



Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom



Annual report July 2023 - July 2024

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Authors attribution (row, column): Loreto Gestoso (1,1; 4,2; 6,5), Jimena Pérez Lloret (1,2; 2,4; 6,1; 6,3), Susana Barrera (1,3; 1,4; 1,5; 4,5; 5,2; 5,3), Paula Sotelo (2,1; 3,2), Cristina Gallego (2,2; 4,3), Eva Cacabelos (2,3), Lara Montolio (2,5; 5,5), Sara González Antón (3,1; 5,4), Phoenix (3,3; 3,4; 3,5), Berta Gallego (4,1; 4,4; 5,1; 6,4) and María Rodríguez (6,2).

Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom SRUK/CERU
Office 7, 35-37 Ludgate Hill, London, EC4M 7JN, United Kingdom
www.sruk.org.uk / info@sruk.org.uk

Edited by Javier Pardo Díaz and Igor Arrieta.

Layout by Cristina Gallego Páramo and Igor Arrieta.

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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/CERU,

The 2023-2024 term has witnessed the culmination of long-standing tasks, the impressive development and **expansion of existing activities**, and the **blossoming of a striking number of new initiatives**. Each of these achievements can be traced back to volunteers and **groups of volunteers of SRUK/CERU**. Specifically, they are the product of the tireless work and passion of the **17 members of our Executive Committee**, the **15 Chairs of our Committees**, and the **teams of volunteers** working with them. Taking stock of the past few months has me in awe and admiration of all that has been achieved by this **close-knit team of extraordinary volunteers**.

The facts will speak for themselves in the pages that follow. For now, here are a few highlights:

- In December 2023, we announced that **CONNECTS-UK** had been funded with **€580,000 from the European Commission**. This project, led by SRUK/CERU in collaboration with **other EU researcher diaspora**, will unfold over 2024 and 2025 with the aim of **fostering scientific collaborations between EU and UK**. Securing these funds and leading this project is a true **milestone** for SRUK/CERU.
- This term, three new committees have been born; namely, **the Neuroscience Committee**, **the Linguistic Policies Committee**, and **the Evolution Committee**. This *thematic* organisation of our membership complements the *geographic* arrangement of our constituencies and has proven to be very fruitful.
- Harnessing the know-how developed in past activities, this year has witnessed the mind-boggling number of four Symposia. The **II SRUK/CERU Cancer Research Networking Day**, the **I SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium**, the **I SRUK/CERU Neuroscience Symposium**, and the **XI SRUK/CERU International Symposium**. These have been delivered to the highest standards and have been instrumental for securing new collaborations.
- SRUK/CERU has played a fundamental role in **RAICEX**, by undertaking the **Vicepresidency** and the **Headship of the Science Policy and Diplomacy** of RAICEX. We have contributed to organise the **Bridging European Science IV**, which was attended by **13 SRUK/CERU members**.
- Both within and beyond RAICEX, our team has developed **13 science policy documents** aimed at representing our membership's interests with R&D institutions in Spain, EU, and UK. Notably, the **7th SRUK/CERU Brexit Survey** was carried out and its results were published. Moreover, we produced a report on the **"The Impact of Brexit on Student and Academic Mobility"**.
- Despite the hurdles of Brexit, this year, we have welcomed **38 undergraduate students** from Spain who developed a research project

in UK groups. We have enabled the mobility of **3 doctoral/post-doctoral researchers** through our **On the Move** programme.

- We have supported our members' professional development by granting **10 Professional Development Grants** and by enabling the formation of 15 mentor-mentee dyads in the **V Mentoring Programme**.
- We have recognised the careers of **two outstanding Spanish researchers in the UK**, both of whom are also role models for **women in research**. **Dr Roser Vento** (Wellcome Sanger Institute) was awarded with the **VIII SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award**. **Prof Sonia Contera** (University of Oxford) received the **2024 SRUK/CERU Merit Award**.
- This term has continued to accomplish the arduous task of communicating our science. **En Fase Experimental** returned with 8 brilliant programmes. The **IV En Foco Competition** and **Inktober** initiatives enabled the most artistically-inclined members of our community to express themselves through scientific photos and drawings. These have been complemented by our **Constituencies'** unstoppable stream of activities.
- An **undercurrent** to each of these activities has been their **formidable communication** through all our channels and means.
- We have also ensured the smooth delivery of our initiatives by caring for their substrate – our **Member's Zone** has improved, our **memberships** are up-to-date, our International Symposia have a **brand-new website**, and our **Articles of Association** have been fine-tuned.

Looking back to the past few months is moving and humbling. Personally, it has been a pivotal learning experience and, most importantly, exceptionally enjoyable. Without a shadow of a doubt, I have been infinitely fortunate to work hand in hand with an unbeatable team. Therefore, my most sincere thanks goes to the SRUK/CERU Executive Committee and, specifically, to our Vicepresident, Javier Pardo Díaz, who has been a truly reliable companion in all these efforts. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to our sponsors and collaborators for their continued support and trust. On behalf of SRUK/CERU, I extend my thanks to Fundación Ramón Areces, Fundación Banco Santander, the Spanish Embassy in London and its Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs, and the Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología. Finally, thank you to our members which are the heart and soul of SRUK/CERU.

Un fuerte abrazo,



Irene Echeverria Altuna
President of SRUK/CERU



Irene Echeverria Altuna

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

WHAT IS SRUK/CERU? WHAT ARE OUR AIMS?

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

SRUK/CERU was created in July 2011 and was formally established in June 2012. At that time, SRUK/CERU was registered in the Companies House of England and Wales. The Society was created with four main aims:

1. SOCIAL NETWORK

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

2. SCIENCE COMMUNICATORS

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

3. SCIENCE REPRESENTATIVES

To be the representatives of the Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom for British and Spanish 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 (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.

OUR STRUCTURE

SRUK/CERU is managed by the **Executive Committee** (EC) that represents all our SRUK/CERU members. The members of the EC work together to pursue the aims of the Society and are elected during the Annual General Assembly and the Annual Local Assemblies of our constituencies. SRUK/CERU is organised in nine established **Regional Constituencies** across the UK to facilitate a direct communication between our members and the EC. We also have Ambassadors in Spain, who are our main link with the country and represent our members there.

Our volunteers shape our departments, working groups and committees. SRUK/CERU is composed of five departments: **International Collaborations, Science Policy, Outreach and Public Engagement, Communications and Online, and Diversity, Equality and Welfare.** Moreover, each constituency has a Local Working Group to shape their regional activities and events. In addition, SRUK/CERU members and friends can be part of different **committees** to develop their projects and work to achieve specific goals of the Society. Currently, SRUK/CERU has eleven committees.

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.

SRUK/CERU is run by volunteers. During 2023/2024 around 100 members have actively participated in our departments, working groups and committees, channelling all of the efforts and energy necessary for the Society to work!



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 CE, a los directores administrativos y a los de los departamentos. Además, CERU se divide en nueve 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

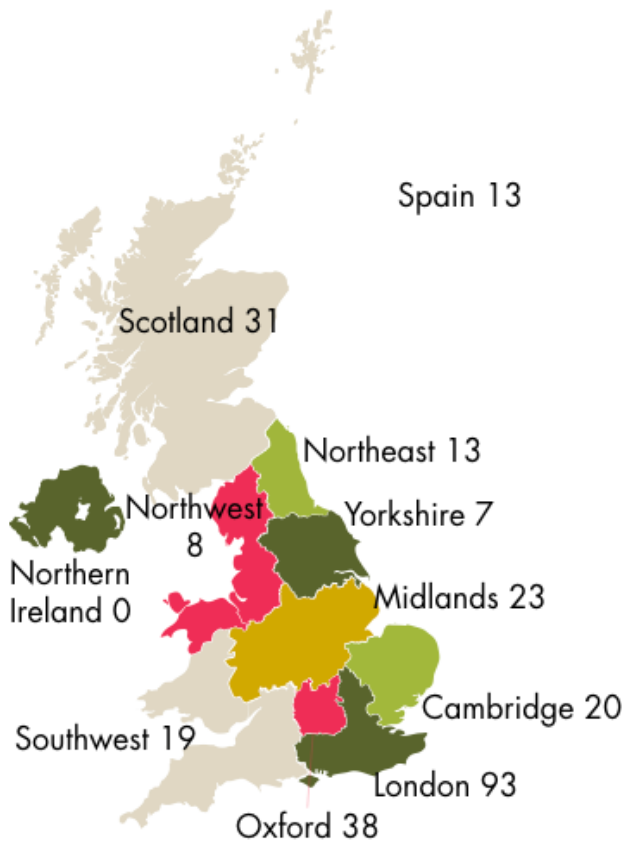


* Secretary (Sinuhé Perea, until Jan24, Claudia López, from Jan24)
 ** Director of North East (Ana Viñuela Dec22 - Dec23, Sergio Serrano Dec23 - Jun24)
 *** Director of Oxford (David Egea Dec22 - Dec23, Montse Vallet Dec23 - Jun24)

Committees

- Blog
- Cancer
- Design
- En Foco
- Evaluation
- International Symposium
- Mentoring
- Language Policy
- Neuroscience
- Radio - En Fase Experimental
- Science-me a Story
- Scientific Advisory Board
- Wom=n Research & Equity

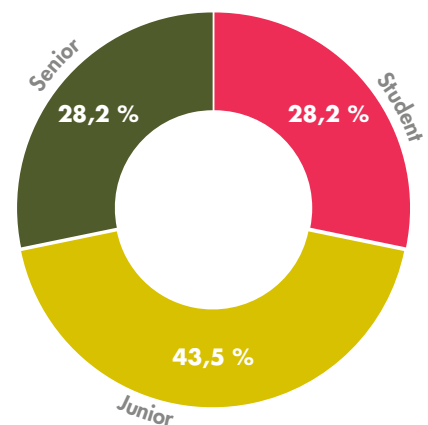
OUR MEMBERS



SRUK/CERU 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.

SRUK/CERU is consolidated as a network that reaches over 700 persons through its channels of communication. A fraction of this community encompasses our regular members, who are grouped in nine established constituencies across the UK and one in the process of being developed. We also have a number of Friend members in Spain and other countries and Associate members in the UK.

| Type of membership | Description | % |
|--------------------|--|-------|
| Regular | Spanish researchers working in the UK | 35.9 |
| Associate | Non-researchers or non-Spanish working in the UK | 0.012 |
| Friend | Working outside the UK | 59.6 |
| Honorary members | | 0.009 |
| Former Presidents | | 0.015 |
| Founding Members | | 0.033 |



NUESTRAS SOCIAS Y NUESTROS SOCIOS

CERU es una red que, en el curso 2023-2024, ha conectado a más de 700 personas. Una fracción de esta comunidad está constituida por nuestros miembros regulares, que se agrupan en nueve delegaciones oficiales y una 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.

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

SCIENCE POLICY

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

The Science Policy Department

Igor Arrieta, Co-Director of Science Policy

Rafael Carrascosa Marzo, Co-Director of Science Policy

Carlos Soler Montes, Chair of the Language Policy Committee

Sara Alvira de Celis

Irene Echeverría Altuna

Javier Escudero

Rocío Gaudioso

Javier Pardo Díaz

Diego Sainz de la Maza

Julia Salafranca

Miguel Ángel Sánchez Martínez

Carmen Sánchez-Cañizares



Our Co-Director, Igor Arrieta, and Vice-President, Javier Pardo Díaz, attend an event at the UK Liaison office of the European Parliament on the occasion of the EU Elections

All our activities, reports and statements can be found in our website:

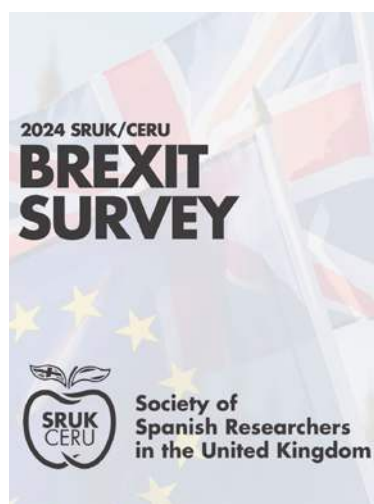
<https://sruk.org.uk/teams/science-policy-department-backstage/>

We have taken and continue to take an **active role in defending the interests and rights of Spanish researchers** both during the Brexit negotiations and beyond. We also **perform impartial analyses and provide recommendations to foster the Spanish R&D system**, based on our perspective from within the British system.

In the UK

Our department conducted the seventh edition of the Brexit Survey among its members to evaluate the impact of Brexit on their personal and professional lives. The **2024 SRUK/CERU Brexit Survey** aimed to analyse the post-Brexit scenario after the transition period finalised. Past surveys influenced the Society's strategy on Brexit, facilitating informed discussions with various stakeholders. This year we addressed current issues such as the new immigration policies of the British government and the results were released on 9 May, 2024, coinciding with **Europe Day**. The survey results attracted **considerable attention from both British and Spanish media**, including outlets such as Eldiario.es, El Correo, Noticias Cuatro, or Researchers Fortnight.

Our department has also led the preparation of a **report on the challenges and obstacles in academic and student mobility arising from Brexit**, along with detailing the action that SRUK/CERU has taken to mitigate this impact. This work has been coordinated by our Co-Director, Igor Arrieta, and has been published in collaboration with the **Ramon Areces Foundation**.



EL IMPACTO DEL BREXIT EN LA MOVILIDAD ESTUDIANTIL Y ACADÉMICA

El papel de la diáspora científica española en los desafíos derivados del Brexit



Reports published in 2023/2024 by the SRUK/CERU Science Policy Department: 2024 SRUK/CERU Brexit Survey (left) and Impact of Brexit on Student and Academic Mobility (right)

Additionally, our department was invited to participate in different events such as the **Horizon Europe Celebration at the Royal Society** or the **EU Citizens' Manifesto Launch Event** organised by **the3million**. We also established collaborations with other relevant stakeholders such as the **Independent Commission on UK-EU relations**. Moreover, we collaborated with the **EU Science Diplomacy Alliance**, by participating in a **policy brief** entitled "Strengthening science diplomacy in and for

Europe through Horizon Europe” and by engaging in the **Science Diplomacy Mini Alliances pairing scheme**. Partnering with the **German Aerospace Center**, we collaborated on a policy brief on **capacity building** led by the EU Science Diplomacy Alliance Task Force on Capacity Building. Furthermore, our Vice-President, Javier Pardo Díaz, was invited to participate in a roundtable entitled “Fostering brain circulation” in **EuroScience Open Forum 2024**, held in Katowice, Poland. We also developed two lists of **proposals** on the occasion of the **2024 European Elections** and the **2024 United Kingdom General Elections** aimed to foster the UK-EU scientific collaborations in the post-Brexit era.

