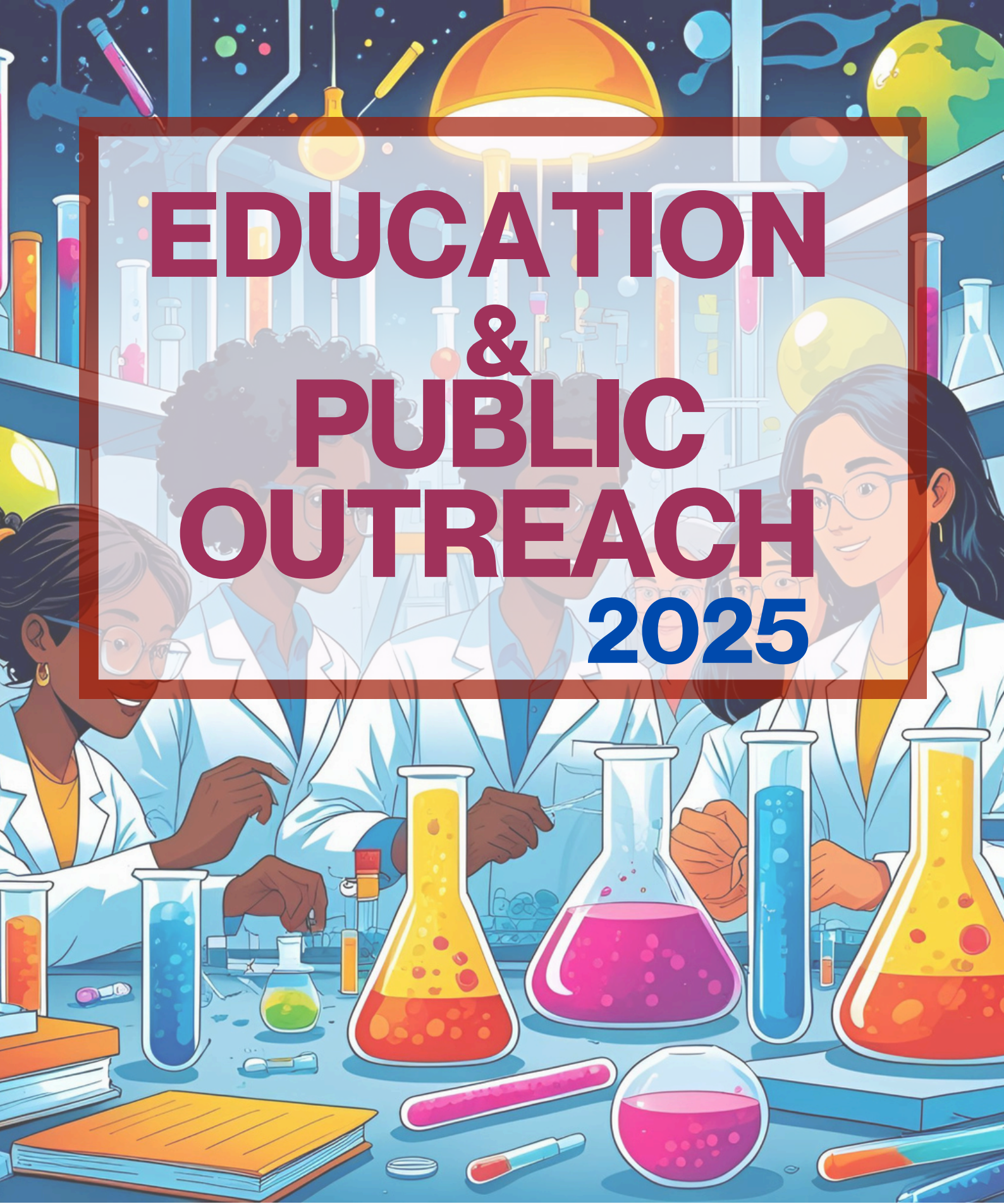
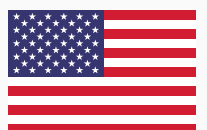




EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH 2025



ECUSA
ESPAÑOL
CIENTÍFICOS
EN USA



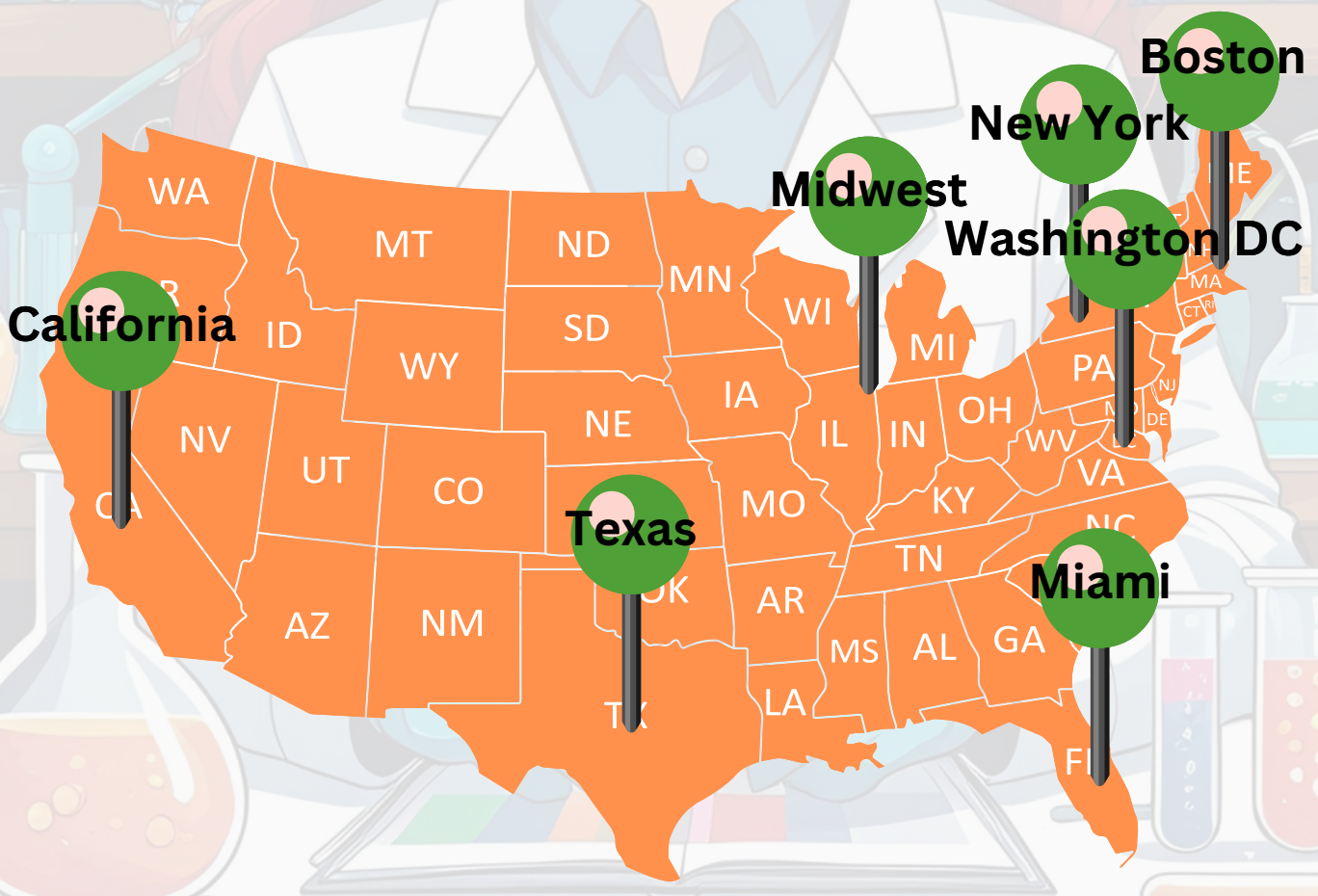
ECUSA

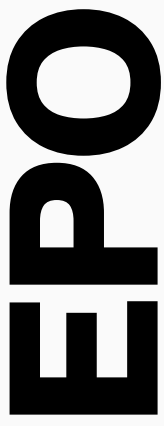
Spanish Scientists in the USA (ECUSA) is a non-profit organization of Spanish scientists founded in 2014 with the aim of promoting and disseminating the role of science, technology, and scientific professionals.

ECUSA seeks to contribute to scientific knowledge through the organization of science and technology outreach activities, as well as to support Spanish scientists in their personal and professional development.

ECUSA aspires to be a leading organization in the field of science and technology and to serve as a scientific knowledge platform that inspires society to build a better world.

Where are we?





The **Education and Public Outreach (EPO)** Committee's mission is to foster interest in science and to raise awareness of different aspects of science and technology. To this end, EPO organizes a wide range of outreach activities, as well as science fairs, workshops, talks, projects, and educational programs in schools, high schools, and community centers, in both English and Spanish.

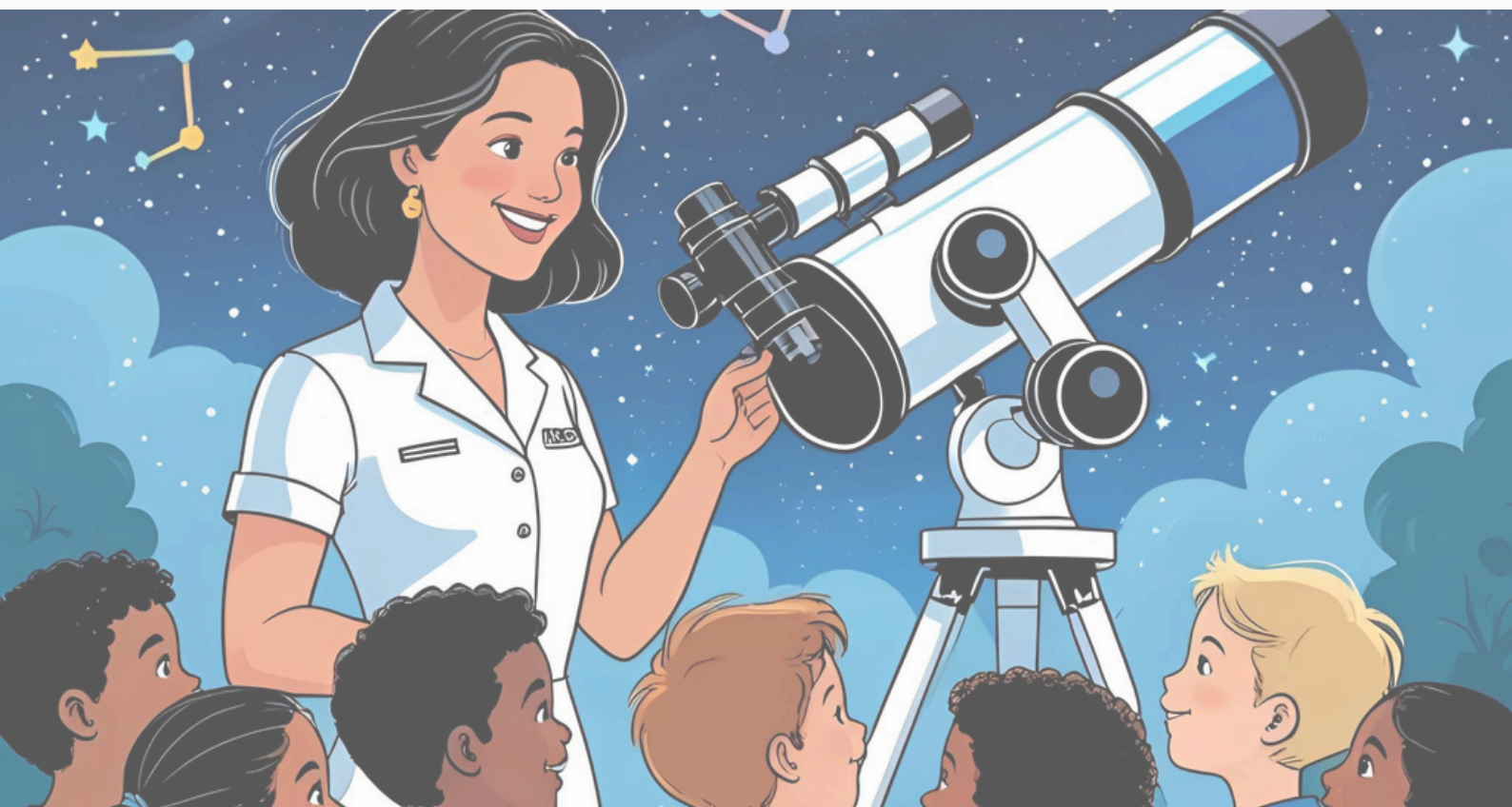
These initiatives aim to engage the broader civil society—including children, adolescents, and students of all ages—in STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), promoting scientific and technical knowledge and bringing scientific careers closer to new generations. In addition, EPO seeks to raise public awareness of the importance of science and its benefits in everyday life.



