

Bases of the VI IN Scientific Photography Contest

PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES

The Instituto de Neurociencias (IN), a joint center of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) and the Miguel Hernández University (UMH) of Elche, announces the 6th IN Scientific Photography Contest. Its goal is to create a shared scientific photography catalog within the IN community. This image catalog will contribute to promoting our work and showcasing the research and innovation carried out at this center.

This photo contest aims to display and share the beauty of the digital content generated daily by IN staff. It serves as a different way to understand our colleagues' work and enjoy learning by admiring science. The contest is intended to be held annually to maintain an updated and representative base of the work at IN. The images and videos will also be used for outreach and decorative purposes, such as printed photo sheets and temporary or permanent exhibitions at IN or upon request for photography exhibits, brochures, leaflets, calendars, web content, and other materials during events or when hosting external visitors.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anyone affiliated with the IN may participate: Master's and PhD students, teaching and research staff, administrative and technical staff. Members of the organizing committee and the jury are excluded.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

Each participant may submit up to three photographs or videos ("CONTENT" hereafter) that meet the following requirements:

1. The CONTENT must be original, not previously selected in other contests. The authors must be the creators of the image, not merely possessors of the CONTENT.
2. CONTENT must relate to scientific research at IN, reflecting the subject of study, the people involved, instruments, facilities, or scientific advances. This includes administrative work as long as it takes place at IN. CONTENT created with external equipment (e.g., electron microscopy) is valid if the samples and processing originated at IN.
3. Each CONTENT must include a title, a brief explanatory text (max 280 characters), and the brand/model of the acquisition equipment. Submissions can be in Spanish or English.
4. CONTENT must be in high quality, in a format compatible with X (Twitter), Bluesky, Instagram, and Facebook: JPEG, GIF, or PNG, and MP4 or MOV (up to 512 MB, 2:20 min, HD resolution) submitted via the participation form. Incompatible CONTENT will be discarded.
5. The authors warrant that the CONTENT is original, that they are the rightful owners of all rights inherent in it, and that it does not infringe on the rights of third parties.
6. CONTENT generated using artificial intelligence tools will not be accepted. However, CONTENT with a more artistic approach (such as collages, photo-

- montages, etc.) will be accepted, provided that the original images used to create the final submitted CONTENT are included with the submission.
7. The devices that can be used to capture CONTENT range from digital and analog cameras to microscopes and even screenshots. The latter should be understood as a way to capture something that cannot be captured with another device—for example, the work of someone performing computer-related tasks. Instead of capturing the moment with a camera, it is preferable to use a screenshot to preserve the quality.
 8. CONTENT will be posted on social media in the order received, at a cadence determined by the contest organizers based on the number of submissions and time available until the deadline.

Submission deadline: From the publication date of these rules until August 31, 2026, at 11:00 AM (Spain mainland time).

PARTICIPATION PROCESS

1. The author/s must fill in the following form **using their UMH email account**: <https://forms.gle/WHwPerPeThpvaEwj7>
2. Name and surname of the author as contact person. Specify the relationship to the IN.
3. The UMH email address will be automatically registered when submitting the form.
4. Select “Photo Competition VI” as the Type of Activity.
5. Fill out the “Summary” section with all the information required in Step 3 of “How to Participate.”
6. Attach the CONTENT in the “Multimedia” field.
7. Check the corresponding box to authorize the UMH-CSIC Institute of Neurosciences to use the CONTENT, in accordance with the provisions of the Intellectual Property Law.
8. Add your own X/Bluesky/Instagram/Facebook user accounts (if you have them and want to share them) and any others you want to mention in the post in the “Tag accounts” section.

ACCEPTANCE

Only CONTENT submitted during the designated period, that meets the requirements specified in these rules, and whose authors have completed the registration form will be accepted. All accepted CONTENT will be posted on the IN’s social media accounts on X, Bluesky, Instagram, and Facebook, along with the name(s) of the author(s) (and their usernames, if applicable) and the description provided (adapted, if necessary, to meet the length and format requirements of each platform).

SELECTION PROCESS

Two types of awards will be granted:

- **Public Award:** a selection based on the public impact of the images broadcast through IN’s social media (considering the number of interactions on Twitter and the number of “Likes” on Bluesky, Instagram and Facebook that the corresponding CONTENT obtains until the end of the contest term). Public voting will take place from the beginning of the contest until September 30th through the official X (Twitter), Bluesky, Instagram and Facebook accounts.

- **Jury Award:** selected by a committee of researchers, management, technical staff, and science communicators. Committee members cannot participate in the contest. The committee will select winners based on the following criteria:

- Content: scientific value, ability to convey research, relationship with science and scientific instruments, technical difficulty, novelty, originality, and artistic quality.
- Text: clarity, educational value, and originality will be valued.

The jury's decision is final and will be published on IN institutional social media accounts and emailed to all IN staff.

AWARDS

From both selection processes, 12 photographs will be selected for the IN 2027 Calendar. In addition, a Public Award, a Jury Award and one Jury Honorable Mention will be awarded. The Public Award may coincide with one of the Jury awards.

All authors of the 12 selected images will receive a copy of the IN 2026 Calendar. In addition, the following prizes will be awarded:

- The winner of the Jury's Prize will receive a €200 gift voucher to be exchanged at El Corte Inglés, sponsored by NeurotechEU.
- The winner of the Jury's Honorable Mention will receive a €150 gift voucher to be exchanged at El Corte Inglés, sponsored by IN.
- The winner of the Public Award will receive a €75 gift voucher to be exchanged at El Corte Inglés, sponsored by IN.

The Public Award may coincide with one of the Jury Awards.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND IMAGE RIGHTS

By participating in the contest and accepting the rules, the authors of the CONTENT authorize the Institute of Neurosciences to use said CONTENT and assign the rights to exploit said CONTENT, in accordance with the provisions of the Intellectual Property Law. These rights include the freedom, without any financial compensation, to reproduce, distribute, publicly communicate, and adapt the CONTENT in any medium, format, or platform, whether currently known or not. The IN may use all participating CONTENT, provided that the authorship is acknowledged and without any financial compensation. The final selection of the CONTENT to be included in the catalog and exhibition shall be made by the IN.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

Participation in the contest implies full acceptance of these rules, as well as any changes that may be made, including those with retroactive effect and without prior notice to participants.

San Juan de Alicante, July 1, 2026