Finally, in order to facilitate the access of our membership to different opportunities of **engaging with policymakers**, we will soon launch a new dedicated section of the SRUK/CERU website for signposting the relevant opportunities.

In Spain

We prepared a comprehensive guide on the **ANECA accreditation process for researchers abroad**, in view of the significant changes implemented in April 2024. Furthermore, we published **two decalogues tailored to improve the Basque and Catalan science systems**, on the occasion of the elections in these regions. These reports were distributed to all the parliamentary groups of the respective regional parliaments.

Last November SRUK/CERU launched the Language Policy Committee aiming to design and propose a number of **linguistic policies** and events in relation to the **promotion of multilingualism** as part of the association's communications and activities, but also in the programming of events and interactions between members in order to encourage, along with the use of English, the **use of Spanish and the rest of the co-official languages of Spain**. Scientific Language Policy and Spanish for Science have been topics of discussion in many events in which SRUK/CERU took part during 2023/2024, including conferences and seminars at the European Commission in Brussels, the Instituto Cervantes in Manchester, as well as the Universities of Birmingham, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The committee has also been in contact with different stakeholders and institutions that have shown interest in Spanish as a language of multilingual research, and have asked for **policy advice and recommendations** in the matter, including the **European Research Executive Agency (REA)** and the **Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)**.



Our Co-Director, Rafael Carrascosa Marzo, and the Director of Public Engagement and Outreach, Alba Fernández Sanlés, attend a reception at the UK Liaison office of the European Parliament in honour of the EU-UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly

LANGUAGE POLICY COMMITTEE



Roundtable discussion on language policies to support Science in Spanish held at the 69th Annual Conference of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland, University of Birmingham in March 2024

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE POLÍTICA CIENTÍFICA

Desde el Departamento de Política Científica de CERU, interactuamos con distintos actores en España y Reino Unido para defender los intereses de los investigadores en ambos países, la mejora de sus sistemas de I+D+i y la movilidad y las colaboraciones internacionales. A través de encuestas y otras iniciativas, monitorizamos y canalizamos las preocupaciones causadas por el Brexit en la comunidad de investigadores españoles en Reino Unido.

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

CONNECTS-UK



Co-funded by
the European Union

An SRUK/CERU-led partnership between EU research diasporas in the UK to enhance EU-UK research collaborations.

SRUK/CERU working group in CONNECTS-UK

Javier Pardo Díaz, Chair of the CONNECTS-UK Coordination Board

Sara Alvira de Celis, Member of the CONNECTS-UK Coordination Board

Rocío Gaudio, Member of the CONNECTS-UK Coordination Board

Igor Arrieta

Rafael Carrascosa Marzo

Marta Domínguez Prieto

Cristina Gallego

Mari Carmen García de Soria

Miguel Paez Pérez

Rosa Sánchez-Lucas

Larissa Zarate García



SRUK/CERU members at the Second Annual Meeting of the EU Scientific Diaspora in the UK in the Embassy of Spain. From left to right: Cristina Barrero Sicilia, Irene Echeverría Altuna, Javier Pardo Díaz, Rafael Carrascosa Marzo, Sara Alvira de Celis

SRUK/CERU is leading the project **CONNECTS-UK (CONNec-ting European Communities Through Science in the UK)**. This project worth 640,000 € is **co-funded by the European Union** and delivered in partnership with other scientific diasporas of EU countries (namely, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Netherlands, and Slovenia) and Native Scientists which aims to **strengthen the scientific and research relationships between the EU and the UK**. Additional stakeholders such as the Fundación Española para la Ciencia y la Tecnología (FECYT), the Fundación Banco Santander, and different embassies of EU countries in the UK are supportive of this project.

This project focuses on the relevance of international research as a key element of creating and improving diplomatic relations between the UK and the European countries, much damaged after the exit of the UK from the EU. CONNECTS-UK has four main objectives:

- Establishing a **professional network** of EU researchers in the UK
- Furthering **research** on EU-UK research collaborations and international mobility and on the characterisation of the community of EU researchers in the UK
- Providing **policy advice** to European and UK stakeholders
- Developing **science outreach programmes** while highlighting the role of EU researchers in the UK R&D system.

To achieve these objectives, the associations involved in the project are working together in delivering different scientific and policy-related activities and establishing working connections with European and British policy and academic institutions during 2024 and 2025.

In November, CONNECTS-UK partners co-organised with the Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub, an event focused on strengthening EU-UK research collaboration. In April SRUK/CERU organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain in



Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom



portuguese association of researchers and students in the UK



FRENCH EDUCATION & RESEARCH NETWORK IN UK



Association of Italian Scientists in the UK



CONNECTSUK

London and the EU Delegation in London the **Second Annual Meeting of the EU Scientific Diaspora in the UK**. During the event, opened by the Ambassador of Spain and the Ambassador of the EU, Javier Pardo (SRUK/CERU Vice-President) presented CONNECTS-UK. Two round tables with participation of representatives of diaspora associations (including SRUK/CERU President Irene Echeveria), EU member states embassies, the British Government, and Universities UK served to explore the challenges faced by EU researchers and the benefits of Horizon Europe.

CONNECTS-UK was officially launched on the 10th of March at an event organised in Imperial College and sponsored by Fundación Banco Santander. The event had more than 200 attendees from all over the UK and included a presentation of the project by SRUK/CERU Vice-President Javier Pardo Díaz and a keynote talk by Yvonne McDermott Rees on the impact of deepfakes in public opinion. Invited speakers including Sara Cerdas (MEP), Leire Leguina (FECYT), Isabel Allgeyer (DSIT) and Dajana Dzanovic (Universities UK) discussed the benefits of the activities of the project.

In May, CONNECTS-UK organised at the **University of Coventry** an event in which European researchers across all disciplines working in the UK, including SRUK/CERU member Paloma García, presented their ongoing research. In July, Javier Pardo (SRUK/CERU) participated at the **Third French Education and Research Network in the UK (FERN-UK) Day**. The project has also been presented to key stakeholders including EU science and education counsellors and academic institutions in the UK.

CONNECTS-UK is supported by Fundación Banco Santander, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology, the Embassy of the Netherlands in London, the Embassy of Italy in London, and the Embassy of France in London.

More information on:
<https://connects-uk.org>



SRUK/CERU members during the launch of CONNECTS-UK in London



Our Vice-President Javier Pardo Díaz during the launch of CONNECTS-UK in London



Attendees to the EU researchers in the UK event at the University of Coventry

CONNECTS-UK

CONNECTS-UK es un proyecto cofinanciado por la Unión Europea liderado por CERU y en colaboración con otras asociaciones de investigadores europeos en Reino Unido. CONNECTS-UK tiene como objetivo principal reforzar las colaboraciones en investigación entre la Unión Europea y Reino Unido mediante la organización de eventos, el establecimiento de contactos con instituciones europeas y británicas y la realización de trabajos de investigación.

For more information, contact eu.policy@sruk.org.uk

RAICEX



Officially established in July 2018, the Network of Associations of Spanish Scientists and Researchers Abroad (Red de Asociaciones de Científicos e Investigadores Españoles en el Exterior, RAICEX) currently represents 22 associations, which together account for more than 4,500 Spanish researchers and scientists abroad.

Representation of SRUK/CERU in the RAICEX Board of Directors 2023 and 2024

Igor Arrieta, Co-Head of the Science Policy and Diplomacy (since January 2024)

Irene Echeverría Altuna, Vice-President (until December 2023) and Co-Head of Institutional Relations (since March 2024)

Javier Pardo Díaz, Co-Head of Science Policy and Diplomacy (since January 2023)



Delegation of SRUK/CERU at the VIII Edition of the Spanish Scientific, Technological and Innovation Diplomacy Meeting (Madrid, December 2023)

Our joint mission is to promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge between Spanish researchers abroad and the agents of the Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation, serving as an advisory body, a channel of information, a catalyst of international relations and multi-directional research. RAICEX has achieved an important institutional recognition in Spain and we aim to continue transmitting the concerns of our communities to the R&D agents in Spain.

This year SRUK/CERU leads two commissions in RAICEX: the **Commission of Science Policy and Diplomacy** and the **Commission of Institutional Relations**. Through these commissions, we are actively engaged in contributing to the management of the network, developing policy recommendations, proposals, and critical analyses that **shape the strategy of the Spanish System of Science, Technology, and Innovation**.

Science Policy and Diplomacy

- In September 2023, our Vice-President, **Javier Pardo Díaz**, was invited to participate as a speaker at the event "**The Academic and Scientific Career in Spain**," organised by ANECA (the Spanish national research assessment agency) held at the Menéndez Pelayo International University (Santander).
- In October 2023, SRUK/CERU led the drafting of proposals for the public consultation of the **Royal Decree regulating the statute of Spanish citizenship abroad** of the Ministry of Inclusion, Social Security, and Migration.
- In November 2023, SRUK/CERU led the preparation of proposals for the public consultation by ANECA on its research assessment criteria for six-year periods of research (known as "**Sexenios de Investigación**").
- In December 2023, our Vice-President, **Javier Pardo Díaz**, was invited to participate as a speaker at the first **European Science Diplomacy Conference** held in Madrid on the occasion of the **Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**.
- In January 2024, RAICEX published an article entitled "**La voz de una diáspora organizada**" (The voice of an organised diaspora) in the Spanish newspaper **EL PAÍS**. Our President Irene Echeverría Altuna, our Vice-President Javier Pardo Díaz, and our Co-Director of Science Policy, Igor Arrieta, were among the authors of the article.
- In February 2024, SRUK/CERU led the drafting of proposals for ANECA's public consultation on the assessment process for becoming a public university faculty member in the **Spanish university system**.
- In April 2024, SRUK/CERU led the drafting of suggestions for the prior public consultation by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities for a simplified procedure for **faculty members of EU universities to obtain the Spanish state accreditation**.

- In April 2024, RAICEX released a **report evaluating the Plan for Attraction and Retention of Scientific and Innovative Talent to Spain** prepared by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and University.
- In April 2024, RAICEX sent proposals for discussion at the **General Council of Spanish Citizens Abroad (CGCEE)**.
- In May 2024, SRUK/CERU led the drafting of suggestions for the public consultation by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities for a **simplified procedure for faculty members of EU universities to obtain the Spanish state accreditation**.

Bridging European Science IV

On 20th and 21st October 2023, the fourth edition of the event **Bridging European Science** took place in **Brussels**, under the title of **“Improving European research, innovation and evidence-informed policy through scientific networks”**. The gathering was organised by **RAICEX** in collaboration with **FECYT**, it was hosted by **CEBE** (Belgium) and **CENL** (Netherlands) and it attracted more than 100 Spanish researchers in Europe. In addition to contributing to the organisation of the event, **13 members were sponsored by SRUK/CERU** with the support of Ramon Areces Foundation to attend this fruitful gathering.

The event took place over two days: one in **English** in the **European Commission DG GROW** building, and another in **Spanish** at the **Instituto Cervantes**. The programme covered discussions about the opportunities, challenges and roles of scientific networks; science policy; science for policy; multilingualism in research; and collaborations between public and private scientific institutions, among others. Lively discussions and networking opportunities were interspersed along the two days.

Research communication

- In September 2023, our member Fidel Alfaro Almagro participated in a roundtable about Artificial Intelligence in the **45th Congress of the SEBBM** (Spanish Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology).
- Our **Ambassador in Spain**, Eduardo Oliver, interviewed SRUK/CERU member Jacobo Elíes on **La Cresta de la Onda**, a radio programme which gives visibility to Spanish researchers abroad.



Our Vice-President, Javier Pardo Díaz, delivers his speech at the European Science Diplomacy Conference (Madrid, December 2023)



SRUK/CERU members who attended Bridging European Science IV (Brussels, October 2023)

RAICEX

CERU forma parte de la Red de Asociaciones de Investigadores y Científicos Españoles en el Exterior desde su fundación en 2018. Este curso 2023-2024, CERU ha ostentado la vicepresidencia de RAICEX y la vocalía de Política y Diplomacia Científica. Además, 10 miembros de CERU asistieron al Bridging European Science IV (BES-IV), encuentro que atrajo a más de 100 investigadores españoles en Europa. Además, hemos colaborado activamente con los Consejos de Residentes y Coalición de Españoles en Reino Unido.

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

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

SRUK/CERU seeks to create a connection between private and public institutions in Spain and the UK, increasing the success of both national research and innovation systems.

The International Collaborations Committee

Cristina Barrero Sicilia, Head of the Department
Ana Viñuela, On the Move Officer
Rosa Sánchez Lucas, Member of the department



Societies' Conference of the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE), September 2023. From left to right Dr Pilar Acedo (Chair of the SRUK/CERU Cancer Committee), Prof Perla Wahnon (Head of COSCE), Prof Amanda Sierra (COSCE), Dr Cristina Barrero (Head of the SRUK/CERU International Collaborations Department)



SRUK/CERU winter studentships awardees and hosts

We engage in communication and negotiation with academic and non-academic organisations in Spain and the UK, seeking opportunities for interaction and generating agreements for collaboration. Furthermore, we collaborate and exchange knowledge with other societies of Spanish researchers worldwide. Our portfolio of programs focuses on education, awards, networking, and mobility initiatives.

Key aspects of our work include:

- **International agreements.** With a firm commitment, we act as channels for fostering collaborations, elevating the visibility of Spanish and British research groups. By developing strategic partnerships and formal agreements, we foster the perfect climate for joint projects and the sharing of expertise.
- **International mobility.** We function as a dynamic bridge, promoting two-way mobility for researchers at every career stage. Through our well-orchestrated initiatives, we cultivate robust relationships amongst research groups in both territories, creating a framework for continuous collaboration.
- **Networking and Information.** With a strategic intent, we orchestrate networking events and informative sessions, promoting connections amongst researchers and equipping them with invaluable insights. Our sharp analysis of Brexit's impact on research mobility remains a cornerstone, guiding us in adapting our programs to new paradigms and challenges.

