version control), as well as a writing fellowship proposals workshop aimed at early career scientists. We also plan to continue hosting activities to tackle mental health issues in academia and explore the interface of science and art with scientific illustration activities.

DELEGACIÓN DE LONDRES

La delegación de Londres es una de las delegaciones más grandes en CERU, contando con más de 110 miembros. Tradicionalmente la mayoría de miembros proceden de la ciudad de Londres, pero este año gracias a los eventos online hemos conseguido ampliar nuestro grupo a personas fuera de la ciudad de Londres. El tradicional evento de Cañas and Pints ha seguido teniendo lugar mensualmente, pero de manera virtual. Así mismo, también destacamos los eventos Science and Cooking Christmas Webinar que se organizó en conjunto con la delegación de Yorkshire, nuestro quizz de Celebrating Women in Science que se organizó con motivo del 11 F, y la webinar para celebrar el comienzo de la década proclamada por la ONU de las Ciencias del océano y el desarrollo sostenible.

For more information contact london@sruc.org.uk

Events 2020/2021

The SRUK/CERU Scottish delegation has held a wide range of events during the 2020/2021 period, mostly focusing on highlighting the importance of science communication in times of the COVID19 pandemic.

This year we kickstarted **Communicate-in-YouTube**, which aims to work with youtubers and influencers to engage the public with different research areas. Our first invited YouTuber was Mikel Herrán Subiñas (PutoMikel) who spoke about the connection between history and heritage and concluded with a very interesting Live Q&A session. The event was very successful, with 1000 participants in the live session and more than 100,000 views on the YouTube video.

We celebrated our **Welcome Event 2020** as an online event where we had fun playing board games. We also spent an entertaining Sunday evening playing **Among us** just after the Christmas break.

To learn how to engage the audience with our science, and to increase our visual and oral science communication skills, we organised the online workshop **How to get your science out there?** Cristina Gallego talked about graphic design basics to better organise information. While Ana Payo Payo focused on public speaking skills using story-telling techniques. The event was sold-out and we are planning to organise a second edition during the second half of 2021.

For a second year in a row the quiz organised with Goose's Quizzes to celebrate the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** was a total success and the participants were eager to learn about the amazing roles of women in science throughout history and have a good time.

Due to the online nature of the events, we have also been joining forces with other constituencies to bring events to broader audiences. Together with the London Constituency, we organised a series of talks and workshops centered around **cryptography and cybersecurity**. Juanjo Mata, an expert in Cybersecurity, collaborated with the Scottish constituency bringing a **CTF -"Capture The Flag"**- workshop. The attendees were required to learn about different cybersecurity concepts, issues and vulnerabilities, to pass a series of challenges .

Plans 2021/2022

Besides exciting new initiatives, we plan to organise the events that have been postponed due to the pandemic, like **Jings! Science left the toon**, the first science festival held in one of the most deprived areas of Glasgow, and our seminar series **Science connect**, which will be organised for the first time in collaboration with the Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival.

SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY

Since it was founded in March 2015, the SRUK/CERU Scottish constituency has organised 48 events and has grown to include members from all the major cities in Scotland: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, Paisley, St Andrews and Stirling.

The Scotland Regional Board

Alba Abad, Director, Press officer
Guillermo Díaz de Liano del Valle, Vice-director, On-the-Move
Paula Sotelo Parrilla, Secretary, Online Department, Instagram committee

The Scotland Working Group

Nerea Alonso
Aida Cardona-Alberich
Joan Cortada García
Cristina Gallego Páramo
Mario González
Ignacio Jiménez
Miguel Luengo
María Mateos Jiménez
María Rodríguez Ríos
Ana Rodríguez Rodríguez
Enrique Valero



Some members of the Scotland constituency and participants in the Pub Quiz

DELEGACIÓN DE ESCOCIA

La delegación escocesa de SRUK/CERU se constituyó en marzo de 2015 y desde entonces ha organizado 48 eventos y se ha convertido en una de las delegaciones más grandes, contando con miembros en las principales ciudades de esta región del Reino Unido.

