

CNIO FRIENDS

‘CNIO Friends’ has just celebrated its four-year anniversary with a clean bill of health, closing 2018 with close to 1,200 donors and about 880,000€ collected since the beginning of the initiative. During these first few years, this philanthropic association has been working hard to put CNIO on society’s visible spectrum and has become a meeting place for the charitable initiatives of a society that is increasingly aware of the importance of biomedical research.

Since the launch of the ‘CNIO Friends’ Postdoctoral Contracts Programme, six scientists – in addition to one pre-doctoral researcher – have been recruited to investigate new avenues for advancement in the treatment and diagnosis of the disease. In addition, in 2018, calls for applications were launched for further contracts that will come into effect in 2019; these will open up new avenues of innovative research against cancer. Also in 2018, we continued to receive donations in the form of legacies and bequests.

One of the most rewarding experiences organised in the framework of ‘CNIO Friends’ was the launch of CNIO Arte; an initiative launched by the Centre with the support of the *Banco Santander* Foundation, which connects leading international scientists and artists and explores the common territories shared by scientific research and artistic creation. In 2018, our inaugural encounter was called ‘Binomio, a Dialogue between Art and Science’. This dialogue between researcher and artist has resulted in the creation of unique artwork from which the proceeds will help to fund cancer research.

The project, inspired by the book *Excelentes* – which compiles portraits by Amparo Garrido and texts by Mónica G. Salomone about eminent figures who have visited CNIO in recent years – featured two exceptional individuals in this first edition: Margarita Salas, a global pioneer in molecular biology, and Eva Lootz, winner of the National Visual Arts Prize. Based on their conversations and meetings, Lootz created an audiovisual piece and a series of 59 drawings, conceived of as thoughts or ‘illuminations’ that reflect on Salas’ main lines of research. The exhibition was on display at the CNIO between February and May 2018, and was presented at the prestigious ARCO art fair in Madrid.

In April, we were visited by the *Juegaterapia* Foundation and its Honorary Ambassador, the singer David Bisbal, to celebrate a new donation of 100,000 euros received from the Foundation. Thanks to this collaboration with CNIO, a new *Juegaterapia*-

“‘CNIO Friends’ places us on society’s visible spectrum.”

CNIO Friends postdoctoral contract was funded, leading to the incorporation of a young researcher, Miguel Jiménez Alcázar, to the Seve-Ballesteros Foundation Brain Tumours Group in order to develop a project focused on searching for new therapeutic strategies for gliomas, the most common type of brain tumour in children and adolescents.

In addition, throughout the year, we received support from all around Spain: in February, the *ROSAE* association, composed of breast cancer patients or ex-patients, collaborated with ‘CNIO Friends’ and invited us to their sisterhood lunch held in Valdepeñas (Ciudad Real). In June, the *Bandera Rosa* association donated the money they had raised in El Campo de Gibraltar (Cádiz), where they support breast cancer patients and their families. Later in the year, in October, the collective *El Árbol de la Vida*, from Las Pedroñeras (Cuenca), held its III Charity Race Against Cancer, which was attended by almost 3,000 people, donating some of the money raised to ‘CNIO Friends’. The year came to a close with a *San Silvestre* charity race in Soto del Real (Madrid) in support of our initiative, in which hundreds of runners donned their trainers for this good cause and ran to the beats dropped by leading international DJs.

In June, we celebrated one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the year: the ‘CNIO Friends’ Open Doors Day event. On this day, our *Friends* came to CNIO to meet our researchers and explore our labs. With them were the director of CNIO, Maria A. Blasco, and other researchers such as Carolina Maestre and Sebastián Thompson, the latest two recipients of the ‘CNIO Friends’ postdoctoral contracts to investigate cellular proliferation in tumours and the use of nanoparticles against cancer.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our community of donors as well as all supporters in general for their encouragement and support. Now that we have more than 1,000 *Friends*, we feel responsible for the trust they have placed in us and we are responding in the best way we know: through cancer research.

CNIO ARTE



Margarita Salas, worldwide pioneer in molecular biology, and Eva Lootz, National Prize Winner for Plastic Arts, both starred together in the first edition of CNIO Arte with the project entitled 'Binomio, a Dialogue between Art and Science'. This CNIO initiative, with the support of the *Banco Santander* Foundation, aims to bring together leading international scientists and artists in order for them to jointly explore the common territories of scientific research and artistic creation.

On February 23, *Binomio* was unveiled at the prestigious ARCO Art Fair with a roundtable on the synergies between art and science. Participants included Eva Lootz, CNIO Director Maria A. Blasco, visual artist Amparo Garrido, Susana Gómez from the *Fundación Banco Santander*, Art Professor Estrella de Diego, and project curator Mireia A. Puigventós.

'JUEGATERAPIA-CNIO FRIENDS' POSTDOCTORAL CONTRACT



The *Juegaterapia* Foundation donated 100,000 euros to 'CNIO Friends' thanks to the successful sales of the *Baby Pelones* dolls. *Juegaterapia* visited the Centre with the singer David Bisbal who designed one of these dolls. Those appearing in the picture are from left to right: Mónica Esteban (Chair of *Juegaterapia*), Maria A. Blasco (CNIO Director), David Bisbal (Honorary Ambassador), Valle Sallés (Vice-chair) and Pablo Ibáñez (Honorary Chair).