In our ongoing commitment, we are pleased to share **a snapshot of our 2023/2024 achievements:**

- **SRUK/CERU Winter and Summer Internships:** These placements, spanning 4–6 months, have provided unique opportunities for 38 students from three Spanish universities. The growing popularity of these internships (doubling in number this year) highlights their importance in fostering continuous academic growth.
- **4th edition On the Move Fellowships:** "On the Move" is a bi-directional mobility program for research staff in Spain and the UK, in partnership with the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (CRUE). This year, we awarded 3 placements in the UK.
- **Navigating Post-Brexit Challenges:** In the post-Brexit era, placements and internships have become more challenging due to rapidly changing immigration rules. We receive a significant number of inquiries regarding visa applications. At SRUK/CERU, we try hard to provide guidance and gather information from institutional sources. However, it is important to note that the rules differ across universities in Spain and the UK, making it difficult to establish a robust guideline. Ultimately, the criteria for placements are determined by the home and host universities, based on their interpretation of the requirements set by the UK Home Office.

- **British Council Event:** We have been presenting the international activities of SRUK/CERU at the British Council event "Fostering UK/Spanish Universities Collaborations," where we had the opportunity to meet with international departments of Spanish and British universities to expand our contacts and collaboration agreements.
- **Research Conference Representation:** We have been representing SRUK/CERU at research conferences, serving as a bridge between the science conducted by our Spanish members in the UK and Spanish institutions. For example, we attended the Societies' Conference of the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE), which brings together all member societies once a year for an event dedicated to a topic of special interest.
- **New Research Agreement:** We have signed a research agreement with the University of Castilla-La Mancha, and we expect to extend our internship programs to social and linguistic disciplines.

Future initiatives

- **Forging New Collaborations:** Our commitment to forging new collaborations and supporting existing partnerships remains firm. Negotiations with institutions like Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia and Universidad Internacional de Cataluña are emblematic of our forward-looking approach.
- **Organising Networking Events:** Looking ahead, we will continue organising gatherings tailored for students and researchers visiting the UK for professional purposes. These events floor the way for impactful networking and foster real connections.
- **Supporting SRUK/CERU Internship Students:** We are equally enthusiastic about supporting our SRUK/CERU internship students, extending studentships for participation in the SRUK/CERU symposiums and activities organised by the CONNECTS-UK project. This affords them the important chance to showcase their research, gain experience within the scientific community, and forge connections that could pave the path for future collaborations.



Fostering UK/Spanish Universities Collaboration – British Council, May 2024. From left to right Dr Cristina Barrero (Head of the SRUK/CERU International Collaborations Department), Carolina Jimenez (Head Education Spain, British Council), Dr Carlos Soler (Chair of the SRUK/CERU Language Policy Committee)



SRUK/CERU Internships students from Universidad Francisco de Vitoria enjoying London Champion League competition, June 2024

DEPARTAMENTO DE RELACIONES INTERNACIONALES

Un objetivo fundamental de CERU es ser intermediaria en Ciencia e Investigación, para lo cual establece conexiones y acuerdos con instituciones de investigación españolas. A través de 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 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

XI INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



Organising Committee

Ana Viñuela Rodríguez, Chair
 Cristina Navarro Reguero
 Elisa López Capel
 Francisco Romera
 María Camacho-Encina
 Encarna Micó Amigo
 Magda Pascual
 Sergio Serrano Blanco
 Sara Franco Ortega

Communications and website

Asier Rodriguez Muguruza
 Laura Bravo Merodio
 Sandra Álvarez-Carretero

Design

Cristina Gallego Páramo
 Berta Gallego Páramo
 Loreto Gestoso
 Lara Montolio Núñez



Members of the Organising Committee

We celebrated our **XI International Symposium at Newcastle University**. The event was hosted by Dr Ana Viñuela (Newcastle University), Chair of this XI Symposium, and counted with approximately fifty attendees. Sponsored by Newcastle University, the Ramón Areces Foundation; and the Axencia Galega de Innovación, the topic of this year's Symposium was "**Beyond Words: Connecting Research with the World**". We explore how we can communicate our research using more than just English words, and more than just words. As a multilingual organisation, SRUK/CERU members express their interests in many ways, including the various official languages we have in Spain and through other media. We celebrated that diversity during a weekend full of activities.

Discussions about science communication to the general public were led by our keynote speaker on Friday Prof **Margarita del Val Latorre** (CSIC), a worldwide recognised virologist and immunologist in Spain with multiple appearances in national Spanish TV. She explained her journey in the media and gave advice to the Symposium participants about communicating complex scientific concepts to those in need during difficult situations like a pandemic. She remarked "citizens understand and value science, but researchers should maintain the communication with the public and remark how coming challenges will benefit from scientific explanations". On Saturday, we celebrated the winner of the SRUK/CERU 2024 Merit Award: Prof **Sonia Contera** (University of Oxford). She is a biological physicist who showcased her book "Nano comes to Life" about how physics interacts with living systems. She remarked "physics is about reality and understanding the world around us". Her presentation served a great example of how to communicated complicated scientific concepts in an easy to understand manner.

To celebrate the diversity of languages in Spain and the UK, we had a roundtable discussion about "**Embracing Linguistic Diversity: Regional Languages in Research**" chaired by the Chair of the SRUK/CERU Language Policy Committee Dr Carlos Soler (University of Edinburgh). The round table included Dr Nicola Bermingham (University of Liverpool) and Dr Guillermo Roa (Elhuyar) who maintained a multilingual discussion in Spanish, English, Galician and Basque analysing the challenges of multilingual contexts. They highlighted the importance of giving a voice to other majority and minority languages to avoid limitations on the reach and understanding of (scientific) messages. Finally, we had two workshops. The first on Saturday about "**Illustration in Science**" delivered by Dr Miriam Rivera (founder of Biomiics), Dr Lydia Wysocki (Newcastle University) and Dr Jorge Català-Carrasco (Newcastle University), highlighting the impact of illustrations. Attendees were able to explore the use of comics to translate complex scientific achievements by using visual metaphors. The second, on Sunday, with Dr Sarah McLusky, who delivered a workshop about "**Communicating without words**", where she highlighted how difficult it is to explain



Ana Viñuela (Symposium Chair), Margarita del Val (Keynote speaker), Irene Echeverria (SRUK/CERU President) and Jesús Sánchez (CRIS Cáncer) during the symposium



Participants of the XI SRUK/CERU International Symposium

certain concepts and the usefulness of using other communicating media beyond words, for example, dance, films, music, art, sculpture, architecture that can transmit emotion — “if you want people to care, then first you have to make them feel”. Attendees got additional advice on how to collaborate with artists to communicate their research to other people.

The conference included **short talks and posters from SRUK/CERU members**, especially from early career researchers. We also announced the winners of this year’s SRUK/CERU photography contest En-Foco: Andrés García Sampedro (SRUK/CERU Members and Friends Award) for “The microcosm of

anti-inflammatory tumour”; Marta Domínguez Prieto (Originality Award) for “Unexpected beauty”, and Álvaro Castaño (Research Communication Award and Technique Award) for “Gut sensing”.

The XI International Symposium offered a platform to learn how regional languages are an instrumental part of science and knowledge communication and highlighted other ways of communicating science “Beyond Words”. Because illustration and art can be powerful forms to carry the scientific message, reaching a broader audience and increasing the impact of the research itself.

XI SIMPOSIO INTERNACIONAL

Nuestro XI Simposio Internacional, titulado "Más allá de las palabras", se celebró en la Universidad de Newcastle, organizado por la Dra. Ana Viñuela. En él abordamos cómo comunicar la ciencia más allá del uso exclusivo del inglés o sin palabras. Nuestras invitadas nos hablaron de comunicación científica en tiempos de pandemia, sobre la interacción entre física y biología. En una mesa redonda sobre diversidad lingüística discutimos el valor de las lenguas regionales para comunicar ciencia. Los asistentes pudieron también disfrutar de talleres sobre ilustración y comunicación no verbal, destacando la importancia de la colaboración entre ciencia y arte.

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

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

The Communication and Online Department

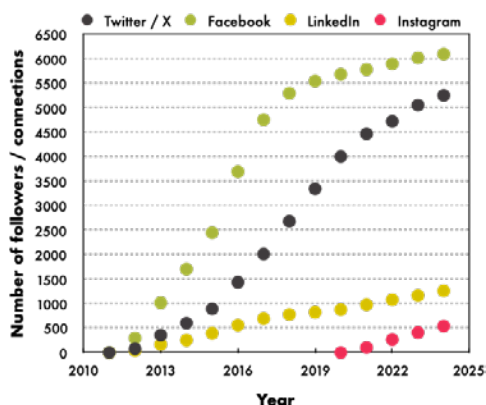
Asier Rodriguez Muguruza Co-director
 Laura Bravo Merodio Co-director

Regional Community Managers

Larissa Zarate London
 Carlota Segura Oxford
 Marta Domínguez Midlands
 Cristina Ponce Scotland
 Ana Viñuela NorthWest

Department and Committee Managers

Sandra Álvarez Carretero Online Manager



The Communication and Online Department is the visible face of the association to the outside. Its aim is to let everyone know what the society achieves and our volunteers' relentless job. For that, SRUK/CERU has different social media channels with a large community of followers / connections that keeps growing every year, which reassures the impact of SRUK/CERU and society's interest in its work. Our presence in **X (@ComunidadCeru)** is the biggest among all the societies of Spanish researchers abroad and acts as a fast and efficient communication channel for news, events and achievements of the society. **LinkedIn** is another of our more active channels that has created a community of professionals based in the UK, Spain and worldwide that follows SRUK/CERU's activity. Finally, SRUK/CERU wants to stand up for accessibility, and thereby, we have started uploading to our **YouTube** channel (Channel SRUK-CERU) different activities that have been taking place through the year for everyone that was not able to attend them in person.

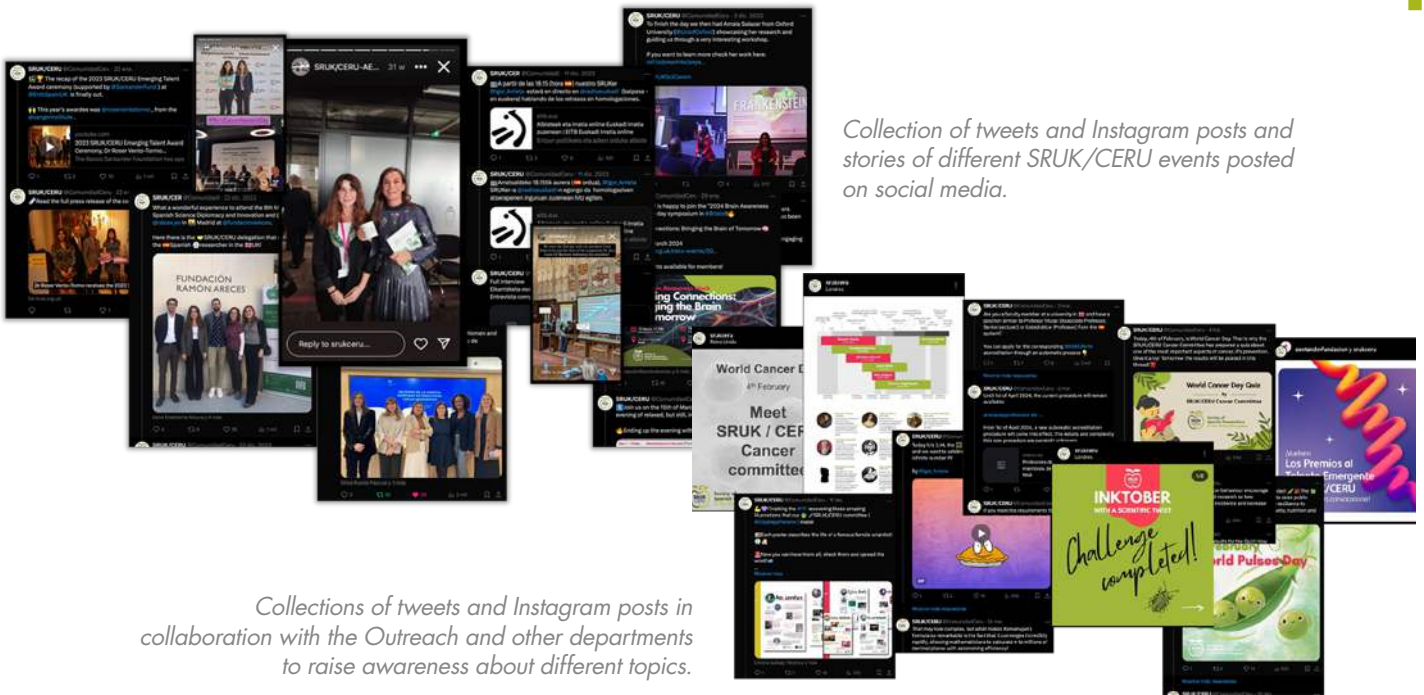
The Communication and Online team have been involved in the development and support of different communication strategies and social media campaigns to promote and cover our events, ranging from more local constituency events to nationwide events such as the **CONNECTS-UK Launch event**, the **2024 SRUK/CERU Brain Awareness week** event in Bristol, the **IV Bridging European Science** meeting in Brussels, the **2nd SRUK/CERU Cancer Research Day** at CNIO (Madrid) or the visit of Her Majesty the Queen of Spain to Cancer Research UK headquarters in London for the World Cancer Research Day. This department has also worked closely with other organisations and institutions such as the Spanish Association against Cancer (AECC), the Santander Foundation or the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom for the promotion of joint initiatives like the 2023 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award.

One of our main collaborators within SRUK/CERU is the Outreach Department. Jointly, we have designed and launched different social media campaigns to give visibility to different topics like the World Cancer Day, World Pulses Day, the International Day of Girls and Women in STEM, the Pi (π) Day, the Book Day, Earth Day, and the Day of Europe in our X and **Instagram (@srukceru)** accounts. We also supported the 3rd edition of the **Inktober with a Scientific Twist**, organised by the SRUK/CERU Design Committee, in our Instagram page.

Finally, supporting the SRUK/CERU Science Policy Department, we disseminated the **results of the 2024 Brexit survey**, which attracted a big interest in Spanish and British media.

The Communication and Online Department works closely with other SRUK/CERU departments, committees, and constituencies to create all the communication content. This unique scenario gives us the opportunity to learn from each other and come with new and more interesting ideas.

Increase in the number of followers / connections in the SRUK/CERU social media channels (except for YouTube) until June 2024.



Collection of tweets and Instagram posts and stories of different SRUK/CERU events posted on social media.

Collections of tweets and Instagram posts in collaboration with the Outreach and other departments to raise awareness about different topics.