Durante el curso 2020/21, 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, un taller para proporcionar herramientas de divulgación y comunicación científica y el inicio de un ciclo de charlas con YouTubers.

For more information contact scotland@sruk.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

The constituency of Cambridge was established in 2012. There are more than 50 SRUK/CERU members in our constituency, most of them based in Cambridge but also with members in Norwich and Ely. Our members are PhD students, post-doctoral researchers and principal investigators from multiple departments and institutes across the University, but also scientists in the private sector working in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and engineering companies.

The Cambridge Regional Board

Celia Alda Catalinas, Director
Ana López, Vice-Director
Gentzane Sánchez Elexpuru, Secretary

The Cambridge Working Group

Maribel I. García-Ibáñez (online manager),
Marta Acebrón García de Eulate, María Pin
Nó, Julia Faló Sanjuan, Miguel Anaya, Cecilia
Huertas, Vicente Pérez



SRUK members and activities in the Cambridge constituency

Events 2020/2021

The Cambridge constituency rapidly adapted to the new way of running events and kickstarted the year with the online event **Opciones Académicas de Retorno a España** (academic options to return to Spain) with the participation of seven speakers. We discussed the steps and requirements in accreditation processes like ANECA, and we told different personal experiences when applying to fellowships such as ERC, Ikerbasque, etc. The event was very successful with more than 90 participants. Shortly after, we held our **Annual Assembly** where the new regional board was announced and followed by a fun night quiz to celebrate our **Welcome Event**.

We organised in collaboration with the Yorkshire and Oxford constituencies a series of events **Alternatives to Academic Careers**, sponsored by **Fundación Ramón Areces** and **OCSA Embassy of Spain in the UK**. We started with **"A conversation with Entrepreneurs"** where five start-up founders and co-founders shared their entrepreneurial adventure with the audience. In January 2021, we hosted the round table **Translational Sciences in the UK** where we discussed the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) and how to apply them.

In May 2021, we discussed **Patents and Intellectual Property** with British and Spanish patent attorneys, patent examiners and other professionals at the European Patent Office.

We played a fun Escape Room at Christmas, which was a great opportunity to catch up with members of the constituency.

To commemorate the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science (TIF)** we run the 3rd edition of **Mum, I want to be a scientist**. Four female scientists from around the world told us about their professional and life experiences. They conversed with the audience, that included aspiring-scientists young girls. To conclude, we launched in April 2021, in collaboration with the constituencies of Northwest and Yorkshire, and with **Instituto Cervantes of Manchester and Leeds**, the first online version of **CineScience** with the documentary "La mujer que soñaba con números" followed by a discussion with the documentary director and Spanish mathematicians.

Plans 2021/2022

For 2021-2022, we are planning an informative session of PhD programmes and funding bodies in the UK, possibly to be organised in collaboration with Fundación Ramón Areces as part of CienciaUK. We hope to re-start some of our social events such as "Pint of Knowledge", and others like summer BBQs. Lastly, we are planning to participate in the Cambridge Science Festival 2022 with the SRUK initiative Science-me a story, combined with hands-on activities.

DELEGACIÓN DE CAMBRIDGE

La delegación de Cambridge se constituyó en 2012 y cuenta con más de 50 miembros. Este curso académico, entre los eventos organizados de forma virtual, cabe destacar el webinar "Opciones Académicas de Retorno a España", una serie de seminarios y workshops del Ciclo de Alternativas a la Academia, la tercera edición del evento conmemorativo del Día Internacional de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia, "Mamá, quiero ser científica", y el primer CineScience virtual. En el 2021-2022, si las circunstancias lo permiten, retomaremos los eventos presenciales "Pint of knowledge" junto con los eventos sociales de bienvenida, sesiones informativas de programas de doctorado en UK. También estamos planeando participar en el Festival de Ciencia de Cambridge 2022 con la actividad "Science-me a story".

