

SRAP

SPANISH
RESEARCHERS IN
AUSTRALIA-PACIFIC

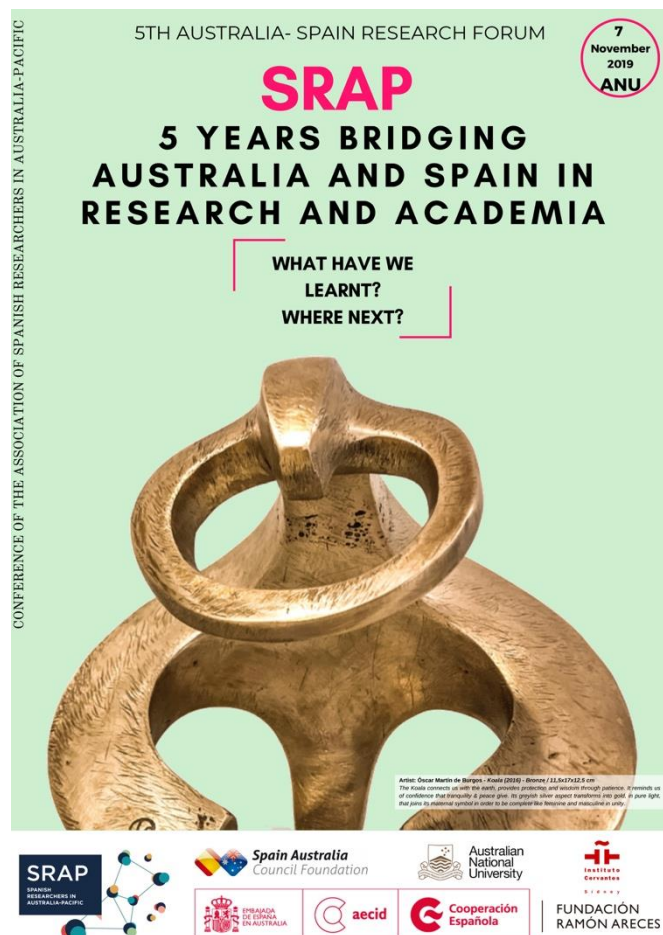


Event Report

5th AUSTRALIA-SPAIN RESEARCH FORUM

7 November 2019

Australian National University, Canberra



Some highlights

01

Convenor, **Professor Luis Salvador-Carulla**, and other presenters were interviewed by **2XX Community Radio**



02

Professor Carlos Garcia-Alonso accepts the Malaspina Award 2019 on behalf of **Loyola University Andalusia, Spain**, from the Ambassador of Spain in Australia, **His Excellency, Mr Manuel Cacho**.



03

Artwork from acclaimed Spanish artist, **Oscar Martin de Burgos** featured in this year's activities.



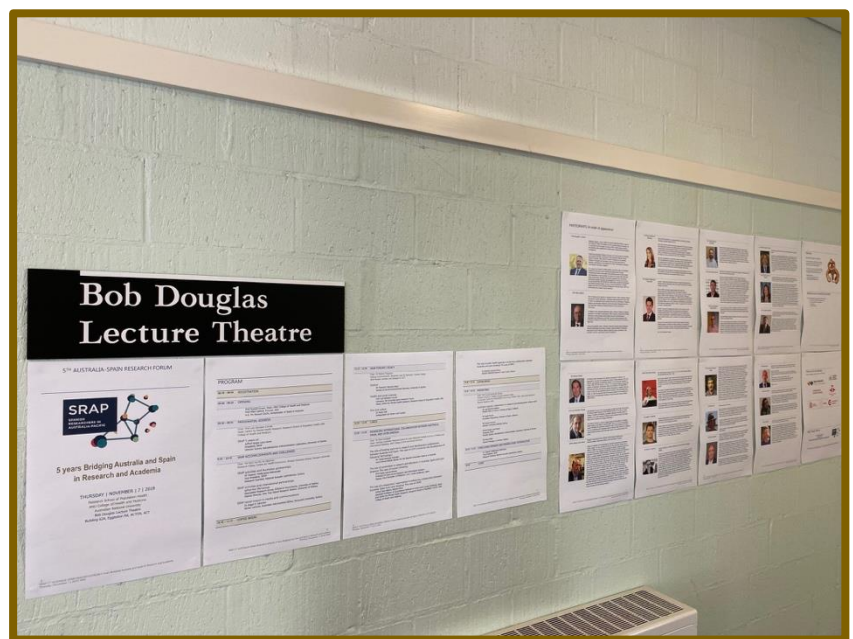
5 years bridging Australia and Spain in research and academia

The 5th Australia-Spain Research Forum celebrated five years of international research collaboration.