This year the Communication and Online Department, alongside The Midlands Constituency, has launched the **SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium**. The aim of this symposium is to raise awareness to the research community about the importance of science communication and its impact in society. The **I SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium** took place on the 2nd and 3rd of December of 2023 at Instituto Cervantes Manchester and covered a wide range of topics from the perception of science, to examples of Science Communication through social media and the use of Spanish as a tool for Science Communication. We had the privilege of having **Prof Carolina Moreno Castro** (University of Valencia) as keynote speaker, an international reference in the study of the perception of science by society. Furthermore, we dedicated a day to the use of Spanish as a tool for Science Communication and Outreach with the participation of the new SRUK/CERU Language Policy Committee and with the support of the **Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla**.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION SYMPOSIUM



The banner and photographs of the I SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium.

Due to the success of its first edition, the **II SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium** has been confirmed for October 2024 also taking place at Instituto Cervantes Manchester, with the theme: *The role of Science Journalism in Science Communication*.

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE COMUNICACIÓN Y ONLINE

El Departamento de Comunicación y Online 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 seguido creciendo nuestra comunidad online a través de nuestras campañas en redes y nuestra nueva web, facilitando la difusión de toda la labor de CERU. Nuestro canal de YouTube sigue aumentando en videos y visitas y nuestros canales de X e Instagram se han usado para promocionar eventos de una manera más cercana.

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

WEB

The SRUK/CERU Website Management Team helps our Society keep all our websites up and running, free of bugs and server issues! They are constantly working on new ideas to keep our digital presence interactive, as well as developing new functionalities to improve the way our users and members navigate our sites.

The Website management and development team

Sandra Álvarez-Carretero,
SRUK/CERU Web Manager
Ángel Plaza, WordPress,
long-term SRUK/CERU collaborator

Main website: <https://sruk.org.uk/>

Members Zone (only SRUK/CERU Members): <https://members.sruk.org.uk/>

Symposium's website:
<https://symposium.sruk.org.uk/>



*Sandra Álvarez-Carretero,
SRUK/CERU Web
Manager*

*Ángel Plaza,
WordPress,
long-term SRUK/
CERU collaborator*

We have been paying attention to what our SRUK/CERU Members, Friends, sponsors, and collaborators have been saying and... We have some news to announce! This year, **SRUK/CERU** has invested **time** and **resources** in expanding and upgrading its **digital footprint!**

Our **Web Manager**, **Sandra Álvarez-Carretero**, has been implementing **new content** in the **SRUK/CERU Members Zone** with the aim to improve its usage for grant applications, event registrations, learning resources, and... Even various fora that members can use to **communicate** with each other! She has also teamed up with our long-term collaborator, **Ángel Plaza** (WordPress), to **develop a hosting site for our Symposium's Website**: a big project that has been on our to-do list for various years! We must thank Ángel for his wonderful design and the various templates he has created for us to use: very **visual**, **interactive**, and **easy to understand!** Sandra has then been working on the website's content while tailoring and further implementing the templates to fit **this year's Symposium** – absolutely brilliant work! Nevertheless, this project is not yet over: in the coming months, they will be adapting previous Symposium's websites so that they can be part of an **archive** under this new site. Keep an eye on our newsletters and social media as we shall keep you posted!

Lastly, do not miss the **new sections** and **updates** that Sandra has implemented to upgrade our **main website** after teaming up with the relevant **SRUK/CERU Team** to decide on the new content! For instance, you can now learn more about our collaboration with **RAICEX** ("Who are We? > SRUK/CERU In RAICEX") and available **vacancies** to join us ("Opportunities > Vacancies"). You may also want to check the **new departments** and **committees** that have been created ("Who are We> Out Backstage"; "Who are We> Out Committees"), the updates regarding our **SRUK/CERU Memberships** ("Members"), and the new **sponsors** and **collaborators** that are currently **supporting** us ("Who Are We? > Sponsors and Collaborators"). Do not forget to visit us and explore everything that SRUK/CERU has to **offer!**

PÁGINA WEB

Tras escuchar las sugerencias de nuestros miembros, amigos, patrocinadores y colaboradores, tenemos noticias que anunciar: ¡CERU ha invertido tiempo y recursos en expandir y actualizar su huella digital! Nuestra Web Manager, Sandra Álvarez-Carretero, ha estado implementando nuevo contenido en la Zona de Miembros para mejorar la experiencia de nuestros miembros. A su vez, ha estado trabajando codo a codo con nuestro colaborador y amigo, Ángel Plaza (WordPress), para mejorar la web de nuestro Simposio: ¡nueva plataforma, nuevo diseño y mejor navegación! También hay nuevas secciones y cambios en nuestra web principal, así que.. ¡No os olvidéis de visitar nuestras páginas!

For more information, contact web.manager@sruk.org.uk

PRESS TEAM

From June 2023, the Press Department is part of the Department of Communication and Online stabilising the Press team. Since then, the Press team has issued a total of **7 press releases** written by SRUK/CERU Executive Committee members and supervised by this team.

This year we have kept covering the **issues that the community of Spanish researchers in the United Kingdom are facing** as well as the activities and events that SRUK/CERU have organised. We celebrated the UK joining the Europe Horizon framework and assisted the dissemination of the 2024 Brexit Survey results, but beside the news focused on science policy, the press team also covered events in which SRUK/CERU has been involved as the awards that our society delivers: **SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award** and the **SRUK/CERU Merit Award**. Furthermore, the Press team helped prepare press releases for other events such as the **2024 SRUK/CERU Brain Awareness Week** or the **CONNECTS-UK Launch Event**, among others. A total of **35 journals, newspapers and online sites** have disseminated the work of the society. Furthermore, SRUK/CERU has appeared in other media channels as the **radio** and the **television** as it is the case of the co-directors of the SRUK/CERU Science Policy Department.

Moreover, as part of the SRUK/CERU outreach program, the Press team is also in charge of the **SRUK/CERU Blog “1, 2, 3... Explore!”**. This initiative contributes to scientific outreach by publishing posts about the up-to-date research that our SRUK/CERU members and collaborators carried out, highlighting their work and the impact of research performed by Spanish researchers in the UK. The blog has also served as a platform to showcase the initiatives of other SRUK/CERU committees as the **“Empowering Voices: “Where are the Women?” – UK Map Project”** led by the SRUK/CERU Women in research committee. Among the posts published every year, SRUK/CERU also organised the annual blog contest.



Collage of written press where SRUK/CERU has appeared.

The SRUK/CERU Press team is the group of volunteers in charge of writing and supervising the press releases of the society and managing our blog. Being part of the Communication and Online Department, this team acts as a direct link between the society and the press to help raise awareness about the society’s activity and achievements.

Members of the Press Team

Asier Rodriguez Muguruza,
Co-director of the Communication and Online Department

Laura Bravo Merodio,
Co-director of the Communication and Online Department

Sandra Álvarez Carretero,
Member of Press Team and Co-Editor in Chief of the SRUK/CERU blog

Margarita Segovia Roldán,
Co-Editor in Chief of the SRUK/CERU blog

EL EQUIPO DE PRENSA

El Equipo de prensa se dedica a la redacción y supervisión de las notas para informar tanto a medios nacionales en Reino Unido como internacionales de los avances y eventos que la asociación está consiguiendo. A su vez, gracias a la contribución de otros miembros CERU edita el blog “1, 2, 3... ¡Explora!”, donde se pueden encontrar entradas tanto de los últimos avances en investigación de nuestros miembros como iniciativas propuestas por diferentes departamentos y/o comités de CERU.

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

DESIGN COMMITTEE

The Design Committee started in February 2021, as part of the Communications Department. Our principal aim is to enhance the visual image of SRUK/CERU, aligning it to the values of our Society, and improving our audience's perception through better communication.

The Design Team

Cristina Gallego Páramo, Chair
 Berta Gallego Páramo
 Loreto Gestoso Suárez
 Lara Montolio Nuñez

We are an enthusiastic team with a passion for both science and art and design. We are always open to collaborating with other SRUK/CERU teams and members, offering support with the design of visuals for their events and initiatives.

One of our annual collaborations was with the **Annual Symposium Committee**, where we created an **exclusive logo/ilustration "Beyond words"**, emphasising the importance of alternative forms of communication — the theme of the event (see pages 18-19). This design was featured on their website, communications, and merchandising.

We also worked with the Outreach department, preparing the **En Foco** photography exhibition, **designing its calendars**, or creating dissemination materials for **Science-me a Story**.

Our team contributed to flagship initiatives, designing materials for the **Emerging Talent Award** and the **Merit Award**, as well as the announcements for special events, like the **Feeding Connections Symposium** in Bristol, or the **I Science Communication Symposium** in Manchester.

In collaboration with the Outreach department and the Oxford Constituency, we developed a presentation on **Art & Science in SRUK/CERU**, as a contribution for the workshop "From Canvas to Cognition – An Interdisciplinary Journey" at the University of Oxford. There, we explained how these disciplines can complement each other, and highlighted SRUK/CERU's contributions to bridge art and science through some of its initiatives.

Additionally, as every year, the Committee has been in charge of the formatting, layout, and cover design of the **Annual report**.



COMITÉ DE DISEÑO

Como parte del Departamento de Comunicación, en el Comité de Diseño trabajamos para mejorar la percepción pública que se ofrece de SRUK/CERU a través de la imagen que se da en nuestras comunicaciones. Mediante el diseño gráfico no solo creamos una imagen atractiva, sino efectiva, y alineada con nuestros valores e identidad como Sociedad. Hemos colaborado con diseños para las principales iniciativas, como el Simposio Anual, carteles y material para el Talento Emergente, así como para otros eventos puntuales. También estamos a cargo del diseño y maquetación de la Memoria Anual.

INKTOBER

WITH A SCIENTIFIC TWIST

Inktober is a month-long art challenge that lives on Instagram and that is very popular within the illustrators' community. It consists of publishing an original illustration per day during October, each inspired by a given word.

With "Inktober with a Scientific Twist", we adhered to this initiative for the third time on **SRUK/CERU Instagram**, asking the participants to **find a "scientific twist" to the official Inktober words**. We also requested to add a little explanation to the image, to expand the meaning of the illustration.

We recruited and organised a team of **10 volunteers** from different profiles (members and not members of our Society) to **complete the challenge collaboratively**. By doing this, we aim at promoting the values of cooperation, to stimulate curiosity, and, of course, having fun.

Some of the illustrations portrayed interesting **facts about animals and plants**. Others explored **creative data visualisation, biology**, or even **explaining maths, and chemistry**. The team had fun and learned a few things. We hope anyone following the challenge on our social media did too!



Illustrations by Phoenix (1,3,6), Berta Gallego (2,8), Lara Montolio (5), Jimena Pérez Lloret (7), and Cristina Gallego (4)

This initiative aims to raise awareness about how scientific advancement and the wonders of nature are present in every aspect of life and to encourage the use of visuals for scientific communication.

You can follow the challenge on Instagram: @srukceru

The "Inktober with a Scientific twist" Organising Team

Berta Gallego Páramo
Cristina Gallego Páramo
Loreto Gestoso Suarez
Lara Montolio Nuñez

Volunteer Illustrators Team

- Phoenix @phoenixdataart
- Jimena Pérez Lloret @jimenaperezlloret
- Eva Cacabelos @evadebuxa
- Marta Pérez @art_martattack
- Marina Martín Maroto @marinuuuuuuuuus
- Sara González Antón
- Loreto Gestoso @zelaya.orama
- Lara Montolio Núñez @medi.graphix
- Berta Gallego @silken_woods
- Cristina Gallego @a_romantic_scientist

INKTOBER CON UN GIRO CIENTÍFICO

Inktober es un desafío muy popular dentro de la comunidad artística: se publica en Instagram una ilustración cada día de octubre, inspirada por una palabra dada. Con "Inktober con un giro científico", nos unimos a esta iniciativa de forma particular: con un equipo de voluntarios para afrontar el desafío de forma colaborativa y dando una orientación científica a cada palabra. Pretendemos destacar así el papel de la ciencia y la naturaleza en nuestras vidas, promover la comunicación visual en ciencia, el espíritu colaborativo y la curiosidad. La tercera edición reunió un equipo de 10 voluntarias, que participaron con ilustraciones sobre visualización de datos, naturaleza, biología, matemáticas y química. La experiencia fue divertida y estimulante para las ilustradoras y esperamos que para el público también.

More info: sruk.org.uk/initiatives/public-engagement/sruk-ceru-x-inktober/, contact: design@sruk.org.uk

OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

This was the second academic year for the SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement, which includes the well-established SRUK/CERU initiatives “Science-me a Story” and “Investigación En Foco”, as well as the thematic committees for Cancer, Neurosciences, and Evolution. This department aims to bridge Science and Higher Education to Society, researchers to different audiences (e.g., scientists, children, adults in the general public), and the UK to Spain via multiple initiatives promoting scientific literacy.

The Department of Outreach and Public Engagement

Alba Fernández Sanlés,
Director since July 2023
José Luis Marín Rubio,
Director until September 2023
Berta Gallego
Cristina Delgado
Isabel Murillo
Laura Sanjurjo
Sara Rodríguez
Beatriz Monterde

Committees

Radio committee
Blog committee
Cancer committee
Neurosciences committee
Evolution committee

The SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement **bridges the gap between researchers and the general public** by promoting science literacy, fostering interest in Research and Science, and creating opportunities for meaningful interactions between researchers, scientists and a wide range of audiences. It collaborates closely with the SRUK/CERU constituencies, and other departments and committees, to foster opportunities for scientific and academic dissemination.

The **three main aims** of the SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement this year were:

- i) to define a strategy and objectives to maximize outreach and public engagement initiatives;
- ii) to grow the working group and stakeholders network to address its objectives and represent a wider range of researchers and scientists; and
- iii) to act on the established initiatives “Science-me a story” and “Investigación En Foco”, and oversee the thematic committees for Cancer, Neurosciences and Evolution, the “En Fase Experimental” committee and the SRUK/CERU Blog committee.

During the second academic year of this Department, a need for more public engagement and a wider range of target audiences was identified, and new activities will take shape in the medium-term. The Department has now a core working group who could absorb the **“Science-me a Story”** and **“Investigación En Foco”** initiatives and objectives in absence of Chairs for these committees. The Department has also established **collaborations with new organisations**, and continued collaborating with SRUK/CERU partner **Native Scientists**, a NGO that brings research to children using their first language. Additionally, the Head of the Department attended a number of events in representation of SRUK/CERU.