For more information contact cambridge@sruk.org.uk

Events 2020/2021

The Oxford constituency has put forward a wide range of activities in the year 2020/21. While the majority have taken place online due to the COVID-19 epidemic, we have managed to offer our members and friends an engaging set of events.

In October 2020, we organised our **Welcome Event**, in which old and new members of our constituency met each other through a virtual quiz. In December, we celebrated the **Annual Assembly** of the constituency, followed by a quiz as a complementary social activity. The 20th of January, we organised an event under the name of **“Journey to the Centre of the Bodleian”**, where Virginia M. Lladó-Buisán, Head of Conservation and Collection Care at the Bodleian Library, explained one of the fundamental activities that the renowned Bodleian Library performs: ancient book and manuscript conservation. To commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in February, we organised a **“Virtual Tour of Women Pioneers in Oxford”**, in which Carmen Sánchez Cañizares and Laura Martínez Maestro took us through emblematic sites in Oxford linked with women pioneers in science and the arts. In March, with the aim of giving SRUK members the chance to meet like-minded Spanish researchers working in Oxford, we organised a social **“Virtual Cañas”** event. In April, we put together an event under the name of **“Perspectives on Pregnancy, Childbirth and Early Motherhood”**. Through this event, Stella Villarrea (philosopher), Annabelle Frost (obstetrician) and Jodi Pawluski (neuroscientist) presented and discussed their different perspectives on the topic. Finally, in May we celebrated a **mini-symposium in the park** where some of our members presented their research to the audience in an informal and social setting.

During this year we have also organised, alongside the Cambridge and Yorkshire constituencies, the **“Alternatives to Academia”** event series. They focused on entrepreneurship, translational science, and careers in patents and intellectual property.

Plans 2021/2022

With the loosening of the restrictions, we are planning to organise in-person scientific seminars, documentary screenings, and social events.

OXFORD CONSTITUENCY

The city of Oxford is home to two universities, as well as several biotechnology and engineering companies. Our 48 members represent both academic institutions and industry, as well as a wide range of disciplines. This combination results in a multidisciplinary, engaged, and social group of researchers.

The Oxford Regional Board

Javier Pardo Díaz, Director
Irene Echeverría Altuna, Vice-Director
Fidel Alfaro Almagro, Secretary

The Oxford Working Group

Cristina Delgado (Treasurer), Helena Rodríguez (Press Officer), Olivia Afonso, Pablo Muñoz, Rubén González, Sergio Cerezo, Sergio Silva, Virginia Casablanca



SRUK members of the Oxford constituency

DELEGACIÓN DE OXFORD

La delegación de Oxford, a pesar de la pandemia, ha seguido creciendo y consolidándose. Durante este duro año y gracias al esfuerzo de los miembros del grupo de trabajo hemos conseguido sacar adelante numerosos eventos. Destacamos el seminario centrado en restauración y conservación de libros organizado con personal de la Biblioteca Bodleiana, el “tour virtual” de Oxford para resaltar el papel de mujeres pioneras en diferentes áreas y el evento centrado en el estudio del embarazo, el nacimiento y la maternidad desde diferentes perspectivas. También hemos organizado junto con otras delegaciones los eventos de la serie “Alternativas a la academia”.

For more information contact oxford@sruk.org.uk

YORKSHIRE CONSTITUENCY

Established in October 2015, the Yorkshire constituency is currently formed by 17 members working in a wide range of disciplines at the Universities of Bradford, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and York.

