

SRUK Seminar: Charities and Research

This Saturday 8th of February, at Hamilton House in Bristol, the South West Constituency of the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK) is organizing a roundtable on “**Charities and Research**”. This seminar is part of the Cycle of Seminars and Roundtables sponsored by the Office for Cultural and Scientific Affairs of the Embassy of Spain in the United Kingdom (OCSA).

SRUK is organizing this roundtable bringing together British and Spanish research funding bodies to discuss on the future of research funding. The invited speakers are: **Mark Poarch**, CEO of BRACE research against Alzheimer and Dementia, **Nicola Amoroso**, Trustee of CRIS Cancer Foundation, **José I. Fernández Vera**, CEO of FECYT a Spanish public funding body and **Antonio J. Crespillo**, representing MasScience, a Spanish charity that funds research through crowd-funding.

Scientific research is facing cuts in the government’s budget, in the UK and more drastically in Spain. This opens a debate as to how scientific research should be funded, whether it should rely uniquely on public funding or it should be able to be funded by alternative channels from either the Private Sector or the Third Sector. The United Kingdom has a tradition of funding scientific research through charities. This contribution of the Third Sector in Research and Development not only represents an additional funding source, but more importantly it also helps to engage more actively with general public and scientists. This strategy has proven very successful and might serve as a model for Spanish funding bodies.

This SRUK roundtable will analyse any differences in cultures, in patronage or sponsorship-related policies, and in public engagement between both countries. It will also explore the transforming scenario for charitable organisations and their potential to contribute to the R+D system in Spain.