

Luis Liz-Marzán to be made a member of the Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences

The CIC biomaGUNE scientific director and Ikerbasque professor Liz-Marzán will be taking his place as a full member at an inauguration ceremony to be held at 18:30 hours today

At the ceremony, Liz-Marzán will read his admission speech entitled "Plasmonic Nanomaterials and Nanomedicine. Multidisciplinary science in the 21st century"

Donostia-San Sebastian. 27 October, 2021. The Scientific Director of the biomaGUNE Cooperative Research Center [Luis Liz-Marzán](#) will be sworn in today, October 27, as a full member of the RAC, Real Academia de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales (Spanish Royal Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences), during a formal session at 18:30 in Madrid. The ceremony will be broadcast live via the YouTube channel of the [RAC](#). The Ikerbasque professor's acceptance speech will be on "Plasmonic nanomaterials and nanomedicine. Multidisciplinary science in the 21st century", and will be answered on behalf of the institution by [Avelino Corma Canós](#), Director of the Institute of Chemical Technology (Joint Center of the Spanish National Scientific Research Council and the Polytechnic University of Valencia). Liz-Marzán will be taking up his seat with medal number 31 and the diploma accrediting him as a full member of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

Luis Liz-Marzán, who is also lead researcher at the Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine Networking Biomedical Research Centre ([CIBER-BBN](#)), is delighted about his nomination. "First of all, being selected as a member of the RAC is perhaps the greatest recognition that a scientist can aspire to in Spain." It is the members themselves who propose and discuss the new nominations, and assess their scientific careers as a whole, which have to be exceptional and widely recognized; this means that "very prominent scientists have decided that my scientific activity (or rather, the scientific activity of the teams I have led over the last 25 years) meets the appropriate level and impact to represent the science done here. Belonging to this institution opens doors for me to participate in far-reaching discussions, perhaps to influence highly significant decisions on scientific policy in the coming years", he added.

The RAC is one of the most established and prestigious scientific institutions in Spain. Although in its current form it was founded in 1847, its origins date back to 1582. Its main mission is to promote the study and research of the Mathematical, Physical, Chemical, Geological and Biological Sciences and their applications, as well as to spread their knowledge, and it currently endeavors to cover all the scientific disciplines that are being created and are evolving. The number of members is limited in its bylaws and it has recently been increased from 54 to 72, for all these fields. That means that access is highly restricted and takes place through a strict internal selection when positions to be filled arise. "I would say that it means being in a group of

'leading scientists', which is a source of pride but also a huge responsibility, which I will assume and will try to contribute to as well as I possibly can."

About Luis Liz-Marzán

Luis Liz-Marzán, a PhD holder in chemistry, specialized in Colloid Science and focused his research on nanoscience and nanomedicine, specifically on metallic nanoparticles with plasmonic properties and their applications in the biomedical field. Today, he is one of the most recognized scientists of his generation for his numerous, significant contributions to his field. He is the author of more than 500 publications in journals of international impact, co-inventor of nine patents and editor of four books. Due to the high impact of his publications, he was nominated *ISI Highly Cited Researcher* for seven years running (2014-2020). His papers have received more than 50,000 citations, with an H-index around 120 (WOS data), and more than 90 publications have been rated as *highly cited papers* by Essential Science Indicators.

Liz-Marzán embarked on his career at the University of Santiago de Compostela and after two years of postdoctoral research at the University of Utrecht, he joined the University of Vigo in 1995. Since 2012 he has been scientific director of CIC biomaGUNE, where he heads the Bionanoplasmonics Laboratory, and is an Ikerbasque professor. He also heads a node at the Bioengineering, Biomaterials and Nanomedicine Networking Biomedical Research Centre (CIBER-BBN).

He is one of a small number of European researchers to have gained access to the prestigious *ERC Advanced Grants* on two consecutive occasions (2012-2017; 2018-2023), both related to biomedical applications of nanomaterials. In addition, he is a member of numerous editorial boards (he is the only Spanish member on the *Board of Reviewing Editors of Science*) and has been editor of several journals of the *American Chemical Society*. Professor Liz-Marzán is a *Fellow* of the *Royal Society of Chemistry* (UK) and of the *Optical Society of America* (USA), a corresponding member of the academies of sciences of Galicia and Granada, as well as of the European Academy of Sciences. The numerous awards he has received include the *Humboldt Research Award*, the RSEQ Medal, the *Blaise Pascal Medal in Materials Science*, the Rey Jaime I Prize, the *Rhodía Prize* of the *European Colloid and Interface Society*, and the Enrique Moles National Prize in Chemical Science and Technology, the Lilly Foundation Award for Biomedical Research and the French-Spanish "Miguel Catalán-Paul Sabatier" award of the French Chemical Society (SCF).

About CIC biomaGUNE

The Center for Cooperative Research in Biomaterials CIC biomaGUNE, member of the Basque Research and Technology Alliance ([BRTA](#)), conducts state-of-the-art research at the interface between Chemistry, Biology and Physics, devoting particular attention to studying the properties of biological nanostructures on a molecular scale and their biomedical applications. It was recognized in 2018 as a "María de Maeztu" Unit of Excellence for meeting requirements of excellence, which are characterized by a high impact and level of competitiveness in its field of activity on the global scientific stage.