The Yorkshire Regional Board

Elisabet Batlle Rocafort, Director
Jacobo Elíes-Gómez, Vice-Director
Laia Ràfols Parellada, Secretary

The Yorkshire Working Group

Enric Arasanz Picher, Online manager
Antonio De la Vega De León
Irene Malo Estepa



SRUK members of the Yorkshire constituency

Plans 2021/2022

We are organising a social event on the 3rd of July in order to bring together new members to the constituency, especially focused on the students and researchers of the West Yorkshire universities. We are hoping to be able to organise a face-to-face “Beers in the pub” event, according to the “Road map out of COVID” of the UK government.

Events 2020/2021

The board of directors of the constituency was elected and renewed in July 2020, being all formed by members of the University of Bradford. This was followed by a virtual welcome event on the 4th October 2020 (“Welcome to Yorkshire”) to introduce the society to new members and to play some online games for the rest of the evening.

This year, the constituencies of Yorkshire and London jointly organised the Christmas webinar **Science and Cooking: Science, technique and history around bread & beer**, chaired by Elisabet Batlle (Director of Yorkshire Constituency), and presented by Patricia Jurado (researcher on Science & Cooking and Teaching fellow at Harvard University) and David Santamaria (Research & Development Specialist technician at Mahou). They delivered an amazing presentation about the ancient techniques developed to produce bread and beer, followed up by a Q&A time where they answered attendees’ questions.

The Constituency also participated in the series **Alternatives to Academia**, alongside the constituencies of Oxford, Cambridge and Yorkshire. Within this series, we have organised three different webinars: A conversation with entrepreneurs, an event about Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP), and a “Patents and Scientific Advocacy” webinar. More sessions are being planned as part of the series.

On the 17th of December, SRUK Yorkshire participated in a virtual meeting with the newly established Spanish consulate in Manchester, alongside the directors of the other constituencies under its demarcation. The meeting comprised a presentation of both SRUK and the functions of the consulate and it can be found in the Spanish Manchester consulate’s Youtube channel. In collaboration with the SRUK Northwest & Cambridge constituencies and the Instituto Cervantes (IC) Manchester & Leeds, we brought back the CineScience series with the online documentary “La mujer que soñaba con los números” (Sintregua productions). This documentary was available on the IC Youtube channel during a week prior to the debate, which took place on the 15th of April 2021. We were honoured with the precious collaboration of Mirella R. Abrisqueta, the director of the documentary, and the Spanish mathematicians and lecturers Marta Macho, Conchita Martínez and Raquel Villacampa.

In addition, SRUK Yorkshire created an SRUK Instagram channel (@srukceru) and committee. This is a new SRUK initiative for which we are seeking for new members to join and promote this channel in the following year.

This year we also said farewell to Antonio De La Vega, former SRUK secretary, who has moved back to Spain. We want to truly thank Antonio for his contribution to the society. Best of luck, Antonio!

DELEGACIÓN DE YORKSHIRE

Este año la delegación de Yorkshire ha renovado su directiva local y ha ampliado su grupo de trabajo, lo cual ha permitido que se forme un grupo activo y dinámico, con muy buen ánimo para la organización de distintos eventos e iniciativas. Aunque la situación vivida debido a la pandemia ha complicado la búsqueda de nuevos miembros para unirse al grupo de trabajo, hemos seguido los planes que teníamos tanto a nivel local como nacional y estamos deseando poder empezar a organizar eventos presenciales de cara al próximo curso.

Events 2020/2021

As is customary, we started the academic year 2020-2021 with a **welcome event** in October where we showcased CERU to our new members and got to know each other. This event was virtual as per government Covid-19 guidelines. Since then, all events had to continue being virtual and therefore we had to adapt our monthly “cañas” event to **Zoom cañas**. Zoom cañas were used as a space to socialise and talk about future events, and our daily life and frustrations during the pandemic. Aside from having a good time we found that interesting ideas can arise during these meetings and can be very useful for future events.

In December, we organised a **free escape room party** where we divided ourselves into two teams and competed against each other. Spoiler: both teams made it out but the girls team did it quicker.

