



ALFONSO VALENCIA
Vice-Director of Basic Research

“My main activity, as Vice-Director for Basic Research, is to work together with CNIO’s Basic Research Groups in order to enhance scientific excellence and foster collaboration.”

There have been several encouraging developments this year pertaining to the organisational aspects within the CNIO’s Basic Research domain: 1 Junior Group Leader, Alejo Efeyan, joined the CNIO to conduct a new line of research in the area of metabolism and cell signalling in cancer; the two previous Units that provided support in Bioinformatics and Translational Bioinformatics were reorganised and merged into one single Bioinformatics Unit headed by Fátima Al-shahrour (it has already started operations in collaboration with a number of CNIO Groups); the inclusion of CNIO’s protein production facility (previously integrated in the Proteomics Unit) in the Crystallography Unit, now called the Crystallography and Protein Engineering Unit; and the recruitment of Salvador J. Capella to lead the National Bioinformatics Institute (INB-ISCI) Unit.

This constructive trend will be further strengthened in the coming year thanks to the creation of the Biological Text Mining Unit in the area of Computational Biology, headed by Martin Krallinger (this new Unit will become operational at the beginning of 2017); and the new recruitments in strategic areas of biochemistry-structural biology and electron microscopy - protein complexes. Furthermore, the increase of collaborations with internal and external groups, as well as the consolidation of the projects developed with the Experimental Therapeutics Programme, will also lead to a further bolstering of our overall scientific output.