VICENTE CAÑADA BLANCH
SPANISH SCHOOL

native
scientist

PRINCIPIA



DEPARTAMENTO DE DIVULGACIÓN CIENTÍFICA Y COMPROMISO PÚBLICO

Este departamento gestiona iniciativas de divulgación para acercar la ciencia al público. Durante este año se crearon dos nuevos comités temáticos, Neurociencia y Evolución, inspirados por el de Cáncer. El comité de Radio retomó sus programas con entrevistas a investigadores españoles. Distribuimos los calendarios anuales de CERU con las fotografías finalistas de la tercera edición del concurso “Investigación En Foco” y organizamos su cuarta edición. El libro bilingüe en inglés y español “Ciencia-me un cuento” llegó a escuelas y bibliotecas en España, Reino Unido y otros países, y estamos desarrollando unidades didácticas complementarias. Además, estamos preparando la sexta edición del concurso “Ciencia-me un cuento”. Finalmente, hemos definido estrategias a largo plazo para ampliar la divulgación de CERU, incluyendo actividades en fechas internacionales relevantes.

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

Some achievements within the SRUK/CERU Department of Outreach and Public Engagement include:

- The **Cancer Committee** has confirmed their key role to connect cancer research with different stakeholders, and inspired the creation of two new thematic committees: the **Neurosciences** (October 2023) and the **Evolution** (February 2024) **Committees**.
- The **“En Fase Experimental”** committee successfully resumed the SRUK/CERU podcast in October 2023.
- 200 **SRUK/CERU calendars** including the finalist photographs of the third **“Investigación En Foco”** competition were distributed to SRUK/CERU volunteers and stakeholders.
- The **4th “Investigación En Foco” photography competition** was revamped to include nature photographs in addition to participants’ own research. Five people joined SRUK/CERU to enter the competition.
- The **‘Science-me a story’ book** has been actively distributed in a number of schools and libraries in the UK, Spain and countries such as Chile, Kenya and South Africa.
- Some **teaching units accompanying the stories of the ‘Science-me a story’ book** have been produced and will be available next year.
- Some volunteers have organised **activities with children based on ‘Science-me a story’ stories and activities**.
- **International dates** relevant to SRUK/CERU were identified as opportunities to disseminate information about the celebrated theme in an engaging way and using a variety of formats, including interactive quizzes in social media.



Alba Fernández Sanlés at the 1st SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium. Manchester, December 2023.



A “Science-me a story” book on its way to a public school in Spain. It can be downloaded scanning the QR code on the left.



Online outreach on International Dates

For the first time, we took the opportunity **international dates** offer to disseminate information, and advocate and engage with the celebrated themes. To improve the representation of SRUK/CERU interests, we have identified a number of International Dates relevant to SRUK/CERU members that cover a wide range of topics. Several formats can be used to produce some scientific dissemination and give visibility to important causes, including those related to the climate crisis. Among these formats, we have used **online interactive quizzes and games to engage with the general public** with access to Internet, social media campaigns targeting social media users, **and in-person events** engaging with different audiences. One of our main SRUK/CERU collaborators is the Department of Communications and Online. With their support, we launched **social media activities** on the World Cancer Day, the World Pulses Day, the International Day of Girls and Women in STEMM, the Pi Day, the Book Day, the Earth Day, the Immunization week, the Galician language day, and the Day of Europe.

INVESTIGACIÓN EN FOCO



4th SRUK/CERU Photography Competition

The competition aims to highlight the aesthetic value and significance of research and nature through visual representations. It provides an exclusive platform for researchers to showcase the beauty of their work and make it accessible to a broad audience and understandable to people outside the academic community.

More info: sruk.org.uk/initiatives/public-engagement/enfoco/



Panel of expert judges

Amaia Salazar Rodríguez,
President of the evaluation panel
Clara Novo
Laura Llera
Juan Aballe
Gem Toes-Crichton



Panel of judges.

After the success of the previous editions of "Investigación En Foco," we organised the 4th edition in 2024. This scientific photography contest serves as a means to generate interest in and communicate science outside the academic and research world.

Nineteen participants submitted their own photos showcasing nature, or capturing a discovery or a moment of their work as researchers or academics. The jury, composed of experts in photography and science communication, scored the eligible photographs in the categories "Originality and Artistic Personality of the Image", "Technical and Photographic Quality", and "Communication of the Science Conveyed by the Photography, Title, and Description". SRUK/CERU members could also vote for their preferred photograph of the finalists totalling the 12 highest scores (category "Popular vote", voted by 36 people). The winners in each of the four categories were announced and awarded at the annual SRUK/CERU Annual Symposium, celebrated in Newcastle in June 2024.

Also, the 12 finalist photographs were part of an exhibition that is on tour across the UK with support of SRUK/CERU constituencies. Last, they will be part of the SRUK/CERU 2025 calendar, which we will offer for sale to raise funds for SRUK/CERU.

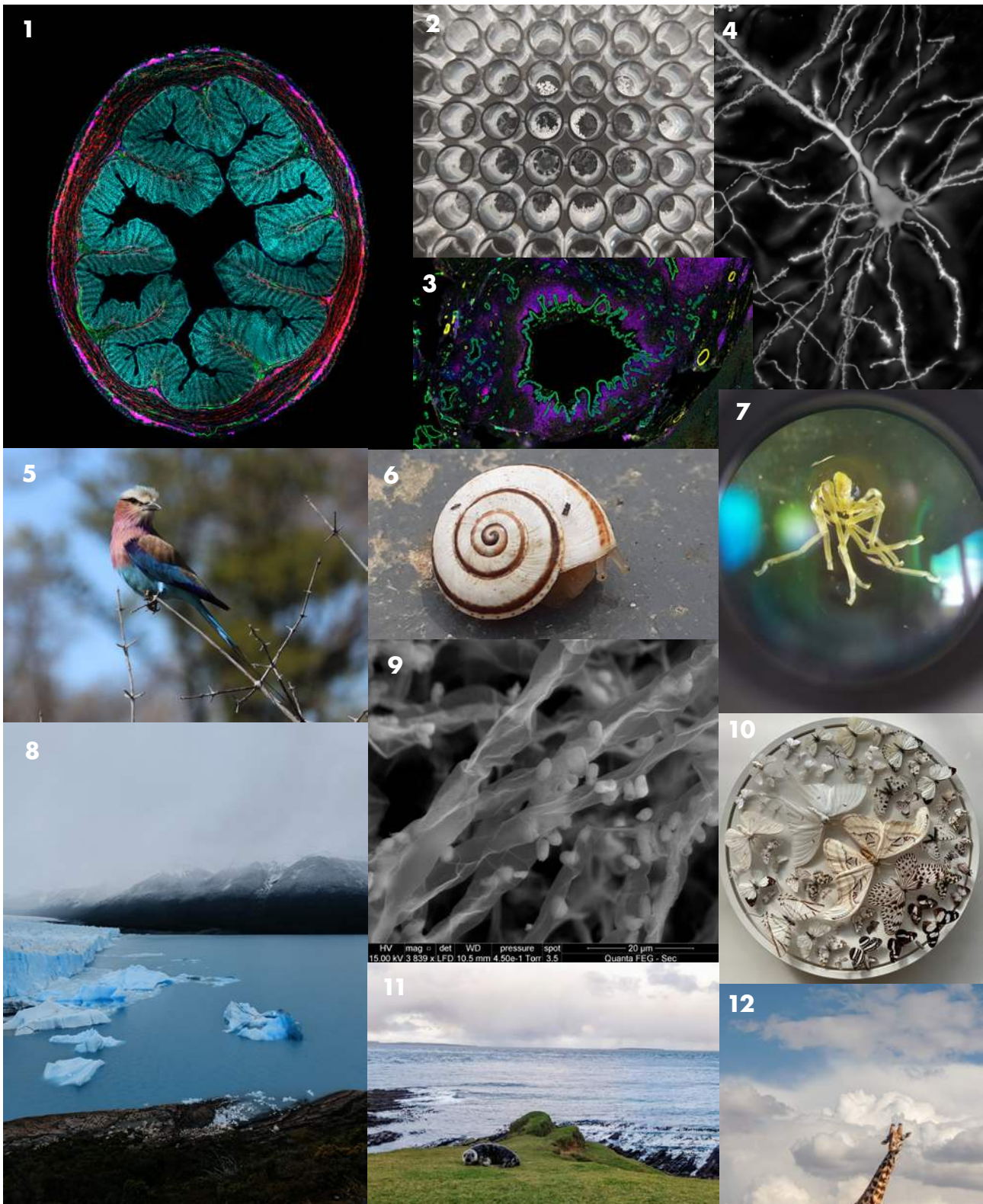


En Foco awards at the SRUK/CERU International Symposium in Newcastle. Organisers Alba Fernández (left) and Berta Gallego (right).

IV CONCURSO DE FOTOGRAFÍA DE CERU "INVESTIGACIÓN EN FOCO"

La cuarta edición de "Investigación En Foco", el concurso de fotografía científica de CERU, recibió este año 19 fotografías enviadas por miembros y amigos de CERU. El concurso tiene como objetivo proporcionar una plataforma para que los investigadores muestren la **belleza de su trabajo** y lo divulguen para que sea **accesible a todo el público**. Las fotografías fueron evaluadas por un Panel de Expertos de acuerdo con estos tres criterios: originalidad, técnica y comunicación de la investigación. Además, los miembros y amigos de CERU votaron su fotografía favorita mediante una votación virtual.

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



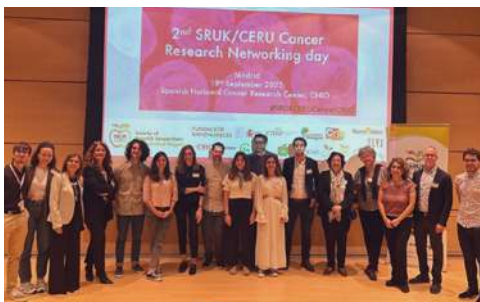
1. Álvaro Castaño, 'Gut sensing', **Winner of Technique and quality of the photograph award, Winner of Research Communication award.** 2. Marta Dominguez Prieto, 'Unexpected beauty', **Winner of Originality and artistic character of the image award.** 3. Andrés García-Sampedro, 'The microcosm of inflammatory tumours', **Winner of the Popular vote award, elected by SRUK/CERU members and Friends.** 4. Álvaro Murillo, 'Making connections'. 5. Luis Moliner Cachazo, 'The Lilac-breasted roller'. 6. Elisa Lopez-Capel, 'Size does not matter'. 7. Loreto Gestoso Suarez, 'We come in peace'. 8. Rocío Rodríguez Almaraz, 'Ephemeral Portrait of a Glacier'. 9. Claudia López Rodríguez, 'Battleground of Microcosms: Fungi vs. Yeast - A Dynamic Encounter'. 10. Álvaro Santos, 'Butterfly Spectrum'. 11. Pilar Acedo, 'How did you get up there?'. 12. Javier Ortiz de Guinea, 'Up in the sky'.

CANCER COMMITTEE

The SRUK/CERU Cancer Committee aims to foster discussions and promote collaboration among cancer researchers in the UK and Spain, thereby bringing together world-renowned cancer institutions from these countries.

Members of the Cancer Committee

Pilar Acedo Núñez, Chair
 Ana Cristina Carvajal
 Ignacio Rodríguez
 Beatriz Salvador
 Daniel Parra
 Maria Rosado
 Carolina San Pedro
 Sandra Fernandez
 Marcos Quintela
 Lucia Gandullo



SRUK/CERU Cancer Research Networking Day. September 2023, CNIO, Madrid. The SRUK/CERU cancer committee with the invited speakers.

The committee comprises researchers and professionals dedicated to advancing cancer research and fostering collaboration among members in the field of oncology. Our primary goals centre around promoting scientific excellence and dissemination, facilitating knowledge exchange, and addressing critical challenges concerning cancer research. This year, we have expanded our working group, have organised outreach, scientific and networking events and have created national and international collaborations with cancer research institutions leaders in the field.

On the 18th September, we organised with the Spanish National Cancer Research Center (CNIO) the **2nd SRUK/CERU Cancer Research Networking Day** in Madrid, with over 100 participants. This international event brought together experts from diverse backgrounds, who shared their knowledge with a multidisciplinary audience. In collaboration with **CrisCancer**, the cancer committee awarded **prizes** for best short talk to three junior researchers. After its overwhelming attendance and positive feedback, the cancer committee is currently organising the third instalment of this event for 2025.

To commemorate the **World Cancer Research Day** (24th September), SRUK/CERU members attended a roundtable discussion organised by the Spanish Association Against Cancer (**AECC**) and Cancer Research UK (**CRUK**) in London. During the event, we had a private meeting with **Her Majesty the Queen Letizia of Spain** and shared our experiences and views as Spanish researchers in the UK as well as discussed current challenges and concerns in the scientific community and system across Spain and the UK.

Finally, to commemorate the **World Cancer Day** (4th February), we posted a scientific quiz on SRUK/CERU social media to increase the visibility of the committee and our work in supporting cancer research.

The cancer committee is proud to have created a solid working group that has regular communication via our WhatsApp group and mailing list. Members are part of multiple SRUK/CERU constituencies and have different oncology backgrounds, which motors our goals of networking and knowledge exchange. We have established monthly meetings to discuss the future goals and activities of the committee.

COMITÉ DE CÁNCER

El comité de cáncer fue fundado en 2019 con los objetivos de promover la excelencia científica, facilitar el intercambio de conocimiento y abordar los desafíos relacionados con la investigación y tratamiento contra el cáncer tanto para los investigadores en el área, como para el público general. En junio de 2023, el comité organizó un evento centrado en envejecimiento y enfermedad (Cambridge). En septiembre, el comité de cáncer en colaboración con el CNIO realizó el segundo SRUK/CERU Cancer Research Networking Day (Madrid). Cabe destacar la oportunidad que el comité tuvo de reunirse y discutir con S.M. la Reina Doña Letizia.

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



The SRUK/CERU Cancer Committee and other SRUK/CERU members had the opportunity to meet Her Majesty Letizia, the Queen of Spain, in London.

NEUROSCIENCES COMMITTEE

To celebrate the **Brain Awareness Week**, the committee organised a two-day event in Bristol in March 2024. This inaugural event was held under the theme "Feeding Connections: Bringing the Brain of Tomorrow." On the first day, two PhD students from the European ITN Cerebellum and Emotional Networks (CEN) presented their research on the Emotional Brain and Neurodiversity. Their presentations were followed by a talk on music therapy for stroke rehabilitation, concluding with a musical performance. The second day featured a comprehensive symposium entitled "Neuroscience Symposium For All," which included a series of scientific presentations by esteemed researchers from various fields. The symposium concluded with a dynamic roundtable discussion addressing the primary challenges in modern neuroscience. The committee is actively planning additional events for SRUK/CERU members in the upcoming academic year.



