

Manifesto for Brain Research – SENC

The Spanish Society of Neuroscience (SENC) calls on civil society and its representatives to recognize the strategic, human, and social value of brain research—an essential foundation for the present and future development of our country, and a fundamental pillar of science, innovation, and health policies.

The brain is the most complex organ in our body; it is the basis of our identity, behavior, and well-being. Understanding how it works—and what happens when it does not—represents not only a fascinating scientific challenge but also an urgent priority for addressing **health problems** that affect millions of people, such as neurodegenerative, psychiatric, and neurodevelopmental disorders; epilepsy; chronic pain; brain injuries; and inflammatory and vascular pathologies of the nervous system, including schizophrenia. Moreover, understanding the healthy brain is key to enhancing our “brain capital,” a crucial resource for the well-being, competitiveness, and innovative capacity of the nation.

In the context of an increasingly long-lived population, neuroscience research is essential to promote brain health and active, **healthy aging**, to prevent dependency, and to ensure the sustainability of our welfare system.

Recent technological advances have ushered in a new era of neuroscience, opening an unprecedented period in the study of the brain—with a profound impact on society and the economy. This, together with the excellence and international recognition of Spanish neuroscientists since the school of Santiago Ramón y Cajal, reinforces the need for Spain to position itself at the forefront of this scientific revolution. To achieve this, it is essential to strengthen research, encourage international collaboration, and promote the transfer of knowledge and technology so that the progress achieved can translate into tangible benefits for all citizens and contribute to the generation of wealth and well-being.

Therefore, SENC affirms that investing in neuroscience is investing in health, well-being, and social and economic progress. To achieve this, we call for:

- **Brave and sustained political decisions** that promote greater public and private investment in neuroscience research, reaching 2.5% of GDP.
- **An effective policy for attracting and retaining talent** through stable, competitive programs for young neuroscientists as well as established leaders, to prevent the loss of highly qualified human capital.
- **The creation and modernization of research infrastructures**, equipped with stable technical staff, essential for positioning our researchers on par with the leading international centers.

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- **The establishment of a Network of Excellence in Neuroscience Research** to bring together, strengthen, and coordinate research from prestigious neuroscience centers, as well as to foster interaction with clinical units and patient associations.
- **The promotion of scientific culture and public knowledge about the brain**, as a way to encourage healthy habits, reduce the stigma associated with neurological and psychiatric disorders, and strengthen the value of science in our society.

Neuroscience in Spain has an excellent, committed scientific community with strong international reach. With the backing of society and our leaders, we can position our country at the forefront of this strategic field—thus contributing to a future with greater health, innovation, and well-being.

SENC calls on institutions, the scientific community, healthcare professionals, citizens, and policymakers to place neuroscience at the center of Spain's strategic priorities.

Investing in neuroscience is betting for our future.

October 9th, 2025

Carlos Matute Almu

President of the Sociedad Española de Neurociencia

Antonia Gutiérrez, **President Elect de la SENC**

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