



PASSION FOR KNOWLEDGE

Nazioarteko Zientzia Jaialdia
Festival Internacional de Ciencia
International Science Festival

PROGRAMME



28/09 → 03/10/2026
DONOSTIA / SAN SEBASTIÁN
BILBAO

 Donostia
International
Physics Center

PASSION FOR KNOWLEDGE

Passion for Knowledge (P4K) is an international science festival open to everyone, organized by Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC). With an innovative approach and a wide-ranging programme of activities, the festival promotes science as a key cultural endeavor that can contribute to the well-being of future generations and as a driving force for scientific, technological and social progress.

The sixth edition of Passion for Knowledge will take place from 28 September to 3 October 2026. The Victoria Eugenia Theatre in Donostia / San Sebastián will once again be the festival's main venue, while Bilbao will also host some of the scheduled activities.

Passion for Knowledge brings together Nobel Prize laureates and leading figures from science, culture and contemporary thought, with the aim of bringing knowledge closer to society and fostering dialogue across disciplines. The festival

offers a unique space to reflect on how scientific and humanistic knowledge helps shape our culture, our values and our vision of the future.

The programme combines plenary lectures with activities aimed at different audiences, including meetings with secondary school students, Naukas sessions, workshops for children, performances, and science outreach activities led by renowned content creators, among other initiatives.

+ info



p4k.dipc.org



P4K!

PLENARY LECTURES



The hallmark of the festival. Every afternoon, the Victoria Eugenia Theatre brings together Nobel Prize laureates and other internationally renowned figures from science and other fields for a unique opportunity to share the passion for knowledge with society as a whole.

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PLENARY LECTURERS



Eneko Agirre

The scientist who teaches machines to understand human language

Eneko Agirre is Full Professor of Informatics and Head of the HiTZ Basque Center for Language Technology at the University of the Basque Country (EHU). This computer scientist is internationally recognized for his contributions to natural language processing, the branch of artificial intelligence that enables computers to understand and generate human language. His groundbreaking work in Natural Language Processing and AI semantics has earned him three Google Research Awards and multiple best paper accolades. He received the 2021 SCIE-Fundación BBVA National Computer Science Award and is a Fellow of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL).



Juan Ignacio Cirac

One of the visionaries behind the quantum computer

Juan Ignacio Cirac is one of the directors of the Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, a recipient of the Prince of Asturias Award in 2006 and the Wolf Prize in 2013. The physicist has proposed some of the most important ideas for applying quantum physics to computing and is considered one of the architects of the quantum computer. His research focuses on quantum information theory and the development of quantum computing systems, a technology that could transform the way we process information and tackle complex problems.



Sandra Myrna Díaz

The advocate of the 'web of life' in the face of the climate crisis

Sandra Myrna Díaz is Professor of Ecology at the National University of Córdoba (Argentina) and one of the world's leading experts on biodiversity. She shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and received the 2019 Princess of Asturias Award for her efforts to combat climate change and protect biodiversity. Her research has transformed our understanding of how plant diversity sustains ecosystems and contributes to human well-being, helping shape international biodiversity and sustainability policies.



Pedro Miguel Etxenike

The physicist who put science at the heart of a country

The DIPC president, Pedro Miguel Etxenike, is a physicist specializing in condensed matter, particularly in the fields of surface physics and electron dynamics, with an outstanding career in research and academia. He has played a key role in shaping the Basque research ecosystem, promoting institutions such as Jakiunde, the Materials Physics Center, CIC nanoGUNE and DIPC. He also served as Minister of Education and Culture in the first Basque Government, where he promoted research, science, and technology, as well as the standardization of the Basque language. Professor emeritus at the University of the Basque Country (EHU), among his numerous honors are the Prince of Asturias Award, the Max Planck Prize in Physics, and the Euskadi Prize for Science.



Juan José Gómez Cadenas

The scientist searching for neutrinos to understand the universe

Juan José Gómez Cadenas is an Ikerbasque Research Professor at the DIPIC and director of the NEXT experiment at the Canfranc Underground Laboratory. His research focuses on particle and astroparticle physics, neutrino physics and nuclear instrumentation. One of NEXT's main goals is the search for the elusive neutrinoless double-beta decay, whose observation would demonstrate that the neutrino is its own antiparticle. In 2016, he received the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics and has been awarded two prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grants. He combines his scientific career with his work as a writer. He has published five novels, two popular science books and a book of poetry.



Siri Hustvedt

The voice of the dialogue between literature and neuroscience

Siri Hustvedt is an internationally acclaimed novelist, essayist and intellectual, and 2019 Princess of Asturias Award laureate for Literature. Author of 'The Blazing World' and 'Memories of the Future', as well as the recently published 'Ghost Stories' (2026), the American writer is renowned for bringing together literature, neuroscience, philosophy and psychology to explore the nature of memory, consciousness and human identity. Translated into more than thirty languages, she is also professor in psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College, where she promotes dialogue between the sciences and the humanities.



