

At DIPC, we do science.



Ricardo Díez Muiño Director

Science is an essential tool of social and economic progress.

Advances in scientific research have enormously improved our health and prosperity in the last decades. Testing our life standards against those of just one hundred years ago, we enjoy a longer, fuller, and healthier life in most places on the globe. Dis-

tances between different continents seem to have shrunk and we are in close and constant interaction with distant people and remote places. Science has significantly contributed to this new scenario, as well as to the development of modern and sophisticated technologies that are just starting to design our near future.

All this being important, it is no less notable that science has substantially changed our ideas about the world and the way we interact within it. We have reached a deep understanding on tiny particles, immense galaxies, the constituents of matter, and cell function. We are now convinced that our reality can be apprehended and sometimes tuned to cover our necessities. Scientific knowledge has thus become an essential part of our culture and has completely transformed our views on the essence of human nature.

At DIPC we adhere to this spectacular adventure by doing what we know how to do best: scientific research on condensed matter, materials sciences, and nanoscience. DIPC is an open center that gathers local scientists and international visitors because we consider science to be a collective endeavor that always benefits from a diversity of perspectives. DIPC provides a creative and stimulating atmosphere that fosters the exchange of ideas among researchers and thereby the acceleration toward innovative research paths. Scientists at DIPC contribute to the generation of knowledge that can be later applied in new technologies as well as to the training of young researchers that, in the future, can occupy high-profile positions in academia or industry. There is only one indispensable requirement in all DIPC operations: to keep up the high standards of quality that we imposed from the start.

When DIPC started in 2000, we could not have anticipated the level of activity that the center was going to achieve. Since then, DIPC researchers have published more than 2,100 scientific articles that have already received about 45,000 citations. Roughly 2,000 scientists have visited DIPC and more than 625 seminars have been scheduled. One of the reasons for this success is that the DIPC structure is very well adapted to ongoing changes in the scientific activity itself: the process of doing science is becoming increasingly collaborative, international, and interconnected. All these features are natural within the DIPC philosophy.

DIPC is devoted to research at the cutting-edge of science,

but DIPC also assumes the responsibility of conveying scientific knowledge to society. DIPC feeds an intellectual climate intended to awaken curiosity, interest, fascination and enthusiasm for science and knowledge. In the last years, DIPC has reinforced its Science Communication program and has organized several scientific events that turned out to be extremely gratifying for both scientists and the general public. More than 8,000 people, for instance, attended our Passion for Knowledge Quantum 13 scientific festival that took place in several Basque cities in 2013.

In 2014, DIPC is starting an exciting new program called "DIPC Schools". DIPC Schools are designed to provide young students and researchers with a deeper knowledge on a given research topic in order to improve their research capabilities. They are conceived as intense training sessions lasting from one to two weeks. DIPC Schools will be organized in collaboration with the best Doctoral Schools across Europe, and lecturers will be world-class researchers from the selected fields.

At DIPC, we may feel proud about several things. But there is one thing about which we feel extremely proud: our research team. At DIPC we do a lot of science because our researchers are indeed hooked on science. ■



Pedro Miguel Echenique President