

# NEWSLETTER

## of the MCAA Spain-Portugal Chapter

MARCH 2018



Coin and Stamp issued by Spain in 2011 to celebrate the International Year of Chemistry.

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## NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

### UMAQ CONFERENCE – BARCELONA – 4-5 JUNE 2018



The UMAQ Conference aims at gathering together, for the first time, all the key actors involved in research on quality in Media Accessibility and its implementation in industry and policy, in order to provide a deeper understanding of the issues involved, and boost a coordinated research programme at the international level.

The UMAQ conference will host more than 40 speakers from four continents and discuss a wide range of topics connected to the issue of quality, such as: machine translation, audio description, subtitles, visual perception, data and information quality approaches, object oriented broadcasting, subtitles in augmented reality, and use of electrophysiological measures.

The UMAQ conference will feature a keynote speech by Aljoscha Burchardt (German Research

Centre on Artificial Intelligence) and a roundtable led by David Wood (International Communication Union - United Nations).

The UMAQ conference will be held in Barcelona on 4-5 June 2018 and is organised within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship project UMAQ carried out by Gian Maria Greco at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

For more information about the conference on its website:

[pagines.uab.cat/umaq/umaq-conference](http://pagines.uab.cat/umaq/umaq-conference).

### MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE WIDENING FELLOWSHIPS

The results from the first years of MSCA in Horizon 2020 also revealed the existence of a mobility gap across Europe and discrepancies between European countries in their ability to attract funding. To specifically address this gap in participation Widening Fellowships will provide an additional opportunity to researchers of any nationality to acquire and transfer new knowledge and to work on research and innovation in Widening countries.

Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national fellowships awarded to researchers of any nationality, in Widening countries. Applications to the 2019 call for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships (MSCA-IF), where the host organisation is located in an eligible widening country, will be automatically resubmitted to this call in case their proposal fails to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded in the regular MSCA-IF call. Applicants



who do not wish to be considered for this funding opportunity may opt out during the application stage.

The proposals submitted under the Widening Fellowships must fulfil all the admissibility and eligibility conditions of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships and pass all the thresholds for that call.

The award criteria, scoring and threshold for Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions apply to eligible proposals. Proposals will be ranked according to the 2019 MSCA-IF call scores and evaluation procedure and will retain scores and comments included in the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) of the MSCA-IF call. The MSCA-IF model grant agreement and the unit costs applicable to MSCA-IF will also apply to the Widening Fellowships.

The Member States currently eligible for Widening support are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, **Portugal**, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

More info at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/wf-02-2019.html>

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## FIRST CALL 2018 OF THE SERRA HUNTER PROGRAMME

The Serra Hunter Programme (SHP) aims at recruiting around 500 new faculty members into the Catalan public universities during the period 2013-2020. The SHP is funded by the Government of Catalonia and the seven Catalan public universities: the University of Barcelona (UB), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), the Technical University of Catalonia – BarcelonaTech (UPC), Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), the University of Lleida (UdL), the University of Girona (UdG) and Rovira i Virgili University (URV).



The First Call 2018 of the Serra Hunter Programme is offering 1 contract as Associate professor and 26 contracts as Tenure-eligible lecturer.

More info at: <http://serrahunter.gencat.cat/en>.

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## SEVERO OCHOA CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND MARÍA DE MAEZTU UNITS OF EXCELLENCE RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2018



**FECYT**

FUNDACIÓN ESPAÑOLA  
PARA LA CIENCIA  
Y LA TECNOLOGÍA

FECYT, the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology of the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Industry, published the document "Research excellence in Spain: Severo Ochoa and Maria de Maeztu centres and units of excellence. Recruitment opportunities 2017-2018".

The document compiles information relative to Severo Ochoa centres of excellence and María de Maeztu units of excellence with their recruitment opportunities for researchers during last quarter of 2017 and 2018.

More info at: <https://www.fecyt.es/es/publicacion/towards-research-excellence-spain-severo-ochoa-and-maria-de-maeztu-centres-and-units>.

## MEET THE FELLOWS

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### RAQUEL MANZANO MARTINEZ



I am Raquel Manzano Martinez, a neuroscientist who has developed her career among the University of Zaragoza (Spain), the Institute Pasteur in Paris and the University of Oxford where I am currently working as a postdoctoral researcher, since April 2013.

My research interests are 1) the study of molecular mechanisms that contribute to skeletal muscle homeostasis/degeneration and the muscle-motor neuron interplay in neuromuscular disorders. 2) The use of synthetic nanoparticles to deliver therapeutic agents to CNS in neuromuscular diseases. For this last research line I have just been awarded a Marie Curie Standard Fellowship in 2017 that will be developed in collaboration between the University of Zaragoza and the Nanoscience Institute of Aragon (INA) (Spain).

