

## DIPC Activity Report 2010-1011

### Introduction by the President

Ever since it was conceived, the DIPC has been a center of singular characteristics, with close ties to the University of the Basque Country. DIPC is unconditionally dedicated to scientific quality, a premise associated to internationalization, since without it there cannot be scientific excellence. This demands a constant flow of new ideas only attainable by lending strong backing to a program of top-level visiting researchers who are given complete freedom to go about their research, without regulations, management plans, or excessive bureaucracy, accompanied by the desire for scientific collaboration.

The DIPC base consists of scientists with international backgrounds, mostly ascribed to the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU) or to the joint center Materials Physics Center (CSIC-UPV/EHU). These scientists provide the necessary substrate to develop activities of scientific collaboration with the visiting international researchers and retain scientific-technical knowledge in the local environment. They constitute the DIPC's 'host community'.

The contribution of DIPC to research has earned recognition on securing the *Campus of International Excellence* (CIE) category for the project Euskampus. The Euskampus CIE, led by UPV/EHU, in a strategic alliance with DIPC and TECNALIA, develops a project based on education, research, innovation and internationalization with its sights set on becoming a driving force in achieving improved competitiveness and economic growth of the Basque Country. DIPC is also a Founding Partner of the Euskampus Foundation, constituted to guarantee the governance and continuity of the CIE Euskampus Project.

The attractiveness of a center in the international scientific field depends on the scientific impact of the work it publishes. It is this impact that lends international visibility to a center and its researchers. This same visibility is responsible for its attractiveness to highly prestigious centers and groups wanting their young doctors to continue their post-doctoral training at a specific center. The interest of world-leading researchers for visiting a specific center also depends on the center visibility. Only the high impact of the research work produced by the scientists at a center will lead to demand for their collaboration by the best scientists in the field. Success spawns greater activity and has a pulling effect on the surrounding scientific community.

DIPC is a center devoted to research at the cutting-edge of science, but DIPC also assumes the responsibility of conveying scientific knowledge to society. DIPC believes that scientific culture contributes to the progress and freedom of society. DIPC offers meeting spaces for scientists and organizes contacts between science and society, cultivating an intellectual climate intended to awaken curiosity, interest, fascination and enthusiasm for knowledge. The DIPC Science Communication Program helps to

establish a fluid, permanent dialogue between science and society, between scientists and citizens. The aim of the initiative is to foster responsible social and scientific progress in a free and tolerant intellectual environment showing science to be an accessible cultural activity attractive to all publics. DIPC particularly wishes to cultivate a suitable climate for encouraging the youngest among us to study science and technology, thereby channeling the talent of the coming generations.

In 2010, to celebrate its first decade, the DIPC organized *Passion for Knowledge* with all sorts of activities for the scientific community and the general public all around the city of Donostia-San Sebastián, running from April to November. The format chosen for *Passion for Knowledge* took a completely new angle. The event was designed like a real Festival, a Festival of knowledge with three major sections: *The Conferences*, to communicate science, *The City*, to raise the presence of science in the city itself – both of which open to all anyone wishing to attend – and *The Workshops*, reserved for the scientific community. *Passion for Knowledge* proved a resounding success, not just because of the extraordinary quality of speakers and the scientific level, but above all because of the great response it provoked among citizens. We should all feel very proud of the success of *Passion for Knowledge*.

I would like to finish thanking the board, the staff and all the DIPC research associates for a job well done.

Pedro Etxenike  
President of the DIPC