The main objective of Dean’s Office at the CNIO is to contribute to one of its core missions, that is, to train and promote new generations of scientists. In fact, over 60% of the work force at our institution are young researchers, including undergraduate students, predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows. We also hosted medical residents and a broad spectrum of undergraduate students, predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows. The CNIO dedicates particular emphasis to career development, supported in part by highly competitive PhD awards from different countries and institutions. We also hosted visiting scientists from different countries and institutions. We also enjoyed the ‘Director’s List Awards’, which recognise outstanding contributions made by our personnel in 3 categories:

1. Awards for Excellence in Research by Predoctoral Fellows

We are grateful to the Agüera Nieto family for a generous donation, in the name of their mother Antonia Nieto, to support an award to acknowledge the PhD student authoring the article with the highest impact in a scientific journal. In 2022, the ‘Antonia Nieto Award’ went to Cátia Monteiro for transationally significant new findings on radiosensitization of brain metastasis, published in the prestigious Nature Medicine journal. Additional awards in the PhD category went to Mónica de Andrés (Gut), Amanda Garrido (Journal of Hepatology), Javier Lanillos (European Urology), Antonio Galarreta (EMBO J), and Karolina Jodkowski (Nucleic Acids Research), for their contributions to the understanding of different aspects of tumour initiation, progression and response to therapy.

2. Award for Excellence in Research by Postdoctoral/Staff Investigators

The awardee was Carolina Villarroya, for exciting new findings related to different genomic alterations in subtypes of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (Science Advances) and in the control of pluripotent cells in cancer (EMBO J).

3. Outstanding Contribution to Outreach and Awareness

The 2022 recipients were ex aequo Ernesto López, for his altruistic efforts in reorganising and promoting the CNIO Student Association (CNIOSA), and Miriam Rodríguez, for her continued contribution as a volunteer in the various activities related to dissemination of science to society carried out by the CNIO, such as the European Researchers’ Night, among others.

Another of our highlights in 2022 was our Annual CNIO Lab Day. We had over 85 communications, which were evaluated by an ad hoc committee to select 14 “elevator pitch presentations” that highlight studies from each of the Centre’s Scientific Programmes at the forefront of research in their fields. We also had external speakers, focusing on different aspects of Science and Communication and on Sustainable Laboratory Environments. We thus learned from Arkaitz Carracedo (CChioGUNE) about tips and tricks for a career in cancer research, and from Guzmán Sánchez (European Climate Foundation) about options for scientists in consultancy in European institutions. In addition, Nikola Borgermann (Ava sustain) and Iulia Konko (Merck Life Science) told us about products and solutions for a more nature-friendly laboratory space.

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The Lab Day proceeded with additional awards from the Dean’s Office: 4 awards for the Best Oral presentations and 3 for the Best Posters. Beyond these, also presented were the Awards for Scientific Videos (Anabel Sáez Mas) and for T-Shirt Design (Natalia Cuervo-Iturrioz), both portraying the mission of the CNIO to get research closer to the bedside.

In summary, we are as proud as ever of the achievements of our young investigators at the CNIO. We thank all those public and private contributors that have helped fuel their efforts, and we will strive in our commitment to being useful to other investigators and to the society at large.