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Vice-Director

“CNIO scientists keep making important discoveries that advance our understanding of cancer and bring hope to patients.”

Dear all, 2021 has been yet-another Covid year. While we are slowly gaining back our lives, the CNIO experience (and life-experience as a whole) is still only halfway through. Nevertheless, our scientists have once again provided numerous examples of the excellent science being done in the Centre. With AlphaFold knocking on our doors, our structural biologists demonstrated that rigorous bench work is still fundamental for deciphering the molecular mechanisms of key enzymatic regulators of growth, DNA repair or gene expression. Computational work has nevertheless helped us better understand the genetic circuitry behind tumour suppressors. 2021 also saw an important contribution from the now retired group of our previous Director of the Human Genetics Programme, Javier Benitez, another example of collaborative international work to clarify the

mutational landscape of breast cancer. Our clinical associated groups contributed to the development of immunotherapies based on checkpoint inhibitors or CAR-T technologies. Scientists at the Molecular Oncology Programme have made important advances in many independent areas of cancer research such as identifying new drivers of metastasis, revealing how nutrient signalling might affect carcinogenesis or providing a mechanistic understanding of how cancer cells respond to genotoxic chemotherapy and might become resistant to it. Besides cancer, our work also sheds light on other areas such as ageing, obesity, hereditary microcephalies, neurodegeneration and Covid-19. Progress might seem small when analysed on a daily basis but is impressive when analysing our output as a whole. Be proud of being part of CNIO. Keep safe, keep strong, keep pushing.