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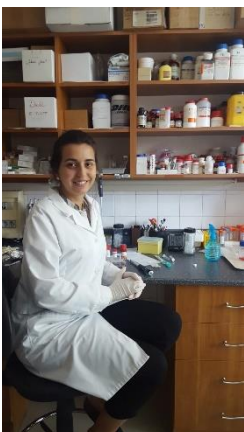
### PATRICIA MARÍN CEPEDA

My name is Patricia Marín Cepeda (Madrid, 1981), and, since 2015, I am Assistant Professor of Spanish Literature at the University of Burgos (Spain). My area of expertise is Spanish Golden Age Literature, mainly focused on European Court Culture and its relation with a great range of literary practices, authors and genres. I graduated with Honors at the University of Valladolid (Spain) in 2011 with a interdisciplinary doctoral dissertation on the relationships of Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes with his Italian patron Cardinal Ascanio Colonna, and the Spanish political and cultural networks around Philip II. This research was published in 2015 under the title *Cervantes y la corte de Felipe II. Escritores en el entorno de Ascanio Colonna (1560-1608)*. In 2016, this monograph was one of the finalists for the Spanish National Award known as "Premio Nacional de Literatura (modalidad ensayo)", granted by the Ministry of Culture of Spain. After my PhD, I had 5 years of international postdoctoral experience thanks to different fellowships. One of those was the "Beatriu de Pinós" (granted by the Catalan government, and recognized as Marie Curie Fellowship) at the Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona). I specially enjoy reading about non-academic topics, creative writing, and swimming.



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### ANA RAQUEL SANTA MARIA



Ana Raquel Santa Maria, is a PhD student at the Biological Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Science, in Szeged (Hungary). She started her university studies with a B. Sc. in Engineering at the University of Algarve (Portugal), where later she obtained her M. Sc. in Bioengineering. During her M. Sc. program, she completed an internship at the University of Groningen (Netherlands), under the co-supervision of Prof. Dr. Hidde Haisma and Prof. Dr. Gabriela Silva, where she was involved in the development of a gene therapy to deliver the receptor-specific rhTRAIL-DHER variant to induce apoptosis in activated hepatic stellate cells for the treatment of liver fibrosis.

In February 2016 she was awarded a Marie Curie grant (associated with the BtRAIN consortium) and joined the PhD program of the Doctoral Biology School of the University of Szeged, in the Neurosciences field. As a PhD

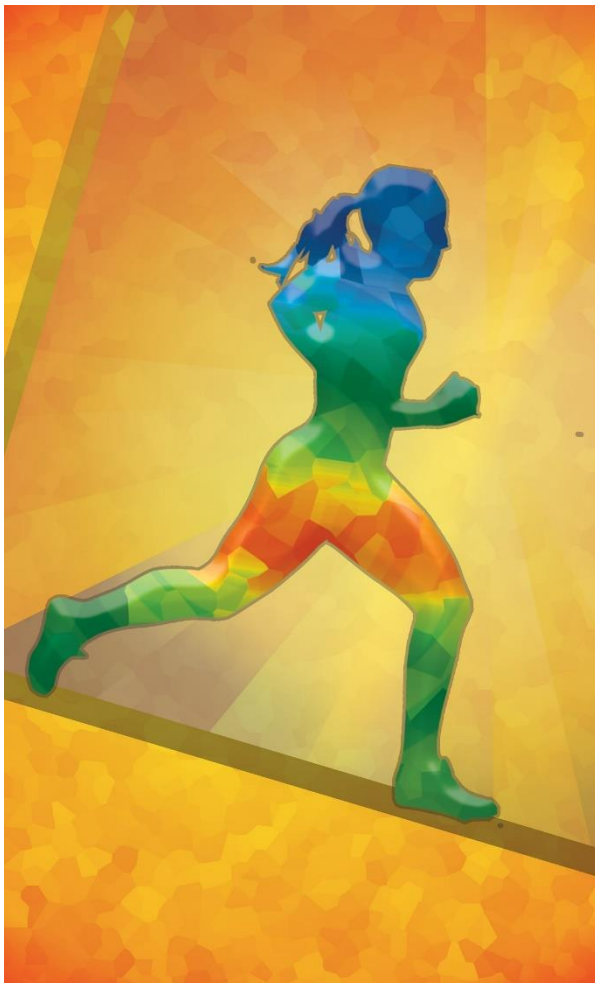
student, she is currently working with an in vitro model of the blood-brain barrier (BBB) using an integrated microfluidic device. The main goal of the PhD is to develop and optimize BBB models from different species in the microfluidic device, in order to: facilitate the study of the cellular and molecular mechanisms of the formation and maturation of the BBB; enable cross-species comparisons and facilitate the progression of research from in vivo models to human therapy.

## KNOW THE PROJECTS

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### PRINTENDON: DEVELOPMENT OF A TENDON/LIGAMENT SUBSTITUTE THROUGH BIOPRINTING

Tendon/ligament (T/L) injury is a common clinical problem that can dramatically affect a patient's quality of life. The native structure of T/L makes them have limited ability to self-repair. Current approaches for T/L substitutes include autografts, allografts and artificial prostheses although their mechanical limitations and/or the induced adverse immune responses have restricted their use, which have accelerated the development of tissue engineering strategies. However, to the date, no clinical long-standing acceptable T/L substitute is available.



The project's overall objective is developing an innovative T/L replacement that results in a fully regenerated living tissue, mimicking the natural structure and function and with long-term viability. The unexplored approach that the projects wants to explore is the use of 3D bioprinting and mechano-magnetic stimulation. The use of bioprinting technologies will allow to replicate the tissue structure and together with mechano-magnetic stimulation will induce cell and fibre alignment that will induce tenogenic differentiation of human adipose derived stem cells (hASCs), which can lead to tendon regeneration. Taking into account that hASCs can be easily harvested and expanded from an autologous source and that 3D printers have high reproducibility and automation, this approach will assure an easy and fast translation to clinics to improve people's live.

The project is led by Manuel Gomez-Florit, as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellow, and Manuela E. Gomes as supervisor, and is based at 3B's Research Group, University of Minho (Portugal). For more information, visit [www.3bs.uminho.pt](http://www.3bs.uminho.pt)

PrinTendon project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 706996.