This donation will support a new 'Juegaterapia-CNIO Friends' postdoctoral contract, through which Miguel Jiménez Alcázar, from the University Medical Center in Hamburg, Germany, will spend two years at CNIO's Seve-Ballesteros Foundation Brain Tumour Group. In his project, he will focus his research on gliomas, the most common type of brain tumours in children and adolescents.

A MEETING STARRED BY OUR 'FRIENDS'



On June 20th, we celebrated the CNIO Friends Day, an event designed to welcome some of the hundreds of CNIO's most loyal supporters and to bring our science closer to them. They could learn about the research projects that were made possible thanks to our 'CNIO Friends' and they also had the opportunity to visit the Centre's labs and facilities. This year, in addition, we also celebrated the fact that 'CNIO Friends' surpassed the mark of 1,000 supporters.

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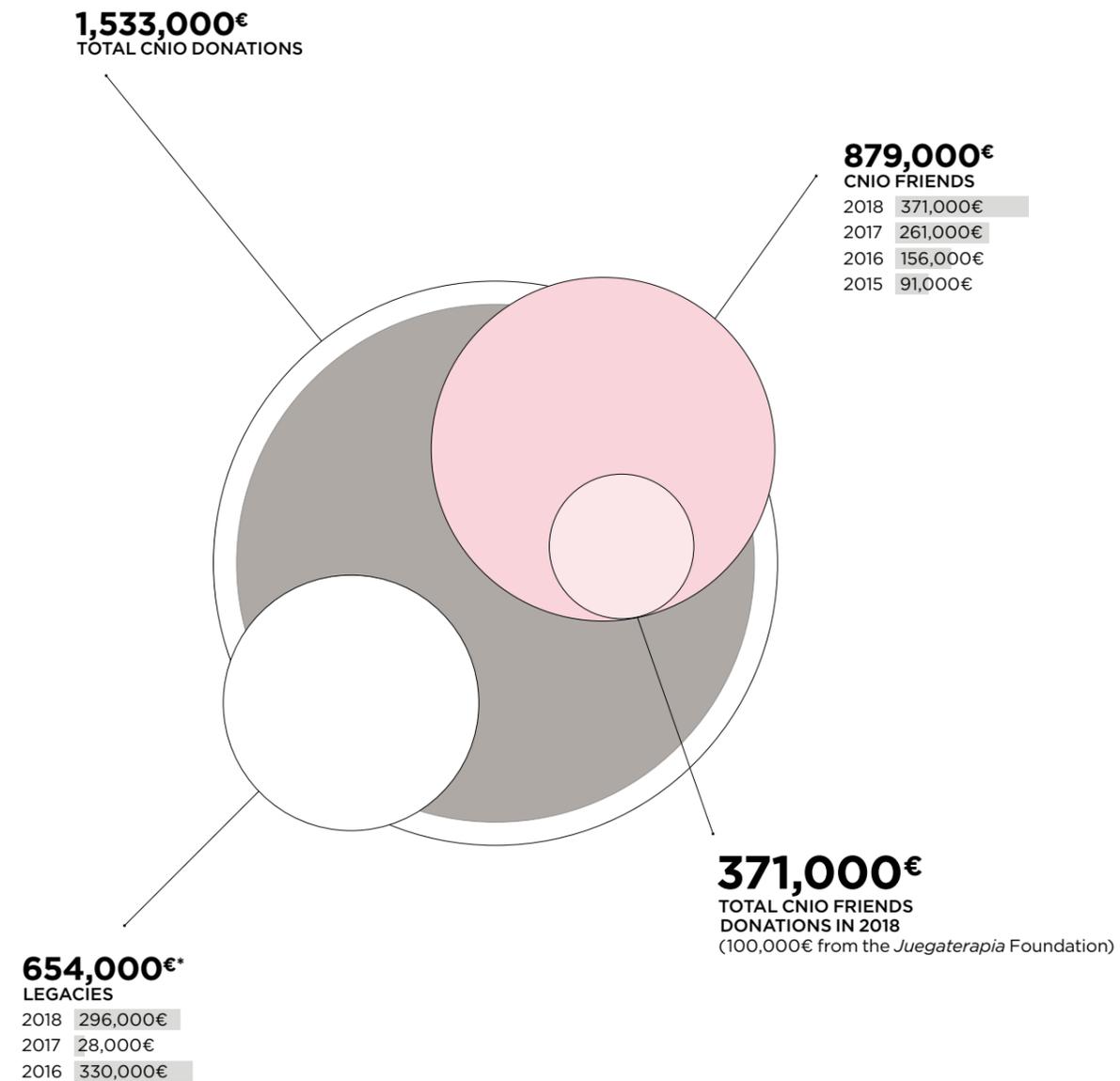
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Last but not least, we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the anonymous benefactors who have donated their legacies to support cancer research at the CNIO; in doing so they have contributed to society for generations to come.

DONATIONS TO THE CNIO



* 463,000€ pending to be executed.