www.ecusa.es/epo



epo@ecusa.es



EPO 2025

It has been a true honor to serve as Chair of the Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Committee of ECUSA over the past two years. The year 2025 has been extraordinary, marked by the growth of our local and national activities, the consolidation of existing projects, and the creation of new programs that have brought science closer to society in innovative and engaging ways.

Among our most notable achievements is the continuation of the **“Ciencia al Aire Libre”** program in Washington, DC, which brought together many families in natural settings to explore the importance of nature and the universe. We also promoted science among young people and students through workshops, talks, and interactive activities in **Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, Boston, Chicago, and New York**, integrating art as a bridge to engage with science.

This year, we strengthened our collaborations with other ECUSA committees and chapters, participating in major events such as the **Kids EuroFest in Washington, DC, the Seventh New York Book Fair, and the Second White Night of Science in Chicago.**

In addition, in 2025 we launched two new programs: **“Sabías qué...?”**, aimed at sharing basic scientific concepts with the support of ECUSA members, and **“Lecturas con Ciencia”**, designed to promote reading among both adults and children as an accessible and enjoyable way to learn science.

None of this would have been possible without the **strong spirit of volunteerism and collaboration** that defines ECUSA’s EPO Committee. The commitment of its members, as well as that of our partners and friends both within and outside the United States, has been essential in bringing science into everyday life, inspiring curiosity, and fostering scientific vocations in new generations.

Thank you very much for these two years filled with growth, learning, and happiness.

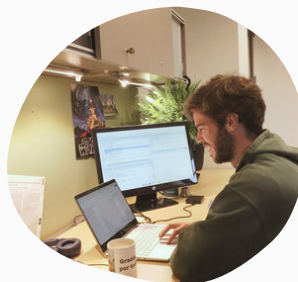
Laura Ramajo, PhD
Chair - Education and Public Outreach (EPO)
(2023 - 2025)



LAURA RAMAJO
CHAIR



NURIA LAFUENTE
CO-CHAIR



**IMANOL
MIQUELEIZ**



**IÑAKI
UGARTE**



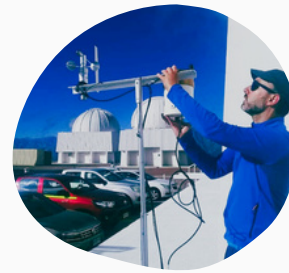
**JUAN
RODRÍGUEZ**



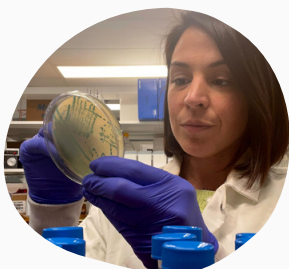
**PAULA R.
VILLAMAYOR**



**SUSANA
MARTÍNEZ**



**MIGUEL
MARTÍNEZ**



**IRENE
FALCÓ**



**MARTA
CELORRIO**



**JOSE ANTONIO
LÓPEZ-VALVERDE**



**MARIA ASCENSIÓN
ARIZA**

EPO PROGRAMS



The EPO program “**ESPEJO ECUSA**” aims to inspire new generations of scientists—students in schools across Spain—by connecting them with science professionals and ECUSA members who are alumni and serve as role models in whom they can see their own potential reflected.



During 2025, two ECUSA scientists participated in activities with educational centers in Spain coordinated through the ESPEJO ECUSA program. **Dr. Marta Celorrio Navarro (Washington University in St. Louis, MO)** delivered two in-person talks at two schools in Navarra: Colegio Elías Teres de Funes and Instituto de E.S. Ribera del Arga de Peralta. In addition, researcher **Irene Mena (The Ohio State University)** gave a virtual talk at I.E.S. José Hierro in Getafe, Madrid.