The Neuroscience Committee with the speakers after the first day of the Brain Awareness Week event

The Neuroscience Committee was established in September 2023, after the SRUK/CERU International Symposium, where the committee members met. The aims of the committee are to establish a network of researchers and professionals, showcase the research of Spanish neuroscientists and bring neuroscience closer to the general public.

Members of the Neuroscience Committee

Ana Luisa Gil, Co-chair
 Patricia Garcia Jareno, Co-chair
 Sara Alvira de Celis
 Marta Dominguez Prieto
 Álvaro Murillo Bartolomé

COMITÉ DE NEUROCIENCIAS

El Comité de Neurociencias fue fundado en septiembre de 2023 y sus objetivos principales son establecer una red de colaboración entre investigadores, promover el trabajo de los neurocientíficos españoles y acercar la neurociencia a la sociedad. El primer evento del comité fue realizado en marzo de 2024 en Bristol para celebrar la semana del cerebro. El comité trabaja actualmente en los eventos del próximo curso académico.

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

EN FASE EXPERIMENTAL



Our podcast is your gateway to the latest scientific frontiers, presented in a captivating and inclusive manner that resonates with audiences of all backgrounds. Whether you're captivated by the mysteries of space or intrigued by the intricacies of the latest biomedical research, our team of dedicated hosts and researchers ensures that every episode is a journey of discovery.

En Fase experimental Team

Laura Martínez Maestro, Chair and Co-host
 Francisco Martín-Martínez, Co-host
 M^o Carmen García, Co-host
 María Camacho Encina, Co-host
 Álex Igor-Arrese, Co-host

*Interviewed during the 2023-2024 academic year.
 From left to right and top to bottom: Dr. M^o Ángeles Martín Romera,
 Dr. Inés Pineda Torra, Dr. Nerea Irigoyen, Dr. Salvador Dura Bernal,
 Dr. Charo Rueda, and Dr. Héctor de la Torre Pérez.*



Embark on an immersive voyage through the realms of science with **En Fase Experimental**, your trusted companion for monthly marvels and scientific revelations in the Spanish language!

Beyond mere facts and figures, **En Fase Experimental** is a celebration of the human spirit driving scientific innovation. We invite you to delve into the personal narratives of the researchers shaping our understanding of the world, offering intimate glimpses into their motivations, challenges, and aspirations for the future. Through thought-provoking interviews, we bridge the gap between the scientific community and the wider public, fostering a deeper appreciation for the human stories behind groundbreaking discoveries.

Our interviews aim to accompany the listener through the path of understanding the scientific fields each of our episodes tackles. **En Fase Experimental** is a journey where the listener can learn the basics of a field and then hear what groundbreaking research Spanish scientists across the world are undertaking. It is also a showcase of the relevance of Spanish researchers in the forefront of science and research across the world.

No matter where you stand on the spectrum of scientific literacy, **En Fase Experimental** promises to inspire and educate. Our podcast is available on all major platforms, including iVoox, iTunes, Spotify, Amazon Music, and YouTube, ensuring that our message reaches eager ears across the globe. With a dedicated audience of over 2,000 listeners per episode spanning Spain, the UK, and Latin America, we're proud to be at the forefront of a burgeoning community of science enthusiasts.

Join us as we chart a course through the wonders of science and uncover the limitless potential of human curiosity. Subscribe to **En Fase Experimental** today and become an integral part of our ever-growing conversation. Together, let's unlock the mysteries of the universe and embark on a journey of discovery that knows no bounds.

EN FASE EXPERIMENTAL

Adéntrate en un viaje inmersivo por el mundo de la ciencia con el podcast **En Fase Experimental**, ¡tu compañero de confianza para conocer las maravillas científicas en español! Nuestro podcast te abre las puertas a las últimas fronteras científicas, presentadas de forma atractiva e inclusiva para audiencias de todo tipo. Nuestro equipo compuesto por investigadores asegura que cada episodio sea un viaje apasionante.

En Fase Experimental va más allá de los meros datos y cifras. Celebramos el espíritu humano que impulsa la innovación científica. A través de entrevistas que invitan a la reflexión, acercamos la comunidad científica al público general, fomentando un mayor aprecio por las historias humanas detrás de los descubrimientos revolucionarios.

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

SRUK/CERU is committed to supporting the growth and advancement of Spanish researchers in the UK. In 2024, we launched the **SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants programme**, an initiative designed to empower our regular members in their career journeys. These grants provide financial support for a range of professional development activities, including attendance at international conferences, participation in specialised training courses, and the organisation of research events. The programme aims to facilitate knowledge sharing, skill enhancement, and networking opportunities for our members. By covering expenses related to these activities, we enable researchers to present their work on international platforms, acquire new expertise in their fields, and foster collaborations across borders. Whether the events are held onsite or online, our grants ensure that financial constraints do not hinder the professional growth of our talented members.

Applications for these grants are evaluated based on merit and the potential impact on the applicant's career trajectory. Our SRUK/CERU Evaluations Committee, composed of volunteer researchers at the postdoctoral level and above, conducts a thorough peer-review process to select the most promising proposals. This rigorous selection ensures that the grants are awarded to activities that will significantly contribute to the professional development of the recipients and, by extension, to the advancement of Spanish research in the UK.

The Professional Development Grants programme reflects SRUK/CERU's dedication to nurturing talent and promoting excellence in research. By investing in our members' growth, we are not only supporting individual careers but also strengthening the overall Spanish research community in the UK. As we move forward, we anticipate that these grants will play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of Spanish researchers, fostering international collaborations, and enhancing the visibility of Spanish scientific contributions on the global stage.

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

Carmen María Escudero
Diego Sainz de la Maza
Olivia Afonso
Sara Franco Ortega

Javier Pardo Díaz
Nuria Ferrandiz
Guillermo Díaz de Liano del Valle
Asier Rodríguez Muruguza

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Professional Development Grants 2023/2024 awardees



- Daniel Parra Sánchez
- Ester Reina Torres
- Rosario Grimà Algora
- Larissa Zarate
- Álvaro Murillo Bartolomé
- Mar Estarellas
- María Flórez Martín
- Juan González Valdivieso
- David Egea Arrebola
- José Cabezas

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Members of the 2023/2024 SRUK/CERU Evaluation Committee

Carlos Outeiral Rubiera (Chair)
María Hernández Fuertes
Carmen María Escudero
Carmen Domene

COMITÉ DE EVALUACIÓN

El Comité de Evaluación de CERU está formado por investigadores en diversas etapas de la carrera investigadora que ayudan en la gestión de bolsas de viaje y programas de movilidad de CERU, o las becas de la British Spanish Society. Su participación en el proceso de revisión aporta valiosas habilidades para el desarrollo profesional. El comité está abierto todo el año a cualquiera de nuestros socios que quiera colaborar activamente en las distintas convocatorias a lo largo del año.

The Evaluation Committee is renewed periodically. Please contact roving@sruk.org.uk for more information if you would like to join the committee.

EMERGING TALENT 2024

Sponsored by  **Santander Fundación**

Prof. Emilio Martínez-Pañeda wins the 2024 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award

Recognising and fostering Spanish talent in the UK

The SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award, now in its ninth year, continues to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of early-career Spanish researchers in the UK. This prestigious award, sponsored by Fundación Banco Santander, serves as a testament to the exceptional quality and impact of Spanish scientific talent in British institutions.

2024 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award Evaluation Panel

We would like to thank the following members of the Scientific Advisory Board for their selfless contribution to evaluate the applications to the Emerging Talent Award:

Carmen Galán, University of Bristol (Chair)
José Carrillo de la Plata, University of Oxford
Xavier Moya, University of Cambridge
Marc Vendrell, University of Edinburgh
Daniel García, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
Francisco Villaplana, KTH Royal Institute of Technology
María Mittelbrunn, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Sergio Lozano, University of Oxford

2024 SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award Finalists

Teresa Rayón Alonso, The Babraham Institute
Chema Martín Duran, Queen Mary University of London
Marta Shahbazi, MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology
Beatriz Sánchez-Cano, University of Leicester

In 2024, we were honored to present the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award to **Prof. Emilio Martínez-Pañeda from the University of Oxford**. Prof. Martínez-Pañeda's **groundbreaking work in the field of mechanics of materials** has led to significant advancements with far-reaching implications across various industries. His research, focusing on **predicting material behavior under extreme conditions**, has applications in crucial areas such as **hydrogen transport, corrosion control, and renewable energies**.



Prof. Emilio Martínez-Pañeda

The selection process, overseen by a distinguished Scientific Committee chaired by Prof. M. Carmen Galán from the University of Bristol, evaluated **12 highly competitive nominations**. Prof. Martínez-Pañeda's selection underscores the exceptional caliber of Spanish researchers making waves in the UK scientific community.

Prof. Martínez-Pañeda's achievements extend beyond his research contributions. He has secured over £5 million in research funding, including an ERC Starting Grant and a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship. His work has also been recognised with prestigious accolades such as the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering Young Engineer of the Year award.

This award not only celebrates individual achievement but also strengthens the scientific ties between Spain and the UK. It also showcases the **vital role Spanish researchers play in advancing scientific knowledge and innovation** in British institutions. As we look to the future, SRUK/CERU, with the continued support of Fundación Banco Santander, remains committed to highlighting and nurturing emerging Spanish talent in the UK, fostering a new generation of scientific leaders who will shape the future of research and innovation.

PREMIO TALENTO EMERGENTE 2024

El Premio Talento Emergente de CERU, en su novena edición, continúa reconociendo las contribuciones sobresalientes de investigadores españoles en Reino Unido en etapas tempranas de su carrera. Este prestigioso galardón, patrocinado por la Fundación Banco Santander, es un testimonio de la calidad e impacto excepcionales del talento científico español en instituciones británicas.

En 2024, tuvimos el honor de otorgar el Premio al Talento Emergente CERU al Prof. Emilio Martínez-Pañeda de la Universidad de Oxford. Su trabajo pionero en el campo de la mecánica de materiales ha llevado a avances significativos con implicaciones de largo alcance en diversas industrias.

Prof. Sonia Contera wins the 2024 SRUK/CERU Merit Award

In 2024, we were proud to present this prestigious award to **Prof. Sonia Contera, Professor of Biological Physics at the University of Oxford**, in recognition of her pioneering work at the intersection of physics, biology, and nanotechnology.



Prof. Sonia Contera

Prof. Contera's research focuses on **developing nanoscale tools for biological and biomedical applications**, pushing the boundaries of our understanding of biological systems at the molecular level. Her work on exploring the **physical aspects of biological growth and shape across various systems, including neural networks and tumours**, has opened new avenues for interdisciplinary research and potential medical breakthroughs.

Beyond her scientific achievements, Prof. Contera has been a tireless advocate for **diversity and inclusion in science**. As the Associate Head of the Department of Physics at Oxford, she has championed initiatives to create a more inclusive scientific community. Her commitment to scientific outreach is evident in her **best-selling book "Nano Comes to Life,"** which has been translated into multiple languages, making complex scientific concepts accessible to a broader audience.

Prof. Contera's contributions extend beyond the laboratory. She has served as an expert advisor to influential bodies such as **UK Research & Innovation** and the **World Economic Forum**, helping to shape science policy and foster international collaborations. Her long-standing support of SRUK/CERU, including her role on the Evaluation Committee of the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award, demonstrates her commitment to nurturing the next generation of Spanish researchers in the UK.

MERIT AWARD 2024

The SRUK/CERU Merit Award stands as a testament to the exceptional contributions of senior Spanish researchers in the UK who have made significant impacts in their fields and on society at large.

The **SRUK/CERU Merit Award** not only recognizes Prof. Contera's individual achievements but also highlights the **significant role Spanish researchers play in advancing scientific knowledge and innovation** in the UK. As we celebrate Prof. Contera's accomplishments, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting and promoting Spanish scientific talent across all career stages, fostering a vibrant and impactful Spanish research community in the United Kingdom.

We would like to thank the members of SRUK/CERU, who independently nominated Prof. Contera, and the Executive Committee of SRUK/CERU, who ratified the award.

PREMIO AL MÉRITO 2024

El Premio al Mérito de CERU es un testimonio de las contribuciones excepcionales de investigadores españoles senior en Reino Unido que han tenido un impacto significativo en sus campos y en la sociedad. En 2024, este galardón fue concedido a la Prof. Sonia Contera, Profesora de Física Biológica en la Universidad de Oxford, en reconocimiento a su trabajo pionero en la intersección de la física, la biología y la nanotecnología. La investigación de la Prof. Contera se centra en el desarrollo de herramientas a nanoescala para aplicaciones biológicas y biomédicas, ampliando los límites de nuestra comprensión de los sistemas biológicos a nivel molecular.

MENTORING PROGRAMME



The Mentoring Committee

Nuria Rico Seijo, Chair
Iria Sala
Natalia Jiménez Moreno



Online meeting of the Mentoring Committee Members. Top left moving clockwise, Natalia Jiménez Moreno, Nuria Rico Seijo and Iria Sala



Marta Domínguez Prieto receiving her Mentor Recognition Award from the chair of the Mentoring Committee, Nuria Rico Seijo, at the SRUK/CERU XI International Symposium in Newcastle in June 2024.

The **SRUK/CERU Mentoring Programme** has continued to support its members in advancing their professional development. Building a **successful research career** can be challenging on its own, and today's demands to not only be a good researcher, but to have additional skills beyond your technical expertise can make the journey feel overwhelming and isolating. Since **its inception in August 2016**, the programme has aimed to create optimal matches between mentee and mentor applicants based in the UK through a questionnaire.

The **5th edition** of the SRUK/CERU Mentoring Programme started in October of 2023 with **15 registered mentors and 15 mentees**. The SRUK/CERU mentoring committee performed the matching of the mentor-mentee pairs according to their research area and expertise, as well as development needs and career ambitions of the mentee. We encouraged the pairs to contact the committee in case they needed extra support in the relationship. Mentees may be seeking support in areas the mentor cannot support and we can facilitate the opportunity to engage with other **SRUK/CERU members** that can help thanks to the **diversity of researchers** in the society.

