CNIO Friends, the landmark philanthropic programme for the CNIO, celebrated our most successful year to date, raising over €813k in philanthropic donations in 2020. The programme grows from strength to strength each year, with more than €2.2m raised in 6 years. Donations to the CNIO enable the Centre to recruit outstanding talent from around the world, and in 2020 we opened a competitive application process for 6 new post-doctoral researchers to explore new ways of diagnosing and treating cancer.

We were particularly delighted to raise 3 generous €100k donations to create 3 new fully-funded post-doctoral contracts; many thanks to Fundación Humanismo & Ciencia, Fundación Domingo Martínez and the C&A Together Program for their commitment to cancer research. We were also pleased to receive a donation from Fundación Solidaridad Carrefour to purchase valuable nucleic acid extraction equipment.

For the occasion of World Cancer Day on the 4th of February, we carried out a multi-channel fundraising campaign under the slogan #CNIOStopCancer, in which notable personalities from the artistic world, such as Luz Casal, Christina Rosenvinge, María Hervás and Enrique Arce participated. This campaign highlighted the importance of research as the only way to achieve new and more efficient ways of curing cancer and encouraged people to be part of the solution by joining CNIO Friends. The campaign was carried out thanks to the support of several companies that provided us with their resources and services: Exterior Plus, Act One Producciones, Lanaja Factory, JCDecaux and L’Oreal.

We welcomed Brother Iberia as a donor to CNIO Friends, and continue to receive valuable annual support from Petroplast and Fressia Group. Once again, the CNIO and La Roche-Posay (L’Oréal Group) carried out the #InvestigaciónEsVida campaign to recognise World Cancer Day. In addition, the national trade union Fetico organised the “Stop Cancer” event, which was attended by more than 1,200 attendees belonging to some of the biggest companies in Spain.

In 2020, our donors joined us in a slightly different CNIO Friends Meeting Day. Over 100 Friends and their companions joined us for a moving online conference in which Scientific Director Maria Blasco gave an overview of the latest news and major developments at CNIO. Our Friends then had the pleasure of hearing from Rebeca Jimeno, María Moreno, Rubén Martínez, and Paula Martinez on behalf of Sarita Sariswati on the progress of their research projects, funded by CNIO Friends. We were then joined by special guest, singer Luz Casal, who spoke with Maria Blasco about solidarity and the initiative she carried out over the lockdown period and then thrilled the audience with a snippet of song.

Another pillar of philanthropy that continues to grow for the CNIO is our legacy programme. This year marks a cumulative total of around €1.2m raised in legacies over 5 years, with €258k raised in 2020 and €275k pending to be executed.

2020 has no doubt been a challenging year for fundraising activities, without any of the usual opportunities to get together, network, meet new donors or host events. However, people have continued to give generously and our CNIO Friends and donors have demonstrated more support and enthusiasm for our work than ever. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors once again for their commitment to cancer research. Now, more than ever, it is critical to encourage and support scientific endeavours. Together, we can stop cancer.

“CNIO Friends marks its most successful year yet, enabling 6 outstanding post-doctoral researchers to join the CNIO.”
In a virtual meeting held on July 2, the CNIO Friends, who are made up of all of the philanthropic donors to the CNIO, had the opportunity to learn about the cancer research projects that are being carried out at the Centre thanks to their generous donations. All philanthropic donations to the CNIO go directly to the CNIO Friends Fellowship Programme which enables the CNIO to hire new research talent. The event was a moving opportunity for our donors, also joined by special guest and CNIO Ambassador Luz Casal, to meet the researchers and hear first-hand about their innovative projects.

"FUNDACIÓN HUMANISMO Y CIENCIA–CNIO FRIENDS" CONTRACT

Fundación Humanismo y Ciencia generously funded a 2-year contract to carry out a project for the development of preclinical models for the study of tumours and the design of new therapeutic tools. As a result, the new Fundación Humanismo y Ciencia Research Fellow has joined the group of Marisol Soengas to begin an exciting and innovative project on melanoma and immunology in cancer.

"FUNDACIÓN DOMINGO MARTÍNEZ–CNIO FRIENDS" CONTRACT

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, Fundación Domingo Martínez signed an agreement to fund a 2-year CNIO Friends postdoctoral contract, which will join the call for 2021. This project will conduct research in cancer via the tumour microenvironment.
BROUGHT TOGETHER BY CNIO ARTE

“Nosotros somos los pájaros que se quedan”, Carmen Calvo, 2019. CNIO Arte is an initiative that establishes contact between renowned international scientists and artists to explore common territories between scientific research and artistic creation. In 2020 we welcomed two outstanding figures from the fields of art and science: visual artist Carmen Calvo and paleoanthropologist Juan Luis Arsuaga. The benefits of the sale of the artworks are generously donated to CNIO Friends.

FUNDACIÓN SOLIDARIDAD CARREFOUR VISITS CNIO

On the occasion of International Women’s Day in March, the CNIO hosted one of our CNIO Friends, Fundación Solidaridad Carrefour, by inviting daughters of their workers for a visit to our labs. This event was an opportunity to work with one of our donors to promote scientific vocations among girls and adolescents, as well as positively changing the cultural and gender stereotypes that exist around science and research.
La Roche-Posay supported cancer research for the second consecutive year as part of their #InvestigaciónEsVida (#ResearchIsLife) campaign by making a donation to CNIO Friends. In addition, the collaboration involved the distribution of CNIO leaflets in pharmacies throughout Spain.

**CNIO-LA ROCHE-POSAY #INVESTIGACIÓNESVIDA CAMPAIGN**

SÚMATE A LA LUCHA CONTRA EL CÁNCER

#InvestigaciónEsVida

4 DE FEBRERO - DÍA MUNDIAL DEL CÁNCER

La Roche-Posay supported cancer research for the second consecutive year as part of their #InvestigaciónEsVida (#ResearchIsLife) campaign by making a donation to CNIO Friends. In addition, the collaboration involved the distribution of CNIO leaflets in pharmacies throughout Spain.

**DONORS TO THE CNIO 2020**

**BENEFACTORS FRIENDS**

- Alberto Heras Hermida
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- Alfonso Carrobles Romero
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- Roberto Parra Fernández
  Madrid, Madrid
Last but not least, we would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the anonymous donors and benefactors who have made philanthropic gifts or left legacies to the CNIO to support cancer research, in doing so they have contributed to society for generations to come.