To commemorate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science we joined to the campaign **#nomorematildas**, an initiative promoted by the Association of Women Researchers and Technologists (AMIT). We organised our webinar **Women in Science** to give visibility to remarkable women whose contributions to Science were obscured by society. This event was a great success and it was recorded. If you would like to learn more about these women have a look at our YouTube channel!

Following with more remarkable women, we organised a series of seminars called **Women in Leadership**, where we invited two successful scientists in the fields of Academia and Industry. On this occasion, we were delighted to introduce Prof Paula Mendes, Professor of Chemical Engineering at University of Birmingham; and Dr Jennifer Batson, Principal Scientist at Exonate Ltd. This series of seminars was celebrated with independent webinars where our distinguished speakers guided us through their backgrounds, the challenges that occurred during their paths and tips to success in their field. At the end of each seminar, the attendees had their chance to ask questions and seek advice from the speakers.

Plans 2021/2022

In the near future we hope to be able to meet in person and get back to our social events like “De cañas” and the traditional guided visit to the Botanical gardens, amongst others. In the meantime, we are planning some virtual events such as workshops dedicated to scientific illustration and a series of seminars on Public Engagement.

MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY

Founded in 2015, the Midlands constituency covers a large area of the UK. Traditionally, most of our members were based in Birmingham, but since 2020 we have increased our presence in other Midland cities such as Coventry, Leicester, Nottingham, and Loughborough. This has been very challenging and we are extremely proud to say we have 45 members from different scientific backgrounds spread throughout the entirety of the Midlands.

The Midlands Regional Board

Claudia Román, Director
Laura Bravo, Vice-Director
Carlos Guillén, Secretary

The Midlands Working Group

Miguel Ángel Aleñá, Treasurer and Online manager
María Fernández
Marta Domínguez
Cristina Gutiérrez
Jorge Mellado



Souvenir of the Welcome event playing Broken Picturephone

DELEGACIÓN DE MIDLANDS

A pesar de la pandemia, CERU Midlands ha seguido creciendo y no sólo eso, sino que ha conseguido descentralizarse al incluir en este curso nuevos miembros en el working group procedentes de las regiones de Leicester, Loughborough y Nottingham. Hemos realizado numerosos eventos, entre los cuales destacamos los eventos para promover y dar visibilidad al papel de la mujer en ciencia, como el webinar Women in Science y la serie de seminarios Women in Leadership contando con la experiencia de dos mujeres científicas de renombre en el campo de la Academia y la Industria.

For more information contact midlands@sruk.org.uk

NORTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

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.

The Northwest Regional Board

David Ruiz, Director
Laura Castañar, Secretary

The Northwest Working Group

Pablo Duro Ocaña, Treasurer
Joan Citoler Tomás, Community Manager
Rafael Leiva-García
Laura Martínez Maestro
J. Javier Burgos Mármol
Carmen San Martín



SRUK members and friends of the North-West constituency

Events 2020/2021

We are really excited about the initiatives launched this year! In September, we had an **online welcome event** where working group members and new friends could enjoy a nice chat after this difficult summer. It's been really difficult to organize events this year due to social restrictions, so it was a huge success to adapt one of our most famous events to this situation. In April, we were delighted to present the return of **CineScience**, this time in an online format & in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes Manchester and Leeds.

The event was focused on raising awareness of the role of women in research and science through the documentary "La mujer que soñaba con números", which is the feature-length film that portrays her life and her development in Spanish Enlightenment society. The documentary was available for 7 days on the Instituto Cervantes Manchester YouTube Channel, including English subtitles so we could reach a broader audience. This event also included a synchronous session consisting of a roundtable discussion with the valuable collaboration of the director Mirella R. Abrisqueta and 3 mathematicians, in order to comment and discuss the role of women in maths, today and along history. The mathematicians that joined us in this fantastic discussion about the role of Women in Science were Raquel Villacampa Guitérrez, professor at the Centro Universitario de la Defensa de Zaragoza and general secretary of the Real Sociedad Matemática Española, Marta Macho Stadler, professor at the mathematics faculty of the UPV/EHU and science communicator, and Concepción M^a Martínez Pérez, professor at the mathematics faculty of the Universidad de Zaragoza.