A poster for Irene Mena's talk. It features the ESPEJO ECUSA logo at the top right. The main title is '¿QUÉ ES SER UNA CIENTÍFICA?' in bold black letters. Below the title, there is a circular photo of Irene Mena. To the left of the photo, there is a text box with the following content: 'Irene Mena, investigadora en la Universidad Estatal de Ohio, explicó a 60 alumnos del instituto José Hierro de Getafe, su localidad natal, cómo es el trabajo de laboratorio de una científica en EE.UU. Les habló de herpesvirus y neurociencia, además de animarles a elegir una carrera STEM.' At the bottom, it says 'Inspirando vocaciones científicas - espejo@ecusa.es'.

A poster for Marta Celorrio's talk. It features the ESPEJO ECUSA logo at the top right. The main title is '¿QUÉ ES SER UNA NEUROCIÉNTIFICA?' in bold black letters. Below the title, there is a circular photo of Marta Celorrio. To the left of the photo, there is a text box with the following content: 'Marta Celorrio, miembro de ECUSA e investigadora en la Universidad de Washington, St. Louis, Missouri, visitó su antiguo colegio para explicar a los alumnos de hoy qué es la neurociencia y cómo recorrió ella ese camino desde Funes hasta EE.UU.' At the bottom, it says 'Inspirando vocaciones científicas - espejo@ecusa.es'.



If you are an ECUSA member and would like to learn more, please email us at espejo@ecusa.es and visit our website: <https://ecusa.es/espejo-ecusa>.



The “**ESPEJO ECUSA**” program is led by **Dr. Iñaki Ugarte Urrea**, astrophysicist at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and **Dr. Marta Celorrio Navarro**, neuroscientist at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

¿SABÍAS QUÉ ...?

Since its launch in 2025, the EPO science outreach program “**Sabías qué...?**” has published a total of nine editions, in which researchers and ECUSA members have shared the advances and results of their scientific work with the goal of bringing science closer to society and promoting interest in a variety of research topics.

During this year, the capsules have covered a wide range of topics, including the search for new treatments for pediatric brain cancer (**Dr. Ylenia Cendón**); the role of the ocean in climate change (**Dr. Elizabeth León-Palmero**); the development of new technologies applied to cancer therapies (**Dr. José Antonio López-Valverde**); the importance of microorganisms in food safety (**Dr. Irene Falcó**); the magnetosphere, its critical function, and the instruments used to monitor it (**Dr. Miguel Martínez-Ledesma**); advances in the treatment of oral diseases such as periodontitis (**Dr. Araceli Valverde**); the foundations of aggressive behavior (**Dr. Paula Villamayor**); advances in the treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases (**Dr. Almudena Chaves**); and how science uses errors in cell division to target certain types of cancer (**Dr. Iris Simón**).

All published capsules are available at www.ecusa.es/epo, as well as on ECUSA's social media channels, where they can be accessed at any time.



If you are an ECUSA member and would like to share your research with us, please submit your information by clicking the following link: <https://forms.gle/kYWfV41dTgJhtP2a8>. You can also scan the QR code.



Lecturas con Ciencia

The EPO program **“Lecturas con Ciencia”** has been publishing monthly recommendations of popular science books selected by ECUSA members since July 2025.

In each edition, ECUSA researchers from different disciplines suggest accessible, rigorous, and engaging readings, **aiming to spark scientific curiosity through books. The program also includes recommendations specifically designed for children, fostering an early interest in science.**

With this initiative, the EPO Committee reinforces its commitment to outreach in multiple formats, bringing science closer to diverse audiences and promoting critical thinking. The recommendations are shared through ECUSA’s social media channels and can also be accessed at: www.ecusa.es/epo.



If you are an ECUSA member and would like to submit a book recommendation, please write to us at epo@ecusa.es

Story Contest

Mission Universe: Stories to Explore Space

As part of its science outreach and youth creativity initiatives, ECUSA launched in 2025 the story contest **“Mission Universe: Stories to Explore Space.”** This contest was aimed at students aged 9 to 13 and sought to promote curiosity and interest in scientific knowledge from an early age.

More than 70 students from schools in **Boston, Maryland, Virginia, New York, and New Jersey** submitted their stories, which were evaluated by a panel of judges comprising researchers from **NASA**, as well as prestigious universities such as **Harvard, Cornell, and Illinois**, and renowned research centers including the **NIH** and the **Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**, among others.

In May, award ceremonies were held in Washington, D.C., Boston, and New Jersey to present participation certificates and prizes to the contest winners. In addition to the awards, these events provided opportunities to participate in scientific activities and educational talks.



Kids EuroFest

Space science, brought by NASA, arrived in October at the **Centro Cultural de España in Washington, D.C.**, through a series of interactive space exploration workshops aimed at children. This initiative transformed the cultural center into a dynamic learning environment, where curiosity and hands-on experimentation took center stage.

Begoña Vila and **Iker Liceaga**, EPO collaborators and Spanish scientists at NASA, guided participants through a practical and playful journey across the universe, presenting complex scientific concepts in a fun and educational way.

During the workshops, fundamental topics in astronomy and space exploration were explored through creative and participatory activities. Children learned about the **phases of the Moon** using Oreo cookies, built **satellites and spacecraft** with marshmallows, and explored phenomena such as **eclipses, planetary rotation, and the functioning of the solar system** using inflatable planets, which helped enhance visual and spatial understanding of these processes.



Kids EuroFest

Art, Science and Stories

Six stories from the contest “Mission Universe: Stories to Explore Space” were selected by the EPO-ECUSA team to be illustrated by the renowned Spanish artists **Carlos Díaz** and **Núria Tamarit**, in an initiative promoted by the Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Committee in collaboration with the **Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, D.C.**

The official presentation of the illustrations took place during **Kids EuroFest 2025**, where the authors not only received the illustrated versions of their stories but also had the opportunity to read their tales aloud, sharing their creativity and enthusiasm with families, teachers, and other attendees of the event.

