“Through our innovation activities we boost our impact and foster public-private alliances that contribute to bringing value and novel health solutions to society.”

From the identification of an idea to the transference of our product to the market, the Department of Innovation aims to improve the process every step of the way. Our close collaboration with investigators and to protect their research interests and assets are the main drivers to obtain results and boosts our indicators of innovation.

This optimised process has allowed us to identify four main areas of innovation potential that we have supported in 2019: drug discovery capabilities, biotechnological potential and novel basic discoveries in cancer, ageing and regenerative medicine, and computational biology. Boosting these areas has been a main objective of the Innovation Department and in this regard, we focused on identifying synergies and potential translational projects that can move forward by channeling collaborations between CNIO investigators and other institutions. Consequently, the CNIO obtained a substantial net return in royalties derived from licenses totalling €674,894, a growing amount compared to the last two years.

Our collaborations with the University Hospital H12O have started to yield important results with great impact for the health and biomedical ecosystem. In 2019, we closed an agreement with a spin-off company from the H12O called Altum for the diagnosis of residual disease and we co-developed an antibody against one type of cancer. This antibody promises to have a great impact at a societal and clinical level. Additionally, two patent applications were submitted in collaboration with industry, which highlights our partnerships with the private sector to advance translational research.

Maintaining our contact with the national and international industry and life sciences investors is crucial for the development of long-term agreements and to keep up to date on new developments and companies that are important players in the field of small molecules and advanced therapies. Our presence in the Milner Therapeutics Symposium held in Cambridge every year is testament of our international activities to stay in contact with the biopharmaceutical industry.

In 2019, a Caixaimpulse was awarded to an exciting project on cell therapy in diabetes regeneration led by Maria Salazar and Marcos Malumbres, and we worked on a proposal for the development of telomerase gene therapy in lung and heart disease. As CNIO positions itself in the competitive field of gene and cell therapy with novel approaches, our Department will keep exploring potential partners and providing understanding and input to contribute to development plans of our assets.