Wolfgang Ketterle

The creator of new states of matter at ultracold temperatures

Wolfgang Ketterle is the John D. MacArthur Professor of Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and 2001 Nobel Prize in Physics laureate. The German physicist is internationally renowned for the first observation of Bose-Einstein condensation in a gas, a breakthrough that revealed a new state of matter and opened new frontiers in quantum physics. His research explores the extraordinary properties of ultracold atoms, helping scientists better understand quantum phenomena with potential applications in quantum technologies.



Jean-Marie Lehn

The father of supramolecular chemistry

Jean-Marie Lehn is a professor emeritus at the University of Strasbourg and the recipient of the 1987 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This French chemist is one of the pioneers of supramolecular chemistry, a field that studies how molecules can recognize, associate with, and organize themselves to form more complex structures—a process fundamental to biological processes. His research has opened new avenues for designing molecular systems capable of self-organizing and performing specific functions, laying the groundwork for new advances in nanoscience and smart materials.



Anne L'Huillier

The first to film the dance of electrons

Anne L'Huillier is Professor of Physics at Lund University (Sweden) and 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics laureate. The French-Swedish physicist is one of the pioneers of attosecond science, a field that has made possible to observe the motion of electrons inside atoms for the first time. Her groundbreaking research on the generation of ultrashort light pulses has opened a new window into the microscopic world, laying the foundations for major advances in physics, chemistry and materials science.



Eva Nogales

The photographer of cell division and gene expression

Eva Nogales is Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of California, Berkeley, researcher at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and 2023 Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine laureate. This biophysicist is internationally recognized for revealing the three-dimensional structures of the molecular machines that control cell division and gene expression. Using cutting-edge cryo-electron microscopy, her research has transformed our understanding of how cells function, with major implications for the research on cancer, genetics and drug development.



Marcus du Sautoy

The mathematician of art and creativity

Marcus du Sautoy is the Simonyi Professor for the Public Understanding of Science and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford. One of the world's most renowned science communicators, the British mathematician explores how mathematics shapes everything from art and music to artificial intelligence and human creativity. A bestselling author, broadcaster and playwright, he has inspired millions through books, television and theatre. He was awarded the Royal Society's Faraday Prize in 2009 for excellence in science communication and was appointed OBE for services to science in 2010.



Brian Schmidt

The supernova hunter who detected the accelerating universe

Brian Schmidt is Distinguished Professor of Astronomy at the Australian National University and 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics laureate. The American-Australian astrophysicist led the High-Z Supernova Search Team, whose observations revealed that the expansion of the Universe is accelerating—a groundbreaking discovery that transformed our understanding of the cosmos and pointed to the existence of dark energy. His research spans a wide range of astrophysical phenomena, including supernovae, gamma-ray bursts, gravitational waves and exoplanets, helping to answer some of the most fundamental questions about the Universe.



Ana Zubiaga

The decoder of the mechanisms that protect us from cancer

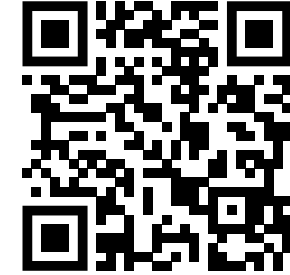
Ana Zubiaga is Professor of Genetics at the University of the Basque Country (EHU) and leading expert in the molecular mechanisms that drive cancer. Her research explores how healthy cells control their growth and protect the integrity of their DNA, and how failures in these processes can lead to tumour development. Her discoveries have identified new vulnerabilities in cancer cells that could be exploited to develop more effective treatments, while her recent work has revealed how tumours evade the immune system, opening new possibilities for combining targeted therapies with cancer immunotherapy.

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NEW VOICES

This year, the festival introduces a new session where leading contemporary voices in science and science communication offer fresh perspectives on the major challenges and advances of our time. Dialogues, interviews and presentations to help us understand the world to come.



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María Martín-Torres

The detective of the origins of our species

María Martín-Torres is a physician and a leading palaeoanthropologist who directs the National Research Centre for Human Evolution (CENIEH). A member of the Atapuerca Research Team since 1998, she is currently co-director of the Atapuerca excavations and co-principal investigator of the research project. She specialises in dental anthropology, hominin palaeobiology and early human migrations. Her international research has advanced our understanding of Europe's first populations. She is an Honorary Professor at University College London and received the prestigious Royal Anthropological Institute's Rivers Memorial Medal in 2019.