Here are the illustrations along with a QR code so you can read the selected stories and continue exploring the universe through these wonderful tales.



ARTISTS

Núria Tamarit

Carlos Sánchez



@NURIATAMARIT



@G_HALLER

This activity was made possible thanks to the support and leadership of the **Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain in Washington, D.C.**, which welcomed our proposal with open arms. We would like to extend special thanks to **Antonio Álvarez Barthe, Miguel Alberó, Paula Sánchez, Juan Luís Cejudo, Ana Fernández, and Sofía Alises** for their leadership, commitment, and collaboration with ECUSA and EPO in bringing this initiative to life.

FILNYC – New York City International Book Fair

FILNYC has established itself year after year as a book fair that promotes Spanish as a living language of creation, reflection, and connection in the United States. On this occasion, EPO participated in a panel discussion titled **“The Blue Pulse of the Planet: Science and Resilience in the Face of Climate Change.”**

The discussion was moderated by Professor Juan Manuel Benítez (Columbia University) and featured the participation of three ECUSA members: **Violeta San Juan (NASA)**, **Elizabeth León (Princeton University)**, and **Imanol Miqueleiz (Cornell University)**.

During the event, discussions focused on individual and collective decision-making in the face of climate change, the most concerning data as well as signs of hope, and the role of the scientific community in outreach. Additionally, the discussion highlighted how science can collaborate with design and pedagogy to create innovative educational materials on sustainability.



We would like to thank **Dejanira Álvarez Cárdenas (Director General of FILNYC)** for the invitation and for providing a platform for science at this important event.



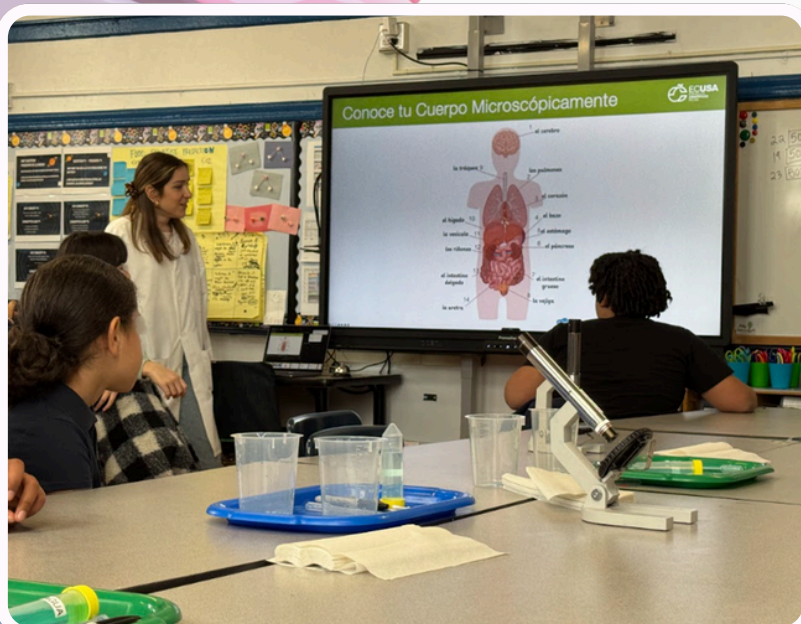
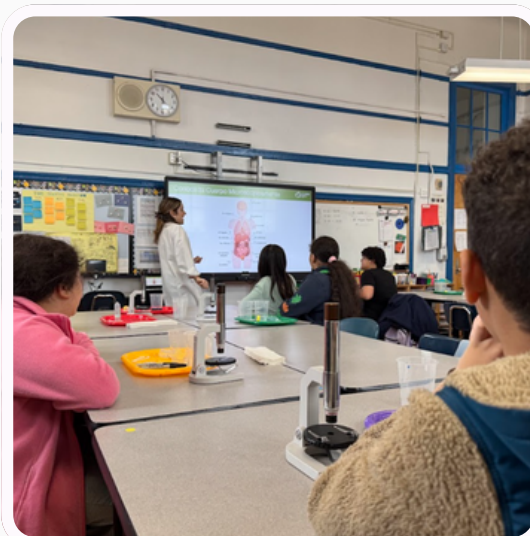
World Science Day

Visiting Dos Puentes Elementary School (Washington Heights)

On the occasion of World Science Day, ECUSA-NY-EPO members and volunteers brought science beyond the laboratories to engage young students with a workshop at the bilingual **Dos Puentes Elementary School in Washington Heights**.

Excited and eager to learn, the students discovered in a hands-on and fun way how the **human body** works. They first learned about the organization of **organs and tissues** and soon became the main actors in the experience: each student collected a sample of cells from their own cheek, stained it by hand, and observed it under a microscope.

The amazement on their faces when seeing their own cells for the first time was an unforgettable moment, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for science.



The workshop was made possible thanks to the dedication of ECUSA members **Juan Rodríguez, Paula Rodríguez,** and **Alejandra Laguillo,** as well as the support of the teaching staff at **Dos Puentes Elementary School**.

ECUSA also wishes to thank the **Education Attaché in New York (Education Office of the Embassy of Spain)** for their collaboration, whose support made this activity possible and helped inspire a new perspective on science in many of these children.

Art Contest

Mission Universe: Drawings to Explore Space

Young students (ages 4 to 8) from Colegio Arce and Amigos School in Boston participated in the art contest “Mission Universe: Drawings to Explore Space,” impressing us with their imagination and creativity. Their drawings depicted new worlds where color, themselves, and mysterious creatures were the main protagonists. The jury, composed of ECUSA members, faced a difficult task in evaluating the entries, considering originality, scientific content, and the message conveyed in each piece.