After the feedback from the first survey of this edition, a **Slack channel** was created for mentors and another one for mentees to be able to engage and share their challenges and experiences in their **mentoring journey**. To facilitate face-to-face meetings between mentor and mentee, the committee offered to cover some of the cost of the entrance fee to the **SRUK/CERU XI International Symposium** and facilitated rooms during the coffee and lunch breaks for the pairs to catch-up in person and with other mentoring participants and the committee members. During the Symposium, the **Mentor Recognition Awards** were announced and later shared on **SRUK/CERU social media** showcasing the outstanding mentors who had been nominated by their mentees.

EL PROGRAMA DE MENTORAZGO

El Programa de Mentorazgo de CERU, desde su creación en agosto de 2016, continúa apoyando a sus miembros en su desarrollo profesional. La 5ª edición comenzó en octubre de 2023 con 15 parejas. Tras la primera encuesta, se creó un canal de Slack para facilitar la comunicación y apoyo entre los mentores y otro para los *mentees*. Se animó a las parejas a reunirse en persona y conocer a otros participantes del programa de mentorazgo asistiendo al XI Simposio Internacional de CERU. Además, durante el Simposio se otorgaron premios de reconocimiento a mentores destacados, nominados por sus *mentees*, y se difundió en las redes sociales de CERU.

The “**Where are the Women? - UK Map Project**”, initiated on International Working Women's Day, has effectively raised awareness of the underrepresentation of women in the naming of UK streets and public spaces. By mapping these names and celebrating the legacies of notable women, the project connects contemporary women with their historical counterparts, promoting a deeper community engagement through an interactive online platform and social media under the hashtag #WhereAreTheWomen.

Meanwhile, the “**Awakening Vocations in STEM**” project received ethical approval and launched in primary schools in Spain and the United Kingdom. This significant development will enable us to compare the effects of language on children's gender representations of scientists, as English is a gender-neutral language while Spanish is not. The project aims to explore how these linguistic differences influence children's perceptions and stereotypes about scientists. Through activities like drawing scientists, hands-on experiments, and creating Paper Doll scientist models, we engage children in both countries to see how language shapes their views, aiming to understand and potentially reduce gender biases in STEM from an early age.

In celebration of the Day of Women and Girls in Science, the committee hosted events that promoted STEM education through hands-on experiences, working closely with the Spanish **Instituto Cañada Blanch** in London and **RAICEX** to produce a promotional video for global distribution.

Additionally, our chair, Cynthia Cabañas, actively represented WOM=N at notable events, further promoting our mission. She participated in the **Pint of Science**, an initiative aimed at bringing scientists to discuss their latest research and findings with the general public in an informal setting. Moreover, Cynthia took part in a roundtable discussion at the **Fundación Ortega-Marañón** in Madrid, a significant event co-organised with the British Embassy under the hashtag #womeninSTEM. The roundtable included notable figures such as María Blasco from the CNIO, Silvia Rueda from the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, and Fama Manneh from Imperial College London, making it a pivotal platform for dialogue on breaking stereotypes and creating role models in science.

The **Diversity, Equality and Welfare Department** has been supporting the WOM=N Equity and Research Committee and the Mentoring Committee with their initiatives and programs.

WOM=N EQUITY & RESEARCH

The WOM=N Equity and Research Committee continued its commitment to gender equity in science throughout 2024, focusing on two main projects: “Where are the Women? - UK Map Project” and “Awakening Vocations in STEM”.

The WOM=N Equity & Research Committee Members

Cynthia Cabañas, Chair from March 2023,
Co-Chair from May 2024

Marta Peña, Co-Chair from May 2024

María José Martínez Bravo

Nuria Ferrándiz

Marta Peña

Marta Pina

Marisé Gálvez

Iria Sala

Soranyel González

DIVERSITY EQUALITY & WELFARE

Nuria Rico Seijo, Director

COMITÉ DE EQUIDAD E INVESTIGACIÓN WOM=N

El Comité de Equidad e Investigación WOM=N de CERU en 2024 se centró en dos proyectos principales: “¿Dónde están las Mujeres? - Proyecto Mapa del Reino Unido”, que celebra el legado de mujeres influyentes a través de un mapa digital interactivo, y “Despertando vocaciones en STEM”, que desafía estereotipos de género en las ciencias, implementado en escuelas de España y Reino Unido. En el 11-F, Día de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia, realizamos eventos que promovieron la educación STEM, colaborando con el Instituto Español Cañada Blanch en Londres y RAICEX para crear un video promocional distribuido globalmente.

For more information, contact 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. We develop institutional, outreach and career-developing activities, with a main interest in networking through social events and informal talks.

The London Regional Board

Loreto Gestoso Suárez, Director
Lola Villar Martínez, Vice-Director until November
Guillermo Díaz de Liaño, Secretary until November
Diego Alonso Álvarez, Secretary since November
Larissa Zárate García, Online Manager

The London Working Group

Pilar Acedo, **Sandra Álvarez Carretero**, **Berta Gallego Páramo**, **Alba Fernández Sanlés**, **Luis Moliner Cachazo**, **Javier Pardo Díaz**, **Diego Sainz de la Maza**, **Laura Sanjurjo Lourés**



Visit to the backstage of the Natural History Museum in November 2023

The year 2023/24 has been a time of facing challenges. Networking and social events have served as the main vehicle of the Constituency, with a focus on attracting and engaging new members that can contribute to the renewal of the base of volunteers.

The season started in October with the **welcome party** in which the delegation was introduced to new members and friends. The main event was a series of micro talks by some of our associates about their projects. The best talk selected by the attendees was awarded an exclusive prize.

In November, for the second year, our colleague Luis Moliner offered a guided tour to the depths of the **Natural History Museum** of London, providing a unique insight of the countless curiosities surrounding the institution. The **Annual Assembly** was held shortly afterwards, as an online event to facilitate our members to join from the different spots of our constituency. In December the traditional **London Christmas lunch** took place, letting us enjoy a selection of Spanish food and drinks... and good company!

To commemorate the International **Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024**, we organised a free walking tour through the streets full of history in St James and up to the Marylebone area. The tour was designed and guided by three of the London working group members, Berta Gallego, Lola Villar and Larissa Zárate, who showed the attendants the places were notable women in the history of science, arts, politics lived and worked. The tour was followed by lunch in a local restaurant.

But the activities do not end with the organisation of events. Following the feedback gathered during the X International Symposium SRUK/CERU, a **WhatsApp community** has been set-up to encourage direct communication between the members of the constituency. Also a professional development workshop on version control for research was organised (but unfortunately canceled due to the limited number of attendees). Finally, in March we supported the Department of International Collaborations organising the visiting students meetup.

DELEGACIÓN DE LONDRES

La delegación de Londres ha continuado este año con los objetivos de promover el *networking* entre socios intentando que los eventos fuesen en persona. La reunión de bienvenida de octubre fue un gran éxito de participación y en noviembre tuvimos la visita a los laboratorios del Museo de Historia Natural. En febrero para conmemorar el día Internacional de la Mujer y la Niña en la Ciencia tuvo lugar el ya tradicional tour para conocer la historia de notables científicas y pioneras en la historia de Londres. A destacar las colaboraciones con otros comités de CERU como la reunión de bienvenida de los estudiantes internacionales.

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

SCOTLAND CONSTITUENCY

Events 2023/2024

The term started with a **welcome event** in Glasgow, where we visited key spots related to the scientific history of this Scottish city and welcomed new members. In 2023, to close the series of events for the year, we had a seminar about **Nobel Prizes**, named "Merry Nobel," at Edinburgh's Summerhall. There, we learned about the recently awarded prizes and had a great opportunity to wrap up before the Christmas break. In 2024, we had a series of monthly events. On the more social side and to foster networking within the society, we organised a **series of themed Pub Quizzes**. In March, we celebrated the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science** with the fifth edition of a "Women in STEM"-themed Pub Quiz, in collaboration with Goose's Quizzes. Additionally, to celebrate **Pride Month**, we ran a Pride in STEM quiz in Glasgow's well-known Òran Mór. Members also organised various social events throughout the year, including a viewing of a **Flamenco show** during Edinburgh's Fringe (2023). One of the most recurring and prominent features we launched this year was a cross-disciplinary **series of seminars on Climate Change and Sustainability**. These seminars aimed to foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and network building within the scientific community on issues that concern all of us. In the first half of the year, we hosted eight speakers ranging from top UK professors like Professor Mercedes Maroto from Heriot-Watt University to PhD students like Lara Santos Ayllón from the European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney. The topics ranged from biodiversity to engineering, including policy making and the role of society in climate change, providing a great opportunity for cross-talks and potential collaborations.

Plans 2024/2025

Following the successful cross-disciplinary seminars, the Scottish constituency aims to continue this initiative extending the reach to members throughout Scotland. Talks will resume in October, and a survey will be available to gather member feedback and explore potential topics of interest for 2025. Additionally, more social events, such as Pub Quizzes and "Pint of Science" type events, are planned to continue.

Since it was founded in **March 2015**, the **SRUK/CERU Scottish constituency** has organised **67 events** and has members from different major cities in Scotland: **Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Stirling.**

The Scotland Regional Board

Marcos Valenzuela Ortega, Director
Cristina Ponce Lilly, Vice-Director
Alex Arrese-Igor Royuela, Secretary



Welcome event in Glasgow, October 2023



Scotland SRUK/CERU members during a trip to Linlithgow (July 2024)

DELEGACIÓN DE ESCOCIA

La delegación escocesa de CERU se constituyó en marzo de 2015 y desde entonces ha organizado 67 eventos. Se ha convertido en una de las delegaciones más grandes, con miembros residentes en las principales ciudades de esta región de Reino Unido.

Durante el curso 2023/24, la delegación ha realizado eventos sociales para conectar a sus miembros, además de una nueva serie de seminarios multidisciplinares para conectar investigadores de diferentes áreas con un interés en desarrollo sostenible y cambio climático.

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

OXFORD CONSTITUENCY

The city of Oxford is home to two universities, as well as several biotechnology and engineering companies. Our 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

Montse Vallet Buisan, Director
Julia Salafranca Gómez, Vice-Director
David Egea Arrebola, Secretary & Online manager

The Oxford Working Group

Rafael Carrascosa, Cristina Delgado, Carlos Outeiral, Nuria Rico, Amaia Salazar, Carmen Sánchez, Carlota Segura



Punt of Research, October 2023, Victoria Arms

Events 2023/2024

The Oxford Constituency's Working Group enthusiastically organised various activities during the 2023/2024 academic year. We kicked off the year by following a centennial Oxonian tradition, but with a twist, holding our annual **"Punt of Research"** event; after well-deserved summer holidays, members gathered to catch-up and discuss their research while punting on the River Thames. Later in the month we held our **"Welcome Event"**, inviting new members to the diaspora and introducing them to our rich and vibrant community. We also hosted the workshop **"From Canvas to Cognition: Pathways to an Interdisciplinary Creation"**, and interdisciplinary event exploring the intersection of art and neuroscience, organised and led by Dr. Amaia Salazar.

In November, we teamed up with the Agencia Gallega de Innovación for a **networking event** that highlighted collaborative opportunities between Spanish researchers and the Galician innovation ecosystem. We also held the second edition of one of our most popular events, **"Nobel Prizes for Dummies"**, featuring talks by Carlos Outeiral, Julia Salafranca, and Mark Ijspeert on the 2023 Nobel Prizes in Chemistry, Medicine/Physiology, and Physics. We wrapped up the month with the **"From Canvas to Code: Art, Science, and Innovation in the Digital Age"** event, which delved into the integration of digital technologies in artistic and scientific endeavors.

In December, we celebrated the **Annual Assembly** of the constituency, followed by our Christmas dinner. In February, we commemorated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science with the walking tour **"From Past to Present: Celebrating Women's Impact on Science and Arts"**, honoring the trailblazing women scientists who left an indelible mark on our university town. March brought an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the **Oxford University Museum of Natural History**, led by Dr. Ricardo Pérez de la Fuente, where attendees discovered rare collections and hidden treasures. We concluded the year in May with a **"Mid-Year Catch-Up"**, offering members a chance to reconnect and discuss future plans over a relaxed gathering on the terrace of a historic pub in central Oxford.

DELEGACIÓN DE OXFORD

Durante el curso 2023/2024 hemos organizado una amplia variedad de eventos en Oxford. Destacamos **"Punt of Research"**, en el que paseamos en "punt" por el Támesis charlando sobre investigación. También, **"Del Lienzo a la Cognición"**, donde exploramos la intersección entre arte y neurociencia. En noviembre, celebramos la segunda edición de **"Premios Nobel (para Principiantes)"**, explicando la ciencia de los Nobel de manera sencilla. Además, en marzo visitamos el **Museo de Historia Natural de Oxford** con el Dr. Pérez de la Fuente. Finalmente, terminamos el año académico charlando sobre ciencia en la terraza de un pub histórico de Oxford.

MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY

The **SRUK/CERU Midlands Constituency** has had a busy 2023/2024 planning and organising events all across the cities belonging to the Midlands. We started the academic year with our traditional **Welcome Event** hosted in Birmingham in October, where the Annual Assembly took place and the current constituency board was appointed.

In December, we joined forces with the SRUK/CERU Communication and Online Department and presented the **I SRUK/CERU Science Communication Symposium** in Manchester, it was such a blast that we are already organising the second edition! Just after this, we got together in Leicester for the Midlands **Christmas Lunch**.

February and March were marked by the 11F (**International Day of Women and Girls in Science**) and 8M (**International Women's Day**). As in previous years, we had a series of webinars where female Spanish researchers working in different areas and at various career stages talked about the challenges women face in science and how to overcome -or at least deal with- them.

During the springtime, some of our members collaborated with the supplementary schools **Nuestra Escuela Leicester** and **Nuestra Escuela Birmingham** and delivered activities to children introducing them to the scientific method and the importance of science in our day-to-day lives.

One of our most celebrated events, our "**De cañas**", has expanded and now, apart from meeting in Birmingham once a month, we are moving across the other cities of the Constituency -such as Nottingham- in an attempt to broaden the participation of all the members based across all the Midlands and introduce SRUK/CERU to other people. We plan to keep this happening in the future. Do not miss what we are planning for the next year, it will be a year full of science, friends and fun!

*Some memories from Midlands events
across the year*

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.