Román Orús

A pioneer in quantum algorithms and artificial intelligence

Román Orús is an Ikerbasque Research Professor at the Donostia International Physics Center (DIPC) and co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Multiverse Computing. The theoretical physicist is a leading expert in quantum computing and quantum artificial intelligence. His research has played a key role in translating breakthroughs in quantum physics into innovative solutions for industry. He received the 2024 Physics, Innovation and Technology Award and serves on the United Nations Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence.



Eduardo Sáenz de Cabezón

The mathematician who inspires audiences, one derivative at a time

Eduardo Sáenz de Cabezón is Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of La Rioja and one of Spain's most influential science communicators. The mathematician combines internationally recognized research in computational algebra with a passion for making mathematics accessible to everyone. Through his YouTube channel 'Derivando', with more than 1.5 million subscribers, the TV show 'Órbita Laika', books and public talks, he has inspired millions of people to discover the beauty and relevance of mathematics in everyday life.



P4K!

NAUKAS PASSION



Humour, scepticism and plenty of science are the hallmarks of the people who bring Naukas to life. A session held in collaboration with the **Chair of Scientific Culture of the University of the Basque Country (EHU)**.

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BERTSO PASSION

The tradition of *bertsolarismo* takes centre stage with some of its most renowned voices. A unique opportunity to enjoy one of the Basque Country's most distinctive cultural expressions, where poetry is created and shared in the very same moment.

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PASSION TXIKI

Families are also invited to enjoy science. A programme designed to spark curiosity among the youngest members of the audience through play, experimentation and imagination. Workshops, storytelling and activities to discover that science can be a great adventure.

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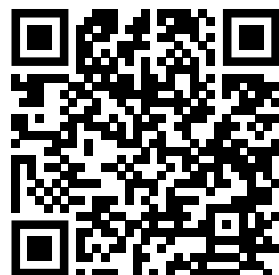


ENCOUNTERS WITH STUDENTS



One of the festival's highlights is the encounters **Zientziarekin solasean!**, which brings secondary school students from the Basque Country together with Nobel Prize laureates and international leading figures in science. A unique opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists.

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SEPTEMBER 29
VICTORIA EUGENIA THEATRE, DONOSTIA / SAN SEBASTIÁN



Anne L'Huillier



Ginés Morata



Brian Schmidt

OCTOBER 1
BIZKAIA ARETOA EHU, BILBAO



Albert Fert



Eva Nogales



Marcus du Sautoy

PhD TRAINING

In collaboration with **Euskampus Fundazioa**, Passion for Knowledge organizes a training day focused on developing transferable skills and sharing experiences. The workshop Scientific Discovery in the Era of AI will also offer PhD students from all scientific disciplines an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with some of the figures invited to the festival.

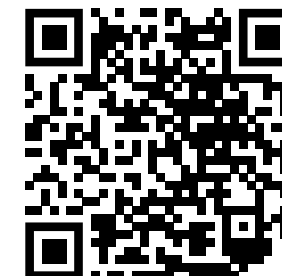
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EMAKUMEAK ZIENTZIAN

In collaboration with **Emakumeak Zientzian**, the Passion for Knowledge festival will host a day dedicated to reflecting on mental health and wellbeing in the field of research, with a particular focus on the inequalities and challenges faced by women throughout their scientific careers.

The session will combine an introductory talk on the topic with a round-table discussion bringing together female scientists from different generations to share experiences and discuss how to move towards a healthier, more equal and sustainable scientific system



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SPARK SATELLITE WORKSHOP

SPARK (Sessions in Physics: Advancing Research and Knowledge) is a new initiative by DIPC that brings together international researchers to foster scientific collaboration and knowledge exchange. As part of Passion for Knowledge, the programme includes a workshop open to the entire scientific community focusing on quantum materials with exotic properties.

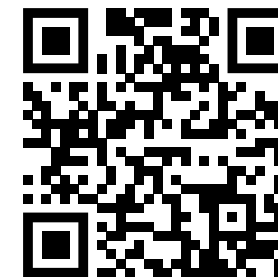


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ON ZIENTZIA

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During the festival, the best On Zientzia videos will be screened at various cultural and leisure venues. On Zientzia is a competition that recognizes audiovisual documentary-style content creation projects, organized by **Elhuyar** and DIPC in collaboration with EITB's Teknopolis programme.





