



## Nuria Oliver Receives the 2025 Julio Rey Pastor National Research Award

### Spain's highest scientific distinction, presented by His Majesty King Felipe VI

- The award recognizes her pioneering contributions to Artificial Intelligence, particularly in the analysis of human behavior and human-machine interaction.
- The distinction consolidates Dr. Oliver as one of Spain's leading figures in science.

**Alicante, May 5, 2026.** – Nuria Oliver, co-founder and director of the ELLIS Alicante Foundation, has been awarded the 2025 Julio Rey Pastor National Research Award in the field of Mathematics and Information and Communication Technologies, granted by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.

“It is an immense honor to receive this award, the most important in Spain in the