



## **CNIO RECEIVES SEVERO OCHOA EXCELLENCE AWARD IN LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDICINE**

The Severo Ochoa programme identifies the eight top world class research centres in Spain

**Madrid, October 5, 2011** – The first winners of the Severo Ochoa Award for Excellence in Spain, promoted by the Ministry of Science and Innovation, includes the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) in the area of Life Sciences and Medicine. This award ratifies the CNIO as one of the leading Oncological Research Institutions in the world.

This is the first time that the Severo Ochoa programme has identified scientific excellence in Spain. A total of eight institutions have been awarded the distinction following an accredited, transparent and selective process employing strict international standards to identify winners.

Candidates for the award have been evaluated by three selection committees, entirely composed of international scientists of the highest prestige from twelve different countries and headed by three Nobel Prize winners. Robert Huber of the Max Planck Institute of Germany headed the selection process in the area of Life Sciences and Medicine.

The selection committees analysed research programmes and human resources as well as plans for follow up and evaluation of research results amongst the 75 institutional candidates.

The award is for a four year period during which each selected research institution receives one million Euros annually and would also benefit from preferential access to scientific installations, contractual flexibility in the hiring of new researchers and enhanced attractiveness for sponsorships.

Dr. Maria Blasco, Director of the CNIO, noted that “achieving the Severo Ochoa Award will allow us to begin new projects that will propel the CNIO in the areas of training and formation of young scientists, communicating our activities broadly at national and international levels, valuing and transferring technology, as well as to facilitate the mobility of researchers.”