The year 2016 marks the creation of the Department of International Affairs (IAs) at the CNIO, its setup underscores the Centre’s commitment with increasing its international impact to continue its growth in scientific and professional excellence. The overarching goal of the Department is to provide a strategic global vision for the CNIO to facilitate the coordination of efforts from the different departments with the aim of substantially strengthening our international reach with the research community, policy makers and society. The lines of work initiated this year will enable us to reinforce four of CNIO’s fundamental concepts: knowledge sharing, value creation, research and innovation advancement, and professional and academic development.

As an integral part of the CNIO, we strive to consolidate our Centre’s institutional leadership and reputation abroad, as well as to establish new robust partnerships and participate in European and International projects. This vision is now framed in the concept of ‘Responsible Research & Innovation (RRI)’ that will help us to further increase our impact on society by contributing to scientific advances and by endorsing innovative science policies.

The department focuses on the continuation of existing CNIO initiatives and on propelling novel projects abroad. One of our key activities for the upcoming year is the co-organisation of an Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI) Oncology Workshop that will be hosted at the CNIO and spearheaded by the CDTI; its mission is to coordinate national efforts in upcoming cancer calls of this European public-private initiative. In this same vein, we have established a strategic workflow to coordinate CNIO’s efforts, keep investigators informed and facilitate their participation and leadership in H2020 projects—an effort to help CNIO researchers to reinforce their scientific potential and strengths in order to become even more competitive in the international scene.

We have already sown the seeds for exciting alliances with international research centres of excellence that will pan out throughout 2017, not only in Europe but also in other countries where we can complement and synergise in regards to science, innovation and training. The CNIO will be formulating new ways of collaboration to continue attracting international talent and to provide our investigators with the most exciting, diverse and global setting for their professional and scientific growth.

“Broadening our reach and scientific impact through international collaborations is crucial for the CNIO investigators. We will continue consolidating our presence abroad with new initiatives.”