PRESS RELEASE

Over 600 researchers from the field of molecular imaging will come together in Donostia-San Sebastián for the European Molecular Imaging Meeting (EMIM) 2018

The EMIM 2018, to be held March 20-23, will bring together professionals from the fields of chemistry, physics, biology, engineering and medicine

CIC biomaGUNE is on the local organising committee of the 13th meeting of the European Society for Molecular Imaging (ESMI)

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(Donostia-San Sebastián, 9 March 2018). From 20-23 March, Donostia-San Sebastián will be the venue for the 13th European Molecular Imaging Meeting (EMIM 2018), the most important congress in Europe on molecular imaging. The meeting is organised by the European Society for Molecular Imaging (ESMI). CIC biomaGUNE researchers are members of the local organising committee of the ESMI.

The aim of the event is to look into the latest developments in this field. Molecular imaging techniques not only enable diseases to be detected in their early stages, often prior to the appearance of clinical symptoms, but also make it possible to assess the response to treatment faster and more efficiently than anatomical techniques.

Molecular imaging comprises all the different modalities of biomedical imaging which enable biological processes in living organisms, be they test animals, healthy volunteers or patients, to be detected, *in vivo* and in a non-invasive way, at cellular and molecular level. Whilst anatomical techniques such as X-rays, computed tomography (TC) and ultrasound images (more commonly known as echography) provide images of the morphology of organs and tissues, molecular imaging techniques, such as Positron Emission Tomography (PET), Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), provide a view of how the organism is functioning and enable chemical and biological processes to be measured.

The venue for the congress, which on previous occasions has been held in Cologne (2017) and Utrecht (2016), will be the Centro Kursaal in San Sebastián. Both the location of the research centre itself and the hard work of the Molecular Imaging Unit of CIC

biomaGUNE have been key factors in the organisers' decision to hold this event in San Sebastián. The 13th EMIM is designed to raise the profile of the ESMI in countries in the south of Europe such as Spain, France and Italy, and to promote their cooperation and interaction with the rest of Europe. Molecular imaging is a relatively modern branch of science and is constantly evolving. The congress will give priority to participant networking, a key factor for the exchange of ideas and the continuous improvement of imaging tools.

CIC biomaGUNE researchers Jordi Llop, Abraham Martín and Pedro Ramos are members of the local organising committee. A further eight people from the research centre will take active part in the congress as volunteers.

Meeting programme

Around 600 basic, translational and clinical researchers are expected to take part in the EMIM. The programme for the four days of the congress will include 5 plenary speakers of international renown, each one with a long career in both the clinical field and as researchers.

The opening lecture will be given by Elisabeth de Vries, Professor of Medical Oncology at the University Medical Center, Groningen (Holland). During her career, Dr. de Vries has promoted the idea that a multidisciplinary approach with close interaction between the laboratory and the clinic is crucial for improving prospects for cancer patients. Her research lines are focused on the optimum treatment of tumours with anticancer drugs, using imaging techniques to support this.

Another of the plenary speakers will be David Boas, Director of the Boston University Neurophotonics Center and Professor of Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Boas was given the Britton Chance Award in Biomedical Optics in 2016 for his development of several novel, high-impact biomedical optical technologies in neurosciences.

Nassir Navab is a Professor and Director of the Laboratory for Computer Aided Medical Procedures at the Technical University of Munich (Germany). Prof. Dr. Navab will give a talk on "Robotic Imaging, Machine Learning and Augmented Reality for Computer Assisted Interventions".

The work of Dr. Paola Allavena, PhD in Immunology and group leader at the Clinical and Research Institute Humanitas in Milan (Italy), has been focused on the field of cancer research and tumour immunology. Dr. Allavena's talk at the congress will be on the theme of "The tumour cell-leukocyte interface in the tumour microenvironment: an opportunity for targeted therapy".

Finally, Zahi Fayad is a Professor of Radiology and Medicine (Cardiology) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York (USA). Dr Fayad has a long career in the detection and prevention of cardiovascular disease, with many seminal contributions in the field of multimodality biomedical imaging and nanomedicine. Furthermore, Dr. Fayad is a principal investigator of one of the 3 projects funded by the American Heart Association

to promote cardiovascular health among high-risk New York City children, and their parents, living mainly in Harlem and the Bronx.

ESMI Award 2018 for Mikaël Tanter

The ESMI Award 2018 will be given to Dr. Mikaël Tanter, Director of the Wave Physics for Medicine Unit and Deputy Director of the Institute Langevin, Paris (France). The Selection Committee has highlighted his excellent and pioneering scientific production as a role model for future generations of scientists, and an inspiration for the whole scientific community. Mikaël Tanter is a renowned expert worldwide in ultrasound application in biomedicine and wave physics.

About the European Society for Molecular Imaging (ESMI)

The European Society for Molecular Imaging is an independent organisation promoting the development and practical application of Imaging Sciences in Europe and beyond. It provides an interdisciplinary platform for knowledge sharing covering basic sciences, translational aspects and clinical applications.

About CIC biomaGUNE

The Centre for Cooperative Research in Biomaterials (CIC biomaGUNE), located in the Donostia-San Sebastián Technology Park, conducts cutting-edge research at the interface between Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Since the Molecular Imaging facility was set up and leading researchers took on in the different areas of knowledge related to molecular imaging, particularly significant work has been done in the Centre on the development of nanomaterials and their biomedical applications.