The Development and Philanthropy Office, established in September 2019, is key to achieving two of CNIO’s strategic goals: attracting new sources of funding to ensure financial sustainability and connecting CNIO to society.

The Office was established to enable the CNIO to proactively build a variety of funding sources to support the Centre’s strategic goals. Sources of funding will include the establishment of new collaborative partnerships with corporate organisations, foundations and high net worth individuals. It will also build upon our existing programme of charitable bequests and donations from society at large. Diversifying and increasing our funding sources is critical to enable the CNIO to continue to perform in the top tier of cancer research worldwide.

In late December, Jessica Rose, an expert in fundraising, joined the Development and Philanthropy Office as Director of the office, bringing many years of experience in sponsorship and philanthropy from a global perspective. Together with the CNIO Director and Mercedes Antona – a philanthropy professional who established the office in 2019 – Jessica will work on a global fundraising strategy to develop a comprehensive philanthropic programme for the CNIO.

The Office will manage the giving platform ‘CNIO Friends’, which started in 2014 and until September of this year was collectively administered by different areas of the CNIO. The initiative was a success from the start, growing each year to reach nearly €1.4 million in total donations thus far, which have been channelled into 12 research contracts opening new lines of research across the CNIO. In 2019 alone, CNIO Friends raised €315,000, which will be used to engage more scientific talent in 2020. In addition, the Office will manage the legacy programme which continues to grow and has received a cumulative total of €888,000 since 2015. In 2019, CNIO received charitable bequests of €284,000 with €844,000 pending to be executed.

Since the establishment of the Development and Philanthropy Office, a strategy to raise awareness has been designed to implement in the first half of 2020. Leading figures have been contacted in a variety of spheres to become CNIO ambassadors, sharing the Centre’s values and mission with larger sectors of the population. This work will support the ‘Outreach to Society’ and ‘Communications’ Offices in creating a bridge between the CNIO and society.

Although very new, the Philanthropy and Development Office has already made an impact at the CNIO and has successfully started to build strong alliances with companies and foundations to collaboratively create a positive impact on people and society. In a positive sign for the future of philanthropy for the CNIO, contacts were made with several foundations that are expected to bear fruit in 2020, with at least two €100,000 donations already in solicitation. We look forward to working together with industry and society to enable the CNIO to be the very best it can be.

“We want to develop ties of solidarity, making people part of our scientific achievements by walking side by side in this promising and necessary journey.”

In the picture: Mercedes Antona.