The award ceremony took place on May 21 at the **Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard**, coinciding with the story contest awards. The event was attended by the **Consul of Spain in Boston, Ms. Ana Durán**, and the **Director of the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard, Mr. Daniel Sánchez**.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the participants, their families, and the teachers who encouraged their students to enter the contest, as well as to the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard for providing the venue for the awards ceremony.



Second Prize

Santiago González Sánchez
“Nebulosa de aventuras”

First Prize

Eleanor Benjamín
“Star Rise”

Third Prize

Camila Hausmann
“Out of this world”



BOSTON

From the Classroom to Home, Science Never Stops



On October 19, students from **Colegio Arce in Boston** experienced a special day where science took center stage. Amid laughter, questions, and discoveries, they explored the mysteries of space and experimented with everyday phenomena. The activity, organized by **Nuria Lafuente (co-chair ECUSA-EPO)** for students and families, aimed to bring science beyond the laboratory and spark curiosity in children aged 5 to 13.

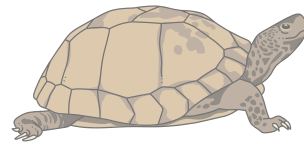
Classrooms were transformed into spaces of wonder, where each experiment opened the door to new questions.

Visiting the Museum of Science

To close the year in Boston, on Sunday, December 14, we held a family visit to the **Museum of Science**, where we enjoyed its various exhibitions. In addition, we organized a science scavenger hunt in which the participating children solved puzzles that guided them to the museum's paleontology exhibition, which will be the theme of the 2026 art and story contest. The activity was organized by **Nuria Lafuente (co-chair EPO-ECUSA)**.



Ciencia al Aire Libre



Visiting Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens



In 2025, we repeated our excursion to **Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens**, a national park located in Washington, D.C., which features a unique collection of lily and lotus ponds, wetlands, and natural trails along the Anacostia River. This distinctive garden is renowned for its biodiversity, particularly its birds, amphibians, and aquatic plants, and today it is a popular destination for birdwatching, photography, and environmental education.

The activity, organized by **Laura Ramajo (Chair EPO-ECUSA)** and **Miguel Martínez (ECUSA member)** for students (and their families) from the ALCE classrooms in Maryland and Virginia, offered a valuable opportunity to learn about the history of the Anacostia River Basin and the ongoing restoration process that this precious ecosystem is undergoing.

Astronomy Observation Night

For the second consecutive year, we gathered one December evening to observe the universe with ALCE students and their families from Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

While the clouds initially obscured the stars, more than 30 students and their families spent the time chatting about astronomy and participating in a fun raffle, which brought laughter and excitement. The wait was worth it: when the sky finally cleared, everyone was able to observe **Saturn and Neptune**, two of the most fascinating planets in the solar system. The most patient participants were rewarded with the grand prize: a spectacular **view of the Moon and its craters**.

The activity was organized by **Iñaki Ugarte (astrophysicist and ECUSA member)** and **Aliep Álvarez (ALCE parent and astronomy enthusiast)**, with the support of **Montse García (ALCE teacher)**.



Exploring Nature with ECUSA Members from Washington, D.C.

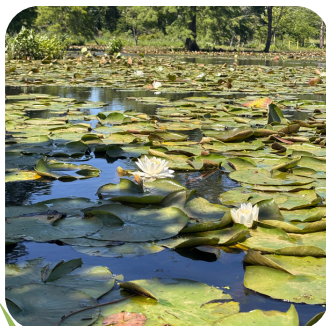
Visiting Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens

In May, we had the opportunity to visit **Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens** along with members of the Washington, D.C. chapter. During the day, we discussed science, conservation, and the importance of urban aquatic ecosystems while exploring the park's trails and gardens.

The activity also included a hands-on session to identify the species inhabiting the area, from reptiles to local birds and amphibians, allowing us to connect more deeply with the region's biodiversity. It was an enriching experience that combined learning, nature observation, and dialogue with other members of the scientific community.

A memorable day that reinforces the importance of knowing and protecting our urban natural spaces.

The activity was organized by **Laura Ramajo** (Chair ECUSA-EPO) and **Naroa Giménez** (Presidenta ECUSA-Washington DC).



Science Week

Exploring Light, Chemistry, and the Role of Women in Science for Children and Teenagers



During Science Week, various educational activities were held within the **ALCE program (Spanish Language and Culture Group)** to foster scientific curiosity and hands-on learning among children and teenagers.



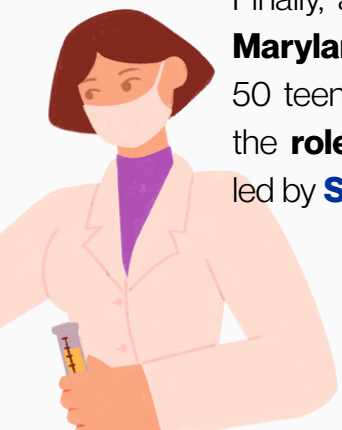
At the ALCE classroom of **Key Elementary School (Arlington, VA)**, two sessions were conducted. The first, aimed at children aged 9 to 11, focused on **light and astronomy**. Through games and experiments with lasers and lenses, participants explored concepts such as the propagation of light, phases of the Moon, eclipses, and the operation of telescopes.

The activity was led by **Iñaki Ugarte (Astronomer and Founder of ECUSA)**.