	MONDAY 28 SEPT	TUESDAY 29 SEPT	WEDNESDAY 30 SEPT	THURSDAY 1 OCT	FRIDAY 2 OCT	SATURDAY 3 OCT	SUNDAY 4 OCT
Morning		ENCOUNTERS WITH STUDENTS 9:00 - 12:30 Ginés Morata, Developmental genetics Anne L'Huillier, Attosecond physics Brian Schmidt, Astrophysics Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PhD TRAINING 9:30 - 13:30 Workshop Jean-Marie Lehn, Supramolecular chemistry Sandra Myrna Díaz, Biodiversity and climate change Miramar Palace	ENCOUNTERS WITH STUDENTS 9:00 - 12:30 Albert Fert, Spintronics Marcus du Sautoy, Mathematics Eva Nogales, Molecular and cell biology Bizkaia Aretoa, EHU	EMAKUMEAK ZIENTZIAN 10:00 - 12:00 Rosa Molina, Mental health Round table Rosa Molina María Vallet Regi Susana Carregal Carlos Santamaría Centre, EHU	PASSION TXIKI 10:00 - 13:00 Nik ikertzen dut, Science Circuit (Mad Science) Ilargira joateko prest? Science performance (Ana Galarraga) Victoria Eugenia Theatre, Club Room	PASSION TXIKI 11:00 - 13:00 Workshop Kids Families Tabakalera, Medialab
Afternoon	PLENARY LECTURES 18:00 - 20:30 Opening Institutional greetings Anne L'Huillier, Attosecond physics Brian Schmidt, Astrophysics Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PLENARY LECTURES 18:00 - 19:30 Ana Zubiaga, Genetics and cancer Sandra Myrna Díaz, Biodiversity and climate change Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PLENARY LECTURES 18:00 - 19:30 Marcus du Sautoy, Mathematics Dialogue Jean-Marie Lehn & Pedro Miguel Etxenike Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PLENARY LECTURES 18:00 - 19:30 Siri Hustvedt, Literature Juan José Gómez Cadenas, Particle physics Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PASSION TXIKI 17:30 - 19:30 Nik ikertzen dut, Science Circuit (Mad Science) Victoria Eugenia Theatre, Club Room	NEW VOICES 18:00 - 18:45 Eduardo Sáenz de Cabezón, Mathematics Victoria Eugenia Theatre	
		NEW VOICES 19:30 - 20:30 Dialogue María Martinón & Román Orús Victoria Eugenia Theatre	BERTSO PASSION 19:30 - 20:30 Ametis Arzallus Andoni Egaña Maialen Lujanbio Aitor Mendiluze Maite Berrioizabal, gai-jartzailea Victoria Eugenia Theatre	NAUKAS PASSION 19:30 - 20:30 Antonio Martínez Ron Juan Carlos Gil Oskar González Gemma del Caño Laura Morán José Miguel Viñas Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PLENARY LECTURES 18:00 - 19:30 Juan Ignacio Cirac, Quantum physics Eneko Agirre, Artificial intelligence Victoria Eugenia Theatre	PLENARY LECTURES 18:45 - 20:30 Wolfgang Ketterle, Quantum physics Eva Nogales, Molecular and cell biology Closing Victoria Eugenia Theatre	
				PLENARY LECTURE 18:00 - 19:00 Wolfgang Ketterle, Quantum physics Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao		NAUKAS PASSION 19:30 - 20:30 Marga Sánchez Romero Joaquin Sevilla Isabel Moreno Helena González Eva Caballero Ignacio López Goñi Victoria Eugenia Theatre	
All day	SPARK SATELLITE WORKSHOP			Miramar Palace			

EVENT TYPE



AUDIENCE



VENUES



COMMITTEE

Presidency

Pedro Miguel Etxenike
President of P4K 2026
President of DIPC
Emeritus Professor EHU

Ricardo Díez Muiño
President of P4K 2026
Director of DIPC
Ikerbasque Research Professor

General Coordination

Nora González
Director of Outreach and Communication, DIPC

Executive Committee

Itxaso Azcune
Outreach and Communication, DIPC

Iker Badiola
Director of the EHU Chair of Scientific Culture

Igor Campillo
Director of Euskampus Fundazioa

Aitzol García Etxarri
Ikerbasque Research Associate Professor, DIPC

Arantzazu García Lekue
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Ikerbasque Research Professor

Geza Giedke
Ikerbasque Research Professor, DIPC

Jon Mattin Matxain
Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry (EHU)

Mónica Moreno
Head of Projects, POLYMAT

Idoia Mugica
Outreach Manager, CFM (CSIC – EHU)

Beñat Olabe
Outreach Manager, POLYMAT

Itziar Otegui
Outreach Manager, CIC nanoGUNE

Javier Peláez
Naukas co-founder

Valentina Rodríguez
Outreach and Communication, DIPC

Eduardo Sáenz de Cabezón
Professor at University of La Rioja

Manex Urruzula
Head of Elhuyar's Communication Unit

Marta Vega de Seoane
Outreach and Communication, DIPC

SPONSORS

DIPC is funded by the following institutions:



P4K Festival collaborators:



DIPC is especially grateful to the Basque Government for its continued support for the Passion for Knowledge festival.



Science is culture.
It belongs to all of us.
Enjoy it.





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Knowledge



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