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Vice-Director

“Despite the difficulties, in 2020 we adapted and kept doing what we do best. These are times when society needs us more than ever, and CNIO scientists stood up to the challenge.”

Year after year, writing this summary makes me revisit the works of our scientists, and my conclusion is always the same: wow. We now have a better understanding of how resistance to cancer therapies occurs and have provided new ideas as to how this can be overcome. We discovered new mutations that predispose to breast cancer, and conditions such as type 3 diabetes that are associated to pancreatic cancer. We have a better atomic understanding of molecular machineries that regulate cancer cell growth, and improved gene-editing technologies to develop targeted cancer therapies. Our efforts to further collaborate with hospitals are also on the rise, exemplified by the creation of a national brain metastasis network that should facilitate clinical

and basic research. Besides cancer, CNIO scientists have made relevant advances in areas such as developing a new protocol that greatly facilitates the generation of reprogrammed stem cells, identifying new regulators of cardiac development, discovering how certain viral infections trigger diabetes, and demonstrating the efficacy of telomerase-based therapies for pulmonary fibrosis. This output in COVID-19 times is impressive. Thanks to all of you. In 2020 the world faced one of the biggest pandemics in recent times and many families lost loved ones. My last thought inevitably goes to all of them. I very much hope that, before 2021 ends, we will all be able to enjoy life and the CNIO experience in its full. Stay safe, stay strong.