All our events were possible thanks to generous contributions from Fundación Ramón Areces, OCSA and Fundación Lilly, and to the collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes Manchester.

Plans 2021/2022

Sadly, the year 2021 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 2nd edition of the SRUK/CERU photography competition, "**Investigación en Foco**". Once restrictions are removed and it is safe to organize social gatherings again, we will organize trips to discover the North-West region of this country and to build the sense of community that was sadly lost because of this pandemic situation. 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.

For more information contact northwest@sruk.org.uk

Events 2020/2021

In summer 2020, we held a **Python webinar** that was a complete success with dozens of people attending this introductory course to the coding language Python. After summer, we celebrated our traditional **welcome event** that gained two new members for the working group and turned Cardiff into the second hub of our Constituency (after Bristol). Before the winter holidays, we held a **Christmas Game Night online**, a social event where we used the platform Zoom to play several games (Among Us, Scribble, etc) in order to create community in moments when SRUK was not holding any onsite events. Finally, in February 2021, we celebrated the **Day of Women and Girls in Science** with an online Q&A, and a video where three speakers from the working group spoke about the differences between research in Spain and the UK.

Plans 2021/2022

Unfortunately, during the 2021 local assembly, there were no candidates to renew the regional board, meaning that the constituency is currently in stand-by. There were plans for an event on pseudosciences with the speakers already contacted that will be celebrated once a new board is elected.

NORTH-EAST CONSTITUENCY

Good news in the northeast!

The region of the North East, including cities such as Newcastle, Durham, Middlesborough and Sunderland, has not an established SRUK constituency yet. However, in October 2020, a small group of SRUK members in the area decided to try to change that and, with help of the Roving Director, organised a social event online to meet new researchers in the area. The event brought together more than 15 members to get to know SRUK and also play Pictionary online. We are working hard to establish a constituency there so our members can get full advantage of their SRUK membership and have autonomy to organise events of interest for the people in the area.

DELEGACIÓN DE SOUTHWEST

La delegación del Sudoeste de Inglaterra cuenta con miembros de Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Exeter u otras pequeñas ciudades, con los que organizamos eventos de carácter científico y divulgativo a lo largo de todo el año. Destacamos el evento de Python en forma de webinar que fue todo un éxito y los eventos sociales como el Welcome event, el evento conmemorativo del 11 F y la noche de juegos online para celebrar la navidad juntos.

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

SOUTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

The South West Constituency is composed of several scientific nuclei throughout the Southwestern area of Great Britain, including Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Exeter and smaller cities. The coincidence of this constituency with the GW4 Alliance provides an excellent opportunity to foster scientific collaborations between the most research-intensive and innovative Universities of the South West.

The Southwest Regional Board

Erik Rodríguez Vázquez, Director
Zuriñe Antón, Vice-Director
Iván Ferrer Vicens, Secretary

The Southwest working group

Iñigo Urrutia Irazabal
Luis Espinosa Anke
Carla Pérez Almendros
Carlos Antón Plagaro
Teresa Rodríguez Muñoz

Noth-East SRUK volunteers

Ana Viñuela
José Muñoz
Mari Crespo

ECONOMIC REPORT

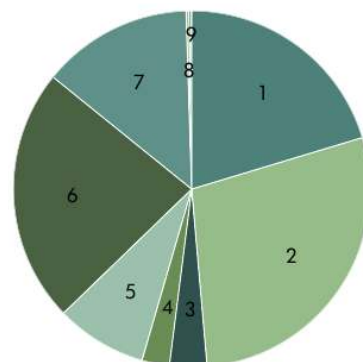
SRUK is a private company limited-by-guarantee operating as a non-profit society. Over the last years, our Society has experienced a huge growth in the number of events and initiatives. Although we count with our SRUK membership fees, all our activities would not be possible without the additional economic support from external sources.

