

To all SENC members

Dear friends and colleagues,

For those of you who do not know my professional trajectory, here I enclose my biosketch where you'll see that I've devoted my career to Neuroscience and particularly to the study of glial cells in health and disease.

My keen interest in glia biology drove me to create from scratch the Achucarro Basque Center for Neuroscience (<https://www.achucarro.org/>) in 2012 at Bilbao (Spain), an institution that now has 150 people devoted entirely to the study of glia-neuron interactions in the UPV/EHU campus of Leioa. I was the Scientific Director of Achucarro for nine years until I handed the lead in 2021. After freeing myself of administrative duties, I still feel strongly about experimental neurobiology, and I am currently focused on investigating the unexplored functions of myelin.

I strongly believe that my experience both in the lab and in administration will serve to strengthen SENC. On a personal basis, being a marathoner may help me in enduring hardship while running our Society if you bestow that honour to me with your votes.

What I propose for SENC

The SENC has been the backbone of Neuroscience in Spain since its foundation more than forty years ago. Since then our research area has grown in an extraordinary way and far beyond what its most optimistic pioneers could have foreseen in those years.

The past pandemic has valued biomedical research in our society and opened up new opportunities that neuroscientists cannot miss.

I would like to build upon what SENC and its recent past Presidents together with its Governing Bodies have done, and bring into SENC some innovations that I think can make it more valuable, influential, and inclusive. In particular, I propose the following specific actions:

- 1- **Foster NextGen neuroscientists training.** This means fostering forums and workshops for young researchers. Specifically, I propose that the Cajal Conference meets every year (now it is every second year).
- 2- **International partnership.** SENC can increase visibility in Europe by co-organizing biennial meetings with our sister Societies in Portugal, France, Italy, and other countries.
- 3- **Gain influence in Spanish and regional Institutions and Governments.** As Biomedical Research has gained social recognition, public funding, and financial opportunities are increasing. SENC should play a role in helping administrators to ground decisions on sound long-term strategies.
- 4- Finally, **outreach to society.** We are primarily and ultimately indebted to tax payers and our country fellows. We ought to disseminate the fundamental value of our research, and explain how Neuroscience scientific knowledge can improve their quality of life.

I ask you for your vote.

All the best,
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