The Midlands Regional Board

Marta Domínguez Prieto, Director and Online manager
Asier Rodríguez Muguruza, Vice-Director
Pablo Marco Garrido, Secretary

The Midlands Working Group

Igor Arrieta
Laura Bravo Merodio
Cynthia Fernández Cuesta
Pablo del Pozo Lorenzale
Ignacio Rodríguez Pastrana
Rosa Sánchez Lucas
María Vivero López



DELEGACIÓN DE MIDLANDS

El curso académico 2023/2024 ha sido ajetreado para la Delegación de Midlands. Además de nuestros tradicionales eventos: Welcome Event, Comida de Navidad, seminarios online con motivo del 11F y 8M, hemos expandido nuestro tradicional "De cañas" en Birmingham a otras ciudades de la delegación, en un intento de movilizar e implicar a todos los miembros y posibles miembros de la delegación, y hemos participado en la organización del I Simposio de Comunicación Científica de CERU en colaboración con el Departamento de Comunicación y Online. Todo esto sin olvidarnos de los más pequeños, a los que nos acercamos a través de las escuelas suplementarias de la región.

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

NORTH-EAST CONSTITUENCY

The newest SRUK/CERU constituency was founded in Newcastle in December 2021. Since then, the working group has organised several events and is actively working to expand the membership in the area.

The North-East Regional Board

Sergio Serrano Blanco, Director
Maria Camacho Encina, Secretary

The North-East Working Group

Ana Viñuela
Elisa López-Capel
Magda Pascual Borrás
Cristina Navarro Reguero
Ariadna Vidal i Herrera



Ana Viñuela and Magda Borrás met the Spanish Ambassador Jose Pascual Marco Martínez

The young North East constituency has consolidated its presence in the region with multiple events. The constituency currently has 12 regular members. The working group holds **monthly meetings at a local pub the first Thursday of each month**, while organising activities for members and the public in collaboration with different local entities.

In 2023, several members of the constituency attended the **X International Symposium** in London. In November, we held the official **Welcome Event** for the year 2023/2024 at a local pub where we usually meet. Besides, Ana Viñuela and Magda Pascual Borrás met the Spanish Ambassador at **Newcastle University**. The constituency hosted the annual **Christmas dinner** on the 7th of December where members enjoyed dinner and complimentary sweets brought by the 'Tió'.

In 2024, the North East constituency held **general elections** and Sergio Serrano Blanco was elected as Director and Maria Camacho Encina as Secretary. For the first time, the North East hosted the XI International Symposium on 21st-23rd June. The working group has been highly involved in supporting the organisation of the symposium since the North East candidature was announced.

For second year in a row, we have strengthened our relationship with **NCL Europe** and we have taken part in two events. 'Living Together, Eating Together' where we introduced the North East Constituency and SRUK/CERU. This was followed by the projection of 'How Europe stole my mum' and a roundtable about Brexit. In June, the working group hosted an outreach activity at Nuestra Escuela Leeds.

LA DELEGACIÓN DE NORTH-EAST

La delegación de North East se ha ido estableciendo con un grupo de trabajo fuerte y constante que ha conseguido establecer relaciones con entidades locales. El objetivo principal de la delegación para este año era organizar el **XI Simposio Internacional**. Para ello, el grupo de trabajo liderado por Ana Viñuela preparó una propuesta que resultó elegida y desde entonces el grupo ha dado apoyo a este proyecto para que sea un éxito. Además, esperamos que el Simposio nos de una mayor visibilidad y nos ayude a conseguir nuevos miembros locales y nuevas colaboraciones con otras entidades. En el próximo curso, seguiremos trabajando con organizaciones locales, expandiendo la delegación, el número de socios y el número de colaboradores.

For more information, contact ceru.northeast@sruk.org.uk

These constituencies found no candidates to renew the regional board, and are in a state of stand-by.

Cambridge has one of the best Universities in the world, which makes it a perfect scenario for scientific discussion and engagement of the public to the research of all kind. The SRUK/CERU Cambridge constituency has traditionally held outreach talks every two months in a pub under the name of “Pint of knowledge” and their traditional summer barbecue – a great opportunity to gather with other members.

The Yorkshire Constituency was formed by a group of researchers at different stages of their careers, with a high number of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. Our members come from a wide range of fields including life sciences, computer sciences, humanities and social sciences. Their research work is based at different universities in the area, such as the Universities of Bradford, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Hull and Huddersfield.

The North West constituency was officially established in January 2015. Most of its members live in Manchester and Liverpool, but there are also members in other cities of North West England (Preston, Burscough, Lancaster) and North Wales (Bangor). The working group is made up of members of the constituency, who voluntarily propose and organise scientific, outreach and social events in the North West area of the UK.

The South West Constituency is shaped by several scientific nuclei throughout the South West area, including Bristol, Bath, Cardiff, Southampton and Exeter. Bristol has the higher number of members due to its population size; however, other places as Cardiff and Bath have a significant representation. The South West is a spatially large and open constituency, and its stronger point is the diversity that shapes it, allowing it for networking with many institutions in the area.

If you would be interested in joining the Constituency and leading the local working group, please email us at president@sruk.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE CONSTITUENCY

YORKSHIRE CONSTITUENCY

NORTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

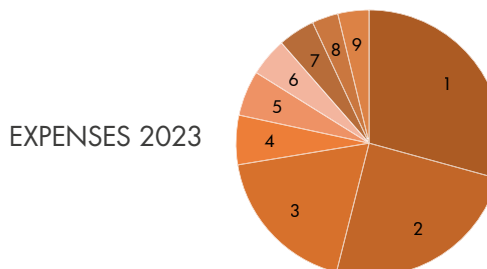
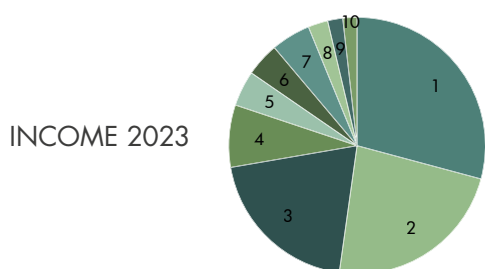
SOUTH-WEST CONSTITUENCY

ECONOMIC REPORT

SRUK/CERU 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 part of our income comes from SRUK/CERU membership fees, our activities would not be possible without the additional economic support from our generous sponsors and collaborators.

This economic report summarises our accountancy in 2023, from January until December. Our main supporters were Fundación Banco Santander (29%), Fundación Ramón Areces (23%) and the Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in London (20%). The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) also contributed to our events (equivalent to 6% of our annual income). We had our own source of income from ticketing (4%) and our membership fees (8%). We counted with the support of new sponsors including Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla, Axencia Galega de Innovación, Agata Communications Ltd, The Company of Biologists, Fundación Científica de la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer, and G2Zero.

At SRUK/CERU, we continue operating with an efficient economic policy, trying to make the most out of our yearly income. Most of our budget was used to fund our activities and initiatives (29%), the X SRUK/CERU International Symposium in London (25%) and the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award 2023 (18%). We supported our members through our SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants (5%).



| INCOME 2023 | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Fundación Banco Santander | 22,980.62 GBP | 29.18 % |
| 2 | Fundación Ramon Areces | 18,151.16 GBP | 23.05 % |
| 3 | Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in London | 15,800.00 GBP | 20.06 % |
| 4 | SRUK/CERU Membership Fees | 6,179.86 GBP | 7.85 % |
| | Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology* | 4,600.00 GBP | |
| 5 | SRUK/CERU Event Ticketing | 3,516.57 GBP | 4.46 % |
| 6 | Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla | 3,346.30 GBP | 4.25 % |
| 7 | VAT return | 3,910.56 GBP | 4.97 % |
| 8 | Axencia Galega de Innovación | 1,967.81 GBP | 2.50 % |
| 9 | Altos Lab UK | 1,500.00 GBP | 1.90 % |
| 10 | Agata Comms + Company of Biologists + Fundación Científica de la Asociación Española Contra el Cáncer + G2Zero | 1,409.23 GBP | 1.79 % |
| TOTAL INCOME for 2023 Activities and Initiatives | | 78,762.11 GBP | 100,00 % |
| | Income from SRUK/CERU On The Move 2019 (fees) | 510.00 GBP | |
| | Refunds | 792.75 GBP | |
| TOTAL INCOME IN 2023 | | 80,064.86 GBP | |

| EXPENSES 2023 | | | |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | SRUK/CERU Initiatives and Activities | 22,226.27 GBP | 29.27 % |
| 2 | X SRUK/CERU International Symposium | 18,740.54 GBP | 24.68 % |
| 3 | SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award 2023 | 14,000.00 GBP | 18.44 % |
| 4 | Web Maintenance and IT Services | 4,551.40 GBP | 5.99 % |
| 5 | Executive Committee Representation Expenses | 4,176.76 GBP | 5.50 % |
| 6 | SRUK/CERU Professional Development Grants | 3,551.57 GBP | 4.68 % |
| 7 | Bridging European Science IV | 3,388.42 GBP | 4.46 % |
| 8 | Administrative Costs | 2,419.62 GBP | 3.19 % |
| 9 | Accountancy and bank fees | 2,877.84 GBP | 3.79 % |
| TOTAL EXPENSES for 2023 Activities and Initiatives | | 75,932.42 GBP | 100,00 % |
| | SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award 2022 | 14,000.00 GBP | |
| | Expenses from SRUK/CERU Activities and Initiatives 2022 | 4,143.02 GBP | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2023 | | 94,075.44 GBP | |

* Not accounted for in our income since expenses were covered directly by FECYT

These calculations include VAT

These calculations include VAT

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

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2025

This year SRUK/CERU has shown its leadership in the context of science policy and science diplomacy within RAICEX and CONNECTS-UK. We have also increased the number of our members thanks to the work done in the constituencies. Next year, SRUK/CERU will continue its current initiatives, including a new edition of the Science-me a story contest, and launch new ones. Some novelties include new thematic committees in the fields of evolution and environment and a reinforcement of our work on equality and diversity. This upcoming 2024-2025, SRUK/CERU's efforts will also focus on creating sustainable working methodologies for its volunteers, pursuing the professionalisation of the Society.

SRUK/CERU is achieving its objectives and finding its place in a changing environment

OBJECTIVE 1: Scientific and social network

| Ongoing and immediate plans | Long-term plans |
|--|--|
| Grow the number of members by offering professional development and networking, especially to those outside academia and researchers from humanities and social sciences | Keep on reducing manual work for our volunteers by enhancing the usability of our website as a tool to apply internally to our calls |
| Creation of new bottom-up thematic committees on Evolution and Environment | Open channels to promote key information for non-members via UK institutions |
| Keep improving the usability of our website as a tool to promote interactions among our members, announce research opportunities, and improve our communications | Establish the constituency of Northern Ireland and build a system for supporting constituencies in the face of disruptive events |
| Support inactive constituencies through the organisation of SRUK/CERU flagship events | Focus on engagement with our community in order to recover pre-covid volunteer numbers |
| Appoint support staff to professionalise the society | Identify new funding opportunities |

OBJECTIVE 2: Science outreach

| Ongoing and immediate plans | Long-term plans |
|---|---|
| Increase the impact of outreach activities such as the Science-me a story initiative | Expand collaborations with British outreach institutions and our presence in British Media |
| Continue offering online and in person events with UK-wide reach | Identify new outreach activities for engaging with a more diverse audience, especially younger generations |
| Recognise and foster Spanish talent in the UK with our key awards (Emerging Talent Award and Merit Award) | Repurpose the awards offered to the Society to better support our members |
| Develop science outreach activities in all the co-official languages of Spain | Contribute to the development of members' outreach skills by building on the expertise that SRUK/CERU has created over the years to foster sustainability of our outreach initiatives |

OBJECTIVE 3: Science representatives

| Ongoing and immediate plans | Long-term plans |
|--|---|
| Continue defending research mobility and research collaborations between the EU and the UK through our leadership of CONNECTS-UK | Consolidate a plan for further contacts with British scientific institutions on wider science policy issues |
| Continue advocating for improvements in the Spanish research system through our leadership within RAICEX | Strengthen collaborations with Spanish councils and the Consejo de Residentes en el Exterior as the representatives of Spanish citizens in the UK |
| Produce documentation on the continuously changing conditions for Spanish researchers in the UK | Continue our advocacy work with Spanish political parties, parliamentary groups and Government representatives |
| Reinforce our relationship with the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Madrid | Develop a strategy to help members use their research for policy recommendations |

OBJECTIVE 4: Science mediators between UK and Spain

| Ongoing and immediate plans | Long-term plans |
|---|---|
| Strengthen our collaborations with Spanish institutions to offer places and mentoring opportunities to Spanish early career researchers | Establish SRUK/CERU as a key partner of UK research institutions when looking for collaborations in Spain |
| Deepen the collaboration with Spanish societies and institutions (e.g., ASEICA, CrisCancer, FeBiotec, Instituto Cervantes, COSCE) | Increase the number of sponsors and partners, particularly UK and Spanish R&D companies to support new collaborations |
| Keep consolidating the SRUK/CERU On-the-move mobility fellowships | Facilitate the interdisciplinary collaborations between the UK and Spain |
| Increase visibility to our members and their work in Spain | Academia-industry exchange scheme |

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 human capital. This institution also supports 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 continued to generously sponsor our annual programme of activities (with scientific seminars, outreach activities and professional development workshops across the country), and our Annual International Symposium. This year, the Foundation has increased its commitment to support scientific events focused on areas with strong potential for collaborations between Spain and the UK. 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/CERU Emerging Talent Award.

Fundación Banco Santander is committed to supporting cultural, humanistic and 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 through the concession

of grants and funding. SRUK/CERU is delighted to have received the support of Fundación Banco Santander for nine consecutive years. In 2024, SRUK/CERU and the Banco Santander Foundation launched the ninth edition of the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award. With this award, we aim at recognising the work of a young Spanish researcher who has developed their career in the UK.



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

The Spanish Embassy in the UK was the first Embassy to formally perform Science Diplomacy actions 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 inception. This year, SRUK/CERU has received abundant support from OCSA. Their support has allowed

us to develop activities and strategies which have made our Society a reference and an example among other associations of foreign researchers in the UK. This institutional collaboration has also been crucial to reach both Spanish and British institutions and to promote the activities of SRUK/CERU. In the context of Brexit, the collaboration of the Spanish Embassy has been paramount to keep SRUK/CERU members informed of new developments, including changes in immigration and visa regulations.



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. The mission of FECYT 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, FE-

CYT 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/CERU Annual Symposium, in which FECYT has been participating for the last nine years.

Partnerships

| 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 | Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas - CNIO |
| Universidad de Castilla - La Mancha - UCLM | | | Federación Española de Biotecnólogos - FEBiotec | |

SRUK/CERU is a member of:



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

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