

## **The CNIO is recognised as a potential model for a more productive investment in R&D in Spain**

**Madrid, March 22nd 2010-** In a commentary in the national Spanish newspaper *El País*, Luis Sanz Menéndez—Professor and Director of the Public Policy Institute at the CSIC and Chairman of the Science and Technology Policy Committee of the OECD—looks at the way the Administration is investing in the public research system in Spain. In his analysis, he identified four criteria that should determine how investments need to be made in order to make the most efficient use of limited resources for R&D in Spain: i) increased autonomy and more flexibility in the operations of R&D institutions and centres, ii) direct management of budgetary resources, iii) control of the workforce without having to resort to civil servants, and iv) independent evaluation of scientific results linking performance with budget, including merit-based salaries for scientists.

In this context Sanz Menéndez highlights the CNIO as one of the top examples of a Spanish medium-sized institution that specialises in integrating basic and applied cancer research. Moreover, he considers the CNIO as being positioned among the best and most productive research centres in the world. Importantly, the CNIO does not have any civil servants and its recruitment is focused solely on attracting the best talent with no regards to nationality.

Sanz Menéndez further points out that the excellence of a few centres in Spain is reflected by the fact that more than half of the grants awarded by the European Research Council (ERC)—the most prestigious pan-European funding body—went to only a few centres. The CNIO compares very well also in this context having attracted 3 Starting Grants and 4 Advanced Grants in the first call of the ERC, representing 21% and 67%, respectively, of the total grants awarded to Spanish institutions.

For the full article by Luis Sanz Menéndez, please see:

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