During the second session, students participated in making **lava lamps to understand the density of liquids and chemical reactions**. They also conducted experiments with simulated blood to learn about **blood types and transfusion compatibility**, and created **chemical pufferfish to observe gas production**. Additionally, students engaged in a hands-on activity about electricity and conductivity, identifying conductive and insulating materials. The session was led by **Ana Muñoz (former ECUSA president)**.



Finally, a talk was held in the ALCE classroom in **Maryland (Walter Johnson High School)** with 50 teenagers aged 13–14, focusing on highlighting the **role of women in science**. The activity was led by **Susana Martínez (Founder of ECUSA)**.



Second White Night of Science

On November 15, in Chicago, EPO enthusiastically participated in the **second edition of the White Night of Science, organized by the Midwest chapter**. This initiative brought together families and children around science outreach, creating an open and participatory space to bring science closer to the community. Three interactive workshops were offered, covering **Basic Science, Evolution and Civilizations, and Astronomy**.

Representing the EPO Committee, **Iñaki Ugarte (solar physicist) and Begoña Vila (astrophysicist and NASA engineer)** led an astronomy activity. During the session, the youngest participants had the opportunity to learn interactively about the **Moon's orbit around the Earth and its phases**. They also explored the fundamentals of **magnetism in the solar system**, with a special focus on the Sun and its sunspots.



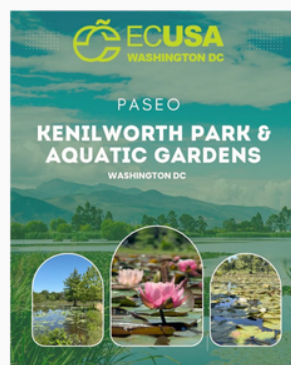
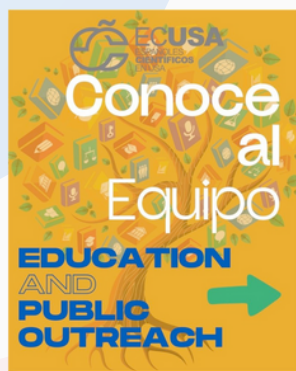
EPO ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Throughout this year, the **Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Committee** has been especially active on social media, consistently sharing the initiatives and programs we have developed.

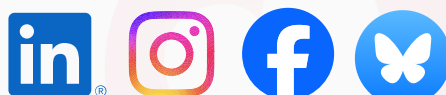
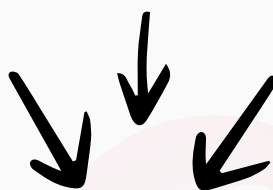
From school workshops and outdoor activities to astronomy nights and virtual family experiments, each post has served as a window to show how we bring science closer to different communities.

Social media has become a key space to amplify our work: it has allowed us to document our activities, give visibility to the volunteers who make them possible, and, above all, inspire more people to get involved.

Thanks to this communication effort, EPO has not only kept its community informed but also strengthened its role as a bridge between science and society.



Visit us



@comunidadECUSA



The Education and Public Outreach (EPO) Committee of ECUSA sincerely thanks the support received from the various ECUSA members as well as from all ECUSA friends, who, even without being members of our organization, have been essential to the success of our educational and outreach activities.

Finally, we would like to thank all the teachers from the different schools who made these activities possible.

ECUSA Members and Friends

Begoña Vila

Iker Liceaga

Araceli Valverde

Alejandra Laguillo Diego

Ana Muñoz

Naroa Giménez

Mila Sánchez

Daniel Jimenez-Sanchez

Ylenia Cendón

Juliana Abraham

Aliép Álvarez

Iris Simón

Sergio García

Fernando de Miguel

Colegios Arce and Amigos School de Boston

Laura Pallarés

Cristina Martínez

Caroline Butler-Rahman

Alicia Montero

Diana Carrera Cifuentes

Jen Sargent

Colegio HoLa Hoboken

Diana Carrera Cifuentes

Jen Sargent

Real Colegio Complutense de Harvard

Daniel Sánchez Mata

Our deepest thanks to **Montserrat García, María del Mar Arranz, Almudena Moyano (Programa ALCE)**, the **Oficina Cultural de la Embajada de España en Washington, D.C.**, the **Consulado de España en Boston**, the **Consejería de Educación de la Embajada de España (Nuria Algar y Diego Blázquez)**, a **Dejanira Álvarez Cárdenas (Directora General de la FILNYC)** and the **Sección Internacional Española de la Escuela Internacional de las Naciones Unidas** for their continuous and sustained support throughout the various activities carried out in 2025.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to the **Fundación Ramón Areces**, the main sponsor of our activities, for providing the funds that make all of these initiatives possible.

Sponsor:



FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES

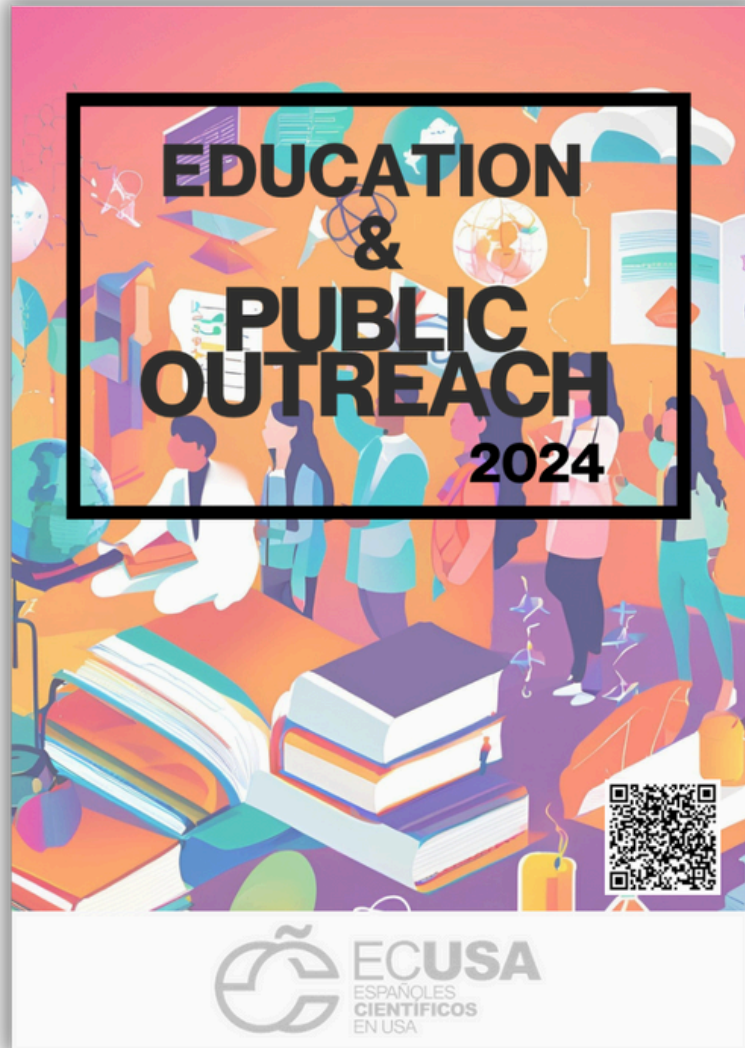
Collaborators:

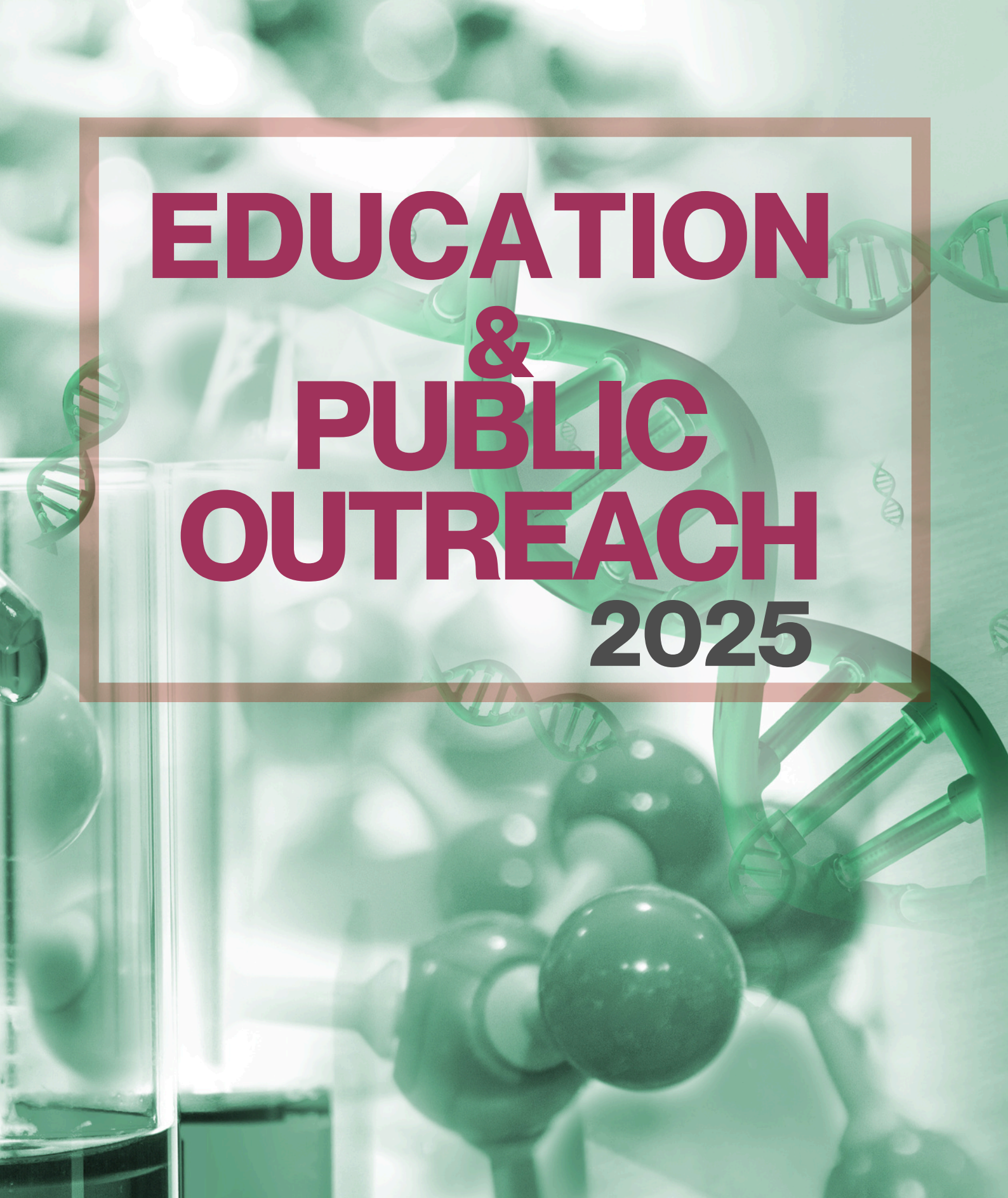


EPO REPORTS

Learn more about all our activities by visiting previous EPO reports (available in Spanish and English), which you can download at:

www.ecusa.es/epo





EDUCATION & PUBLIC OUTREACH

2025



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