

Professor Luis Liz-Marzán awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Antwerp

The University of Antwerp will be conferring an Honorary Doctorate in Science on Luis Liz-Marzán, the Ikerbasque research professor of CIC biomaGUNE and professor of the University of Vigo, in recognition of his expertise in the synthesis, characterization and application of plasmonic metal nanoparticles. The investiture ceremony is scheduled to take place on 30 March, 2023, following a lecture delivered by the professor himself. Liz-Marzán's candidacy was submitted by Professor Sara Bals of the University of Antwerp.

For Professor Liz-Marzán, “the value of this distinction is very special” for various reasons. Firstly, “it expresses the recognition that an entire institution makes of a close, prolonged and fruitful scientific relationship,” said Liz-Marzán, referring to the scientific collaboration spanning more than 10 years with members of the University of Antwerp.

The relationship between the senior researcher in CIC biomaGUNE's [Bionanoplasmonics](#) group —who is also a senior researcher at the Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine Networking Biomedical Research Center ([CIBER-BBN](#))— with the University of Antwerp “came about just over 10 years ago, when I happened to meet Professor Gustaaf Van Tendeloo and Professor Sara Bals in the European ESMI (European Soft Matter Infrastructure) consortium and later in its continuation ([EUSMI](#))”. Professor Bals has received an ERC Starting Grant and an ERC Consolidator Grant, consecutively, both in the field of electron microscopy and more specifically in that of electron tomography. “This technique allows 3D imaging of nanomaterials to be obtained and has been essential in the characterization of many of the materials we synthesize, both at CIC biomaGUNE and at the University of Vigo.” Throughout these 10 years Professor Liz-Marzán and Professor Bals have published more than 60 joint papers in the leading journals in the field (including *Science*, *Nature Materials*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of USA*, *Nature Communications*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, *ACS Nano*, *Nano Letters*, *Advanced Materials*, etc.) and “right now, we still have a fair number of collaborations in the pipeline and naturally a very good personal relationship as well”, he added.

Secondly, the list of figures previously awarded honorary degrees in science by the University of Antwerp includes Nobel laureates, such as Andre Geim (one of the discoverers of graphene), Robert Ernst (who promoted the use of nuclear magnetic resonance), and the well-known naturalist Sir David Attenborough. So, “this is the first recognition of its kind that I will be receiving, so it has a more special significance”.