Volunteers organised talks and hands-on experiments so that visitors could “Meet a scientist and become a scientist” for a day. We hosted over 260 participants of all ages, but also organised live streaming events in social media to showcase research and our laboratory life to a broad audience.

Another of our highlights in 2023 was our XIII CNIO Lab Day. We had over 100 communications, which were evaluated by an ad hoc committee to select 14 short talks and 8 “elevator pitch presentations” that highlighted studies from each of the Centre’s Scientific Programmes at the forefront of research in their fields. We were fortunate to count on Nicholas McGranahan (UCL Cancer Institute, UK) to learn about cancer genome evolution, and on Iris UribeSalgo (EU/Life) for insights on science policy and grants consultancy at the European level.

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
2. Award for Excellence in Research by Postdoctoral/Senior Researchers
3. Award for Outreach and Volunteering Actions

We are grateful to the Agüera-Nieto family for a generous donation in the name of their mother Antonia Nieto to support the CNIO. They also received awards for articles in Cancer Cell, Cancer Discovery, Cancer Res, Clin Cancer Res, and we will strive in our commitment to being useful to other investigators and to society at large.

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 society at large.

Sergi Roig, Diana Patricia Retana, Neblia Priego, Jorge Luis Martínez Torrecuadrada, Vanesa Lafarga, Elena Blanco, Susana Llanos, Maria Solé, Gema Pérez Chacón, Francisco Jurado, and Ana Cuadrado.

The Lab Day proceeded with additional awards from the Dean’s Office: 3 awards for the Best Oral presentations, 3 for the Best Posters, and 1 for T-Shirt Design, all portraying the mission of the CNIO to get research closer to the bedside.

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The main objective of Dean’s Office at the CNIO is to support a key mission of the Centre, namely to support career development of new generations of scientists. In fact, over 60% of the workforce at our institution comprises young researchers, including undergraduate students, predoctoral and postdoctoral fellows. We also host medical residents and a broad spectrum of visiting scientists from different countries and institutions. Agreements are also in place with multiple universities and medical centers to ultimately bridge the gap between academic and clinical environments.

Central to the activities of the CNIO’s Dean’s Office is to ensure the efficient training of our research personnel. We oversee PhD committee meetings and coordinate weekly Progress Report seminars, where PhD students and postdoctoral fellows receive feedback on technical aspects of their work and on soft skills that may improve their ability to succeed in and beyond academia. The Dean’s Office also works very closely with the CNIO Student Association (CNIOSA), which has increasingly become a highly active driving force at the Centre. In particular, this year, CNIOSA organised highly impactful workshops on “Communicating Science to Peers”, as well as on “Scientific Writing”, with very dynamic, interactive feedback sessions. They also organise different mentoring and networking activities, which we intend to further expand in the future. These events for career development are supported in part by the Fundación Jesús Serrano/Fundación Occident, which we sincerely thank for the continuous support to strengthen career development initiatives at the CNIO.

We believe that an informed society is better prepared to understand (and if needed, face) the diseases that constitute human cancer. Therefore, we are actively involved in knowledge dissemination. One example is our participation at the annual Marie Skłodowska Curie European Researchers’ Night. This year, being the 10th edition for the CNIO, over 70 volunteers organised talks and hands-on experiments so that visitors could “Meet a scientist and become a scientist” for a day. We hosted over 260 participants of all ages, but also organised live streaming events in social media to showcase research and our laboratory life to a broad audience.

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The awardee was Mariam Al-Masmudi Martín, for exciting new findings related to machine learning and brain metastasis subtypes (Cancer Cell).

The 2023 recipients were CNIO scientists for their volunteer activities in science fairs and other events organised by the Centre for the general public: Inmaculada Sanclemente,