We report in this annual memory the full economic year of 2020, which starts in January and finishes in December 2020.

During the year 2020, the SRUK Board of Directors presented several funding proposals and applied to specific calls to public and private institutions, and it is thanks to our supporters that SRUK has been able to develop an ambitious range of activities. **Our main supporters were Fundación Banco Santander contributing 28,3 % to our income, and Ramón Areces Foundation contributing 20,3 %.** We also had continuous support from **Fundación Lilly** and the **Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs (OCSA)** of the Embassy of Spain in London. This year, for the first time, we had our own source of income from the administrative work we do for the **OnTheMove biennial programme** (13.7%). This has resulted in an increased income with respect to last year.

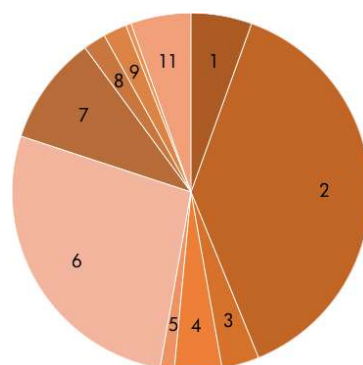
At SRUK, we continue operating with an **efficient economic policy**, that is, we try to make the most out of the income received. This has been an unusual year for everyone, with unexpected challenges and a global public health crisis that has changed our ways of working and with **many of our activities postponed to the foreseeable future** once the restrictions are lifted, which is reflected in our expenditure, as we have designated a budget for several initiatives which has not been used during 2020 but it will in 2021.

INCOME 2020				
1	Fundación Ramon Areces	16.304,81 GBP	20,3 %	
2	Fundación Banco Santander	22.680,73 GBP	28,3 %	
3	Fundación Lilly	2.720,25 GBP	3,4 %	
4	Spanish Embassy (OCSA)	2.000,00 GBP	2,5 %	
5	SRUK Membership fees	6.629,51 GBP	8,3 %	
6	Surplus Budget 2019	18.485,00 GBP	23,1 %	
7	OnTheMove Fees	10.969,32 GBP	13,7 %	
8	Eventbrite attendance fees	213,86 GBP	0,3 %	
9	Merchandising	170,00 GBP	0,2 %	
10	Bank interests	20,49 GBP	0,0 %	
TOTAL		80.193,97 GBP		



INCOME 2020

EXPENSES 2020				
1	Seminars, Workshops & Outreach Events 2020	2.010,36 GBP	5,5 %	
2	2020 Emerging Talent Award	14.000,00 GBP	38,3 %	
3	Annual International Symposium	1.236,00 GBP	3,4 %	
4	DIVULGA program (Science-me a story & Science Zone)	1.564,66 GBP	4,3 %	
5	Travel Grants 2020	468,01 GBP	1,3 %	
6	Web maintenance and IT services	9.961,06 GBP	27,3 %	
7	Lawyers	3.600,00 GBP	9,9 %	
8	Accountants, Taxes & VAT	744,18 GBP	2,0 %	
9	Departments and Committes	775,85 GBP	2,1 %	
10	Executive Committee Representation Expenses	177,60 GBP	0,5 %	
11	Other expenses	1.989,12 GBP	5,4 %	
TOTAL		36.526,84 GBP		



EXPENSES 2020

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2022

After a very challenging year, with all our onsite events cancelled due to the pandemic and the United Kingdom's loss of attractiveness for EU researchers caused by the post Brexit visa system and studentship fees, we still have grown in number of members. However, the lockdown and the lack of onsite events have produced a slowdown in volunteer renewal that is affecting the load of work of committees and working groups. Our main priority is to put all our efforts into engaging with our SRUK members at local events to guarantee the medium and long term sustainability of the Society.

Moreover, 2022 represents an excellent opportunity to re-engage with the community, as SRUK will celebrate 10 years since our establishment, and events onsite and online will be held to commemorate this date, including our first onsite International Symposium since 2019.

SRUK is achieving its objectives and broadening our horizons

OBJECTIVE 1: Scientific and social network

Ongoing and immediate plans

Grow in number of members: focus on senior researchers, members outside academia, and researchers from underrepresented fields (humanities and social sciences)

Keep improving the usability of our website as a tool to promote interactions among our members and improve our communications.

Maintain our flagship annual calls for professional development (Mentoring programme, Travel grants, etc.)

Focus on engagement with our community in order to recover pre-pandemic volunteer numbers.

Long-term plans

Keep on reducing manual work for our volunteers by enhancing the usability of our website as a tool to apply internally to our calls.

Open new channels to promote key information for non-members.

Establish the constituencies of Northeast and Northern Ireland, and reestablish the ones lost during the pandemic.

Appoint support staff for SRUK.

OBJECTIVE 2: Science outreach

Ongoing and immediate plans

Increase impact of outreach with events such as Science in the Pub, Conscience or Science Festivals.

Recognise and foster Spanish talent in the UK with our key awards (Emerging Talent Award and Merit Award)

Use our 10th Anniversary to increase the impact of outreach events.

Continue offering online events with UK-wide reach, while recovering the local and onsite activities.

Long-term plans

Expand collaborations with British outreach institutions.

Increase and consolidate our presence in British Media.

Consolidate and support activities with children (Science weeks in schools and Despertando vocaciones programme).

Provide opportunities to put a spotlight on equity and diversity through our events and initiatives (eg 11F and SRUK LGTBQ+ day)

OBJECTIVE 3: Science representatives

Ongoing and immediate plans

Continue the collaborations with major British scientific institutions such as the Russell group and BEIS regarding Brexit.

Produce documentation on the continuously changing conditions for Spanish researchers in UK.

Continue to meaningfully contribute to the activity of RAICEX.

Continue to collaborate with other associations of research diasporas in UK.

Long-term plans

Consolidate a plan for further contacts with British scientific institutions on wider science policy issues.

Serve as science policy advisors in Spain and UK.

Strengthen collaborations with Spanish councils and the Consejo de Residentes en el Exterior as the representatives of Spanish citizens in the UK.

Continue our advocacy work with Spanish political parties, parliamentary groups and Government representatives.

OBJECTIVE 4: Science mediators between UK and Spain

Ongoing and immediate plans

Strengthen our collaborations with Spanish institutions to offer places and mentoring opportunities to Spanish early career researchers.

Deepen the collaboration with Spanish societies and institutions (eg ASEICA, CrisCancer, FeBiotec, Instituto Cervantes)

Keep consolidating the SRUK On-the-move mobility fellowships.

Long-term plans

Academia-industry exchange scheme.

Increase the number of sponsors and partners, particularly UK and Spanish R&D companies to support new collaborations.

Facilitate the interdisciplinary collaborations between the UK and Spain.

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 acti-

vities 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 focused on career development and opportunities inside and outside academia hosted in their headquarters in Madrid, adjourned because of the pandemic but with all our support to recover in 2022. This year, the Foundation has also maintained its commitment to support scientific events focused 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 Six consecutive years. In 2021, together we launched the sixth 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.



EMBASSY
OF SPAIN
LONDON

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 again received 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 keep SRUK members informed of new developments on this subject, including the application for settled status and our rights as European citizens in the UK.



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 six years.



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 on the promotion of Science, Medicine, and Humanistic Medicine. In their framework of commitment to outreach and communicating 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 decontextualized the knowledge acquisition and involved 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 IX International Symposium SRUK that took place online this year.

SRUK/CERU is a member of:



OTHER SUPPORTERS AND COLLABORATORS







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

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