

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

**CAROLINA POLA** Director of International Affairs (until November)



The current pandemic will be remembered as the event that put global travel on hold. Whereas this has undoubtedly created new barriers for international activities, the limitations have been overcome by the birth of new opportunities and innovative means of collaborations. The International Affairs (IAs) department has leveraged and joined the efforts of partners around the world to maximise the opportunities for CNIO to continue its activities in the international space. During 2020, we participated remotely in more than 10 events organised by both European bodies and national coordinators of cancer and science missions. Some of them include roundtables and meetings organised by the UK Embassy on Innovation and EC policy groups in Europe Unite against Cancer. This strategic participation in discussions regarding the future of the Cancer Mission and a deep understanding of the upcoming topics and calls is at the core of IAs aim to maximise CNIO's participation in the future Horizon Europe.

In 2020, we actively participated in the ERC Proof of Concept (PoC) call, successfully obtaining 1 grant to develop novel inhibitors for cancer. We also contributed to the submission of 5 Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) open proposals in collaboration with multiple partners in international consortia. These efforts help us prepare the ground for future collaborations, which we hope will bear fruit in upcoming calls.

Our participation in and commitment to the *Severo Ochoa* and *María de Maetzu* Alliance (SOMMa) continued and, starting in 2021, the CNIO will hold the Presidency of the Alliance to keep bringing the mission and values of SOMMa to the different

**“Maintaining our international impact and reach remains a priority, despite the hurdles and challenges faced in 2020.”**

stakeholders in the science and innovation ecosystem. Now more than ever, science is playing a central part in the life of society and, as an Alliance, we will continue working to improve the path for science and technology as a driver of sustainable and innovative growth for Spain and the world.

2020 also marked the second call for collaborative projects in our tripartite alliance with the *Ramon Areces* Foundation and the Weizmann Institute of Science. The large numbers of proposals, which grew by 20% compared to the last call, is a clear indicator of the enthusiasm of researchers for such international initiatives. In 2021 we will launch our third joint symposium and continue nurturing a fruitful global collaboration.

As a reference for science in Spain, the CNIO will strive to maintain its position abroad and harness its capabilities to catapult into being new ways of collaboration, both with public actors in the framework of Horizon Europe, and with private entities to enable public-private collaborations.