

Dear colleagues:

The time has come for my farewell as president of the Spanish Society of Neuroscience, since next September 6, Dr. Joan Comella (President-Elect) will take the position. Reviewing the letter that I wrote two years ago (<https://www.senc.es/en/presentation/>), I consider that this Board of Directors has reached a high percentage of the proposed aims, but I feel there are still relevant tasks to be faced by the next Board.

On the one hand, the SENC website, Twitter and Facebook social networks and the monthly Newsletter have reached an excellent level of functionality and dissemination. We still expect more participation from our members and the tools are ready for this job. The work of the different Committees within the Society has also been consolidated and new aims can be continued in this direction. The distribution of tasks has facilitated the simultaneous approach to different objectives and to increase the visibility of some specific groups.

I believe that a good distribution of the limited resources of the Society has been carried out and that the financial support for the execution of our own activities, or organized by our members, has been maintained (NeuroART competition, Cajal Conference, Science Week, etc.)

Still, one of my initial goals is partly pending. We wanted to reach 1,000 members and right now we are 1,024. I am truly satisfied with these numbers, but I am also aware that this increase is due, in part, to the fact that this year the biennial Meeting is organized and being a member means some saving in the registration fees. Stabilizing the number of members and obtaining financing outside their fees is the aspect in which we must continue working. The noticeable deficiencies in the financing of science in our country are seriously compromising the continuity of many research groups and, therefore, of the members of our Society. SENC has participated in all actions carried out by COSCE, or by other scientific societies, aimed to change this situation, since we are aware of the problem posed by the lack of funding for the development of science in general, and of Neuroscience, in particular. The economic crisis also reaches companies and foundations in our area, so it is difficult to obtain the extra financial support necessary to maintain a good level of activities financed by our Society.

My immediate desire is that this situation is reversed, and that research is reactivated in the field of Neuroscience.

Best regards to all.

Agnès Gruart