Background

The Association of Spanish Researchers in Australia-Pacific (SRAP) presents an annual multidisciplinary seminar aimed at the wider community, to highlight Australia-Spain research and present broad research and cultural topics which are of special interest to the Australian and Spanish societies. This year's forum was designed to highlight the successes and challenges of international collaboration in research and academia.

The 5th Australia-Spain Research Forum: 5 years Bridging Australia and Spain in Research and Academia, held on Thursday 7 November 2019, in Canberra, Australia, brought together a diverse range of accomplished speakers who reflected on international partnerships and presented a number of case studies about the roles of funding agencies, universities and research organisations in enhancing international collaboration. It was organised by SRAP in association with the Australian National University.



SRAP 2019, at a glance

- Officially opened by His Excellency, **Mr Manuel Cacho**, Ambassador of Spain in Australia
- Held at Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre, **Research School of Population Health, Australian National University**
- 52 registered attendees
- 22 presenters
- 16 presentations
- Associated evening ceremony at the **Embassy of Spain in Canberra**, to present the **2nd Malaspina Award**

Showcasing research links between
Australia-Pacific and Spain...



2nd Malaspina Award

The Malaspina Award 2019 was presented by His Excellency, Mr Manuel Cacho, Ambassador of Spain in Australia, to Loyola University, Andalusia, Spain (Loyola), at the 21st Science Diplomat's Club reception at the Embassy of Spain in Canberra on the evening of 7 November.

The award, accepted on behalf of Loyola by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Professor Carlos Garcia-Alonso, recognised excellent work pioneering close research ties between Australia and Spain; specifically, the university's partnerships with five research centres from the University of Sydney and the Australian National University.

Professor Garcia's international research team has developed tools which are helping government and public agencies in Spain, Australia, the United Kingdom, Chile and Finland make better decisions about healthcare. The team's research strategy has promoted exchange for 10 researchers in Australia and Spain, international collaboration on 24 European and Australian projects, and produced more than 40 scientific publications.

The Malaspina award is an honour bestowed annually by the Spanish Embassy in Canberra and the Association of Spanish Researchers in Australia-Pacific (SRAP) to individuals or organisations that have made important contribution to the advancement of the scientific and/or cultural relationships between Spain and Australia.



Malaspina Award 2019, as presented to Loyola University, Andalusia, Spain.

Artist: Oscar Martin de Burgos



From L to R: Prof Luis Salvador-Carulla, Mr Luis Sanchez-Vellisco, Prof Carlos Garcia-Alonso, H.E. Mr Manuel Cacho, Prof Sergio Leon-Saval at the presentation of the Malaspina award 2019 at the Embassy of Spain in Canberra.

The award is named after Alejandro Malaspina, who led the Spanish World Scientific Expedition from 1789-1794 that carried out studies in natural history, cartography, ethnography, astronomy, hydrography and medicine in Latin America and the Pacific. The Malaspina expedition was the first foreign mission to arrive to Sydney in 1793, just five years after the arrival of the First Fleet. The Australian stage of this world scientific voyage generated hundreds of manuscripts, drawings and maps that record the settlement and describe their explorations around the Sydney region.

On the day

Opening



*From L to R:
Prof Russell Gruen, Dean, ANU College of Health and Medicine; Prof Mike Calford, Provost, ANU;
H.E. Mr Manuel Cacho, Ambassador of Spain in Australia*



Dean, ANU College of Health and Medicine, **Prof Russell Gruen**, warmly welcomed distinguished guests and delegates to the ANU, and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land.



ANU Provost, **Prof Mike Calford**, welcomed His Excellency Mr Manuel Cacho, Ambassador of Spain in Australia, and acknowledged the work of the SRAP President, Dr Sergio Leon-Saval and the SRAP 2019 organising committee. He said the forum was a testament to the strength of the friendship and research ties between Spain, Australia and the Pacific.



Ambassador of Spain in Australia, His Excellency, **Mr Manuel Cacho**, opened the day's proceedings.

Presidential/Opening Address



Forum Convenor, and Head, ANU Centre for Mental Health Research, **Prof Luis Salvador-Carulla**, chaired the opening session.



Opening Address: "SRAP 5 years on"

Prof Sergio León-Saval, President, SRAP, and Director, Sydney Astrophotonics Instrumentation Laboratory, University of Sydney

SRAP President, Professor Sergio León-Saval, acknowledged the support of the sponsors, collaborators, and members. He reminded the audience of SRAP's mission to:

- promote networking amongst Spanish researchers in the Australia-Pacific region;
- promote cross-country collaboration and understanding of research; and to
- participate and influence Spanish research via the Network of Associations of Spanish Researchers and Scientists Abroad (RAICEX).

He spoke specifically of SRAP's influence through organising and actively participating in relevant national and international research activities and participating in what is known as 'Science Diplomacy'. He described SRAP as a gateway for Australian collaboration in Europe and Latin America, and in particular of the opportunity to take advantage of the common language and cultural synergies to further exploit Australian-Latin American science diplomacy. He noted the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's priority for developing a science diplomacy strategy in collaboration with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and other stakeholders, to:

- Enhance Australian competitiveness and economic diplomacy in innovation science and technology;
- Promote Australia as a destination for education and training; and
- Lift Australia's profile as a partner for science centre capacity building, research, collaboration and international exchange.

... a catalyst for science diplomacy



SRAP Accomplishments and Challenges



Ms Sara Carillo de Albornoz, Research Fellow, Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School, Monash University, chaired a session on SRAP accomplishments and challenges. This session featured three speakers who spoke about the evolution and impact of local and international partnerships.

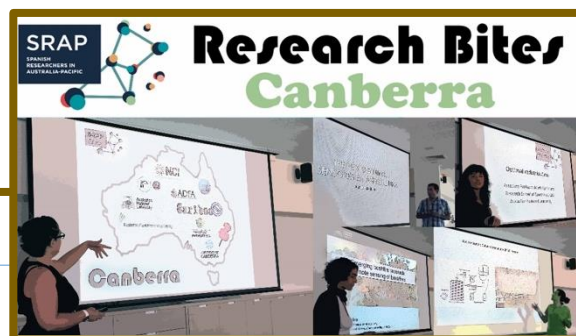


SRAP activities and Australian partnerships

Dr Joaquín Valderrama-Valenzuela, Research Scientist, National Acoustic Laboratories, Sydney, reflected on the many SRAP activities of the past five years which aligned with the SRAP mission to connect Australia and Spain through shared research interests.

He spoke of the four preceding *SRAP Forums*; *Research Bites* in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane; *Pints of Science*; events promoting women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths); and other science communication events.

...making science accessible

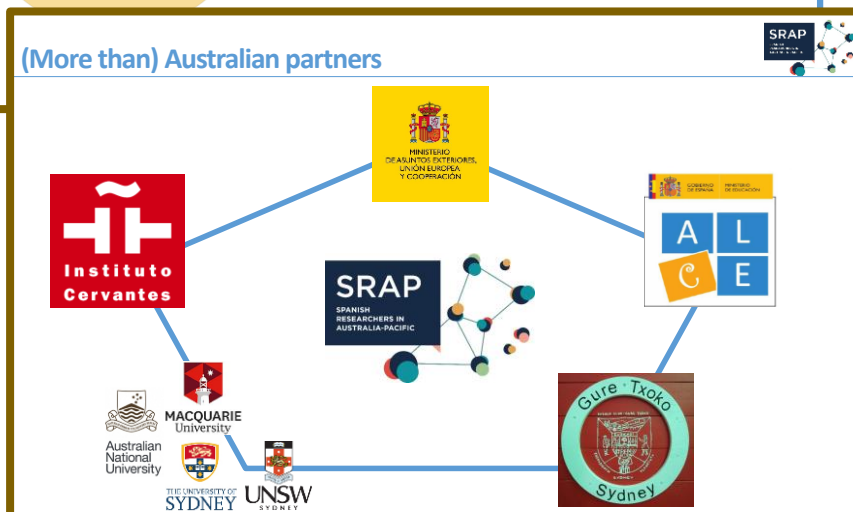


SRAP Mission



Divulgate excellent-quality science and facilitate collaboration opportunities aiming to contribute with our work to the cultural enrichment of both Australian and Spanish society.

(More than) Australian partners



Dr Valderrama highlighted a number of fun activities that SRAP had provided to share science. These included: science bushwalks; a visit to the Siding Spring Observatory; a *Mathematical promenade* – exposing some otherwise unnoticed scientific peculiarities in Sydney's CBD; as well as some activities, not necessarily based on science, to engage with younger Spanish students.

He acknowledged many partnerships which had culturally enriched Australian and Spanish societies.



...collaborating for cultural enrichment

SRAP activities and international partnerships

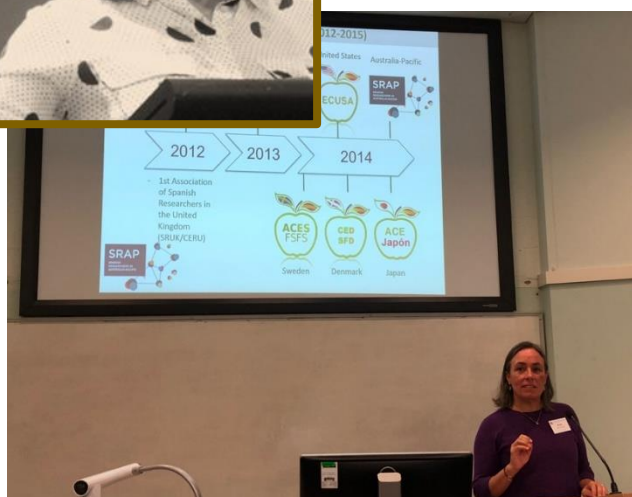
A/Prof Ana Vila-Concejo, Geocoastal Research Group, School of Geosciences, University of Sydney; Deputy Director, One Tree Island Research Station, University of Sydney told the story of how it all began; establishing the network of associations of Spanish researchers working abroad (RAICEX).

- Australia-Pacific
- Belgium
- China
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Norway
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- The Netherlands
- UK
- USA

16
international
associations
representing
3500
Spanish
scientists

SRAP social impact in media and communications

Dr Angel R. Sánchez, Senior Lecturer, Australian Astronomical Optics, Macquarie University, Sydney, gave an overview of SRAP social media, science communications, and outreach.



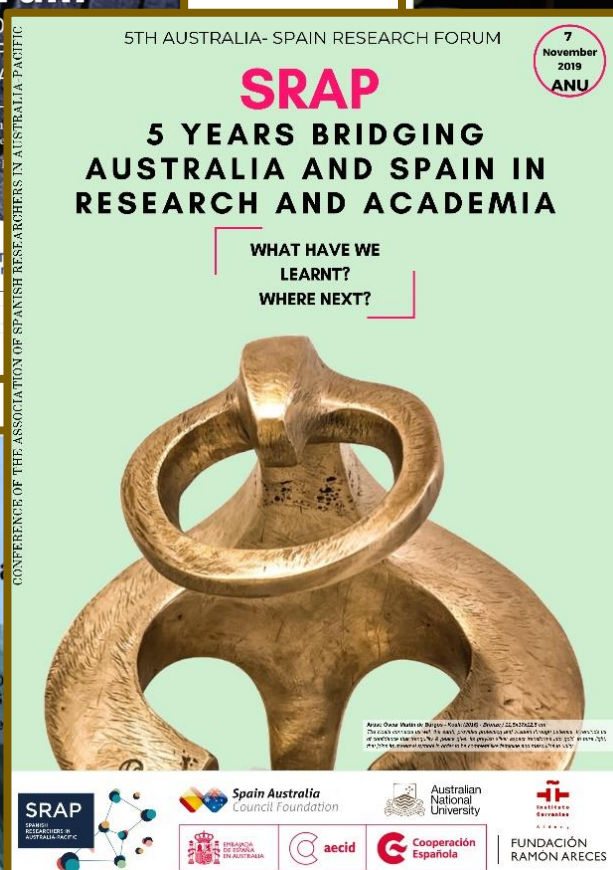
SRAP Forums' Legacy



Dr Marina Trigueros, Science Communicator, Illustrator and 3D Animator, Cariboo Design, chaired a session which reflected on the contribution of the previous four SRAP Forums to promoting research from a variety of disciplines in interesting ways. Australian and Spanish research from the faculties of health, social science, arts and culture were considered within the context of individual elements of nature, namely: Water - 2015, Light - 2016, Air- 2017 and Earth - 2018.

This session also considered the contribution to these academic disciplines by other SRAP sponsored events, and the importance of providing opportunities for highlighting and sharing research between Australia and Spain, and for promoting the research interests and activities of Australian and Spanish researchers to other researchers, industry, and to the general public.

A five-year journey...





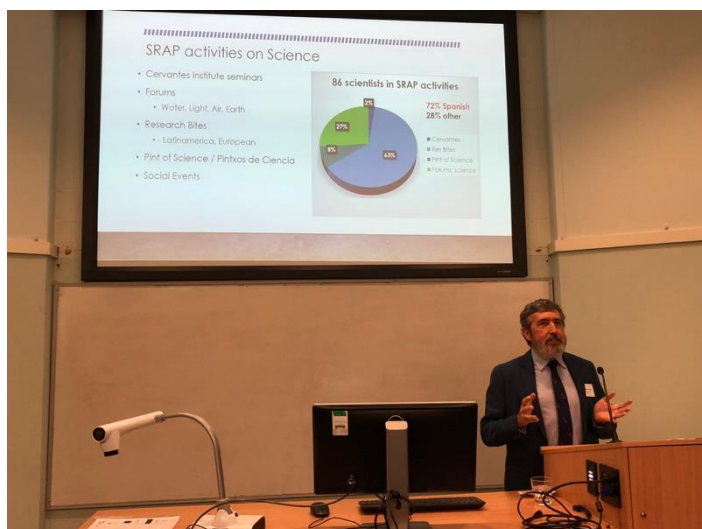
...the SRAP forum contribution

...to Science

Dr Francisco Sánchez-Bayo, School of Life & Environmental Sciences, University of Sydney, reviewed some of the diverse science that had been considered at previous forums.

This included:

- Water scarcity: lessons from the water decade;
- Bridging the science of industry and water;
- Impact of iron and steelmaking industries on air quality in Australia;
- The role of clouds in climate;
- Walking on thin air: challenges of exponential population growth;
- Genome editing and the new food revolution;
- Flammability warning from Space;
- Watching the grass grow – from Space; and
- Australia and Spain as case studies of human migration in the Pleistocene.



Dr Sánchez-Bayo noted the significant contribution the SRAP forums and other SRAP sponsored events had played in bringing science to the people and in promoting scientific research. He spoke excitedly of his personal experience presenting about the worldwide decline of the 4Bs (bees, birds, bats and butterflies) at a SRAP sponsored 'Pint of Science' event at a Sydney pub, which led to an explosion of world media interest and engagements.

Dr Sánchez-Bayo noted that SRAP activities have supported women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), and encouraged visits by distinguished Spanish researchers.



...to Health and Social Sciences

Prof Luis Salvador-Carulla, Convenor, 5th Australia-Spain Research Forum, and Head, ANU Centre for Mental Health, reflected on the contribution to health and social science by SRAP events.

He spoke about the SRAP/Cervantes Institute Symposiums which had:

- Introduced Australia to the Spanish models for designing a system of integrated chronic health care, and for organ donation;
- Provided an opportunity for both countries to learn from each other about ways to enhance palliative care; and
- Provided a forum for Australia to learn about the European mental health research agenda.

He spoke of the SRAP Forum contributions, which included sharing research contributions for enhancing planetary health, such as:



- Visualisation and modelling strategies for global mental healthcare – with associated Spanish/Australian collaboration leading to the development of Australian atlases of mental health care;
- A United Nations strategy for enhancing environmental safety, sustainability and development; and
- Use of 'Big Data' to support evidence-informed global health policy.

He also noted the promotion of 'light' as a significant contributor to health via presentation sessions such as:

- Light in medical imaging;
- The light that keeps us in synch: a chronobiological perspective;
- Light and sleep; and
- Neuroscience in the age of light.

And... the influences of things in the air that we cannot see through engaging topics covering:

- Small particulate pollution
- Neurons & noisy night-clubs
- Health effects of windfarm generated infrasound, and
- Using 3D sound in hearing research



...to Arts and Culture

Dr Paula Llull, Independent Art Writer and Curator, spoke about how SRAP forums had provided opportunity to highlight various intersections between science and art.

She noted the importance of SRAP's collaboration with the Cervantes Institute, the Embassy of Spain in Australia, the Consulate of Spain in Sydney and the Official Spanish Language Institute for engaging the two disciplines; the promotion of the arts and artists

via SRAP events; and the use of art by SRAP, for example, in the marketing materials for this and each of the preceding SRAP forums.

Dr Llull noted the diversity of art that has featured in SRAP activities which has included: visual art, sculpture, language, building and landscape architecture; film, music, and sound art. She discussed a number of artists and artworks that had been featured, including this year's sculpture works by Óscar Martín de Burgos'.

She also engaged the audience with some non-visual elements of art that had featured in previous events, including an audio excerpt from Nigel Helyer's 'The Law of the Tongue' installation, from the SRAP Air Forum of 2017.



Enhancing international collaboration between Australia, Spain, and Latin America



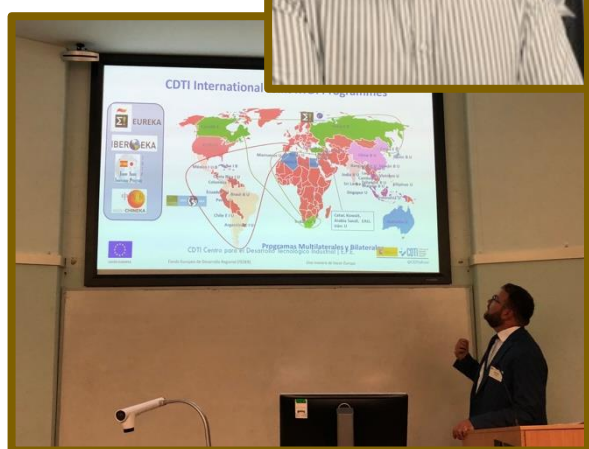
Mr Noel Campbell, Assoc. Director, Australian National Centre for Latin American Studies & School of Politics and International Relations, ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences chaired a session on various ways to enhance international collaboration.



The role of funding agencies in research and development collaboration between Australia and Spain:
The case of CDTI (Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology)

Mr Carlos Domene González, International R&D&i Advisor for the Spanish Innovation Agency in Australia outlined a number of joint research technology, development and innovation programs. He also spoke about potential collaboration sectors between Spain and Australia:

- resources and renewable energies;
- transport infrastructure;
- health and biotechnology;
- agriculture;
- space;
- advanced manufacturing;
- recycling; and
- Defence.



The role of universities in research and education in Australia, Spain and Latin America: The case of Loyola University

Prof Carlos García-Alonso, Professor of Operational Research and Information Systems, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research. Univ. Loyola Andalusia, Spain told the story of Loyola University's evolution from a business administration college of 50 years, to a University of nine years, now offering higher education, expanded curriculum, and scientific research.

He spoke of the university's investment in communication, internationalisation, and improving faculty scientific research, which has enhanced international cooperation. One example is in the case of mental health research; leading to the bestowment of this year's **Malaspina Award**.



...international collaboration success stories





The role of a researchers' organisation in enhancing collaboration between Australia, Spain and Latin America: The case of SRAP

A/Prof José Alberto Salinas, Associate Professor of Quantitative Methods at Universidad Loyola Andalusia, Spain, and ANU Centre for Mental Health Research, spoke to the importance for **SRAP** to promote science diplomacy, networking and joint activities between **Spanish and Ibero-American scientists**; given the strong historic bonds.

- **Argentina**
- **Brazil**
- **Chile**
- **Colombia**
- **Mexico**
- **Panama**
- **Peru**
- **Portugal**
- **Spain**



He noted a number of SRAP activities which are enhancing this collaboration. These include SRAP *Research Bites* seminars highlighting IberoAmerican Researchers in Australia, an Ibero-American conference series, and co-organisation of Latin-American activities with the Cervantes Institute. Activities thus far have connected researchers from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Portugal, and Spain.

The role of public health agencies in enhancing collaboration between Australia and Latin America: The case of Mexico



Dr Eduardo Lazcano-Ponce, Director, National School of Public Health, Mexico cited internationalisation of the Mexican Public Health School's academic program, the **MENT-AL** consortium Australia-Latin America, and The Council on Australia Latin America Relations (COALAR), as examples of Mexican public health agency contributions to Australian and Latin American collaboration.

Promoting
joint activities
between Spanish
and Ibero-American
scientists



Roundtable: Where next?



This session was chaired by **Prof Carola Vinuesa**, Co-Director, Centre for Personalised Immunology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU.

In this session **Mr Luis Sánchez-Vellisco** gave an overview of Spain's international science cooperation of recent years and summarised some of the challenges and opportunities in promoting science.



Mr David Ferrán spoke about the activities of the Spanish Education Office at the Embassy, emphasising the importance of 'Content and Language Integrated Learning'.

Prof Vinuesa then facilitated what was a very interesting roundtable discussion considering:

"Australian-Spanish collaboration in research and development: where next?"

Roundtable participants



Mr Luis Sánchez-Vellisco,
Deputy Head of Mission,
Embassy of Spain, Canberra



Mr David Ferrán,
Counsellor (Education),
Embassy of Spain, Canberra



Ms Anna Miller,
General Manager,
La Camara, Sydney



A/Prof Ana Vila-Concejo,
Deputy Director,
One Tree Island
Research Station,
University of Sydney



Mr Alfonso Garcia-Valdes,
Managing Director,
Navantia Australia Pty Ltd



Concluding Remarks

Convenor, **Prof Luis Salvador-Carulla**, called upon SRAP Vice President, **Dr Joaquín Valderrama-Valenzuela**, to close the event.

Dr Valderrama-Valenzuela thanked the sponsors and institutions for their constant support; the speakers for their participation; and everyone in the audience for attending and raising questions to contribute to what had been interesting and robust discussions around the journey so far, and where to now.



He spoke enthusiastically about the upcoming SRAP activities for 2020 and encouraged everyone to stay in touch via the SRAP website srap-ieap.org and social media.

...a SRAP wrap

Sponsors

Event Sponsors

SRAP acknowledges the generous support of its sponsors who were formally acknowledged during the opening and closing ceremonies and throughout the event, and on distributed marketing material (print and online), including the event program.



FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES



Australian
National
University



Partner

SRAP acknowledges artist, **Óscar Martín de Burgos**, for providing his artwork, 'Koala (2016)' (pictured left) for use in the event marketing, and for creating the 2019 Malaspina Award (pictured right)



Óscar Martín de Burgos with Prof Carlos García-Alonso at the 2019 Malaspina Award presentation

About the artist

You can read more about **Óscar Martín de Burgos**: <http://oscarmartindeburgos.com>.

Bringing it all together

Organising Committee

SRAP acknowledges the organising committee members for their extensive work bringing together a successful event:

- Professor Luis Salvador-Carulla
- Dr Joaquín Valderrama-Valenzuela
- Dr Paula Llull
- Ms Marita Linkson



*5th Australia-Spain Research Forum Organising Committee, from L to R:
Prof Luis Salvador-Carulla (Convenor), Dr Paula Llull, Dr Joaquín Valderrama-Valenzuela, Ms Marita Linkson.*

Participants

SRAP acknowledges the contribution of all participating **Chairs and Presenters**, and the many **SRAP members** who assisted the committee in various ways.

Host Organisation

The event was hosted by the **ANU Centre for Mental Health Research**, headed by Professor Luis Salvador-Carulla, and held in the **ANU Research School of Population Health's** Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre at the ANU Acton campus in Canberra.

This report was prepared by Marita Linkson, Centre for Mental Health Research, Australian National University, on behalf of the Association of Spanish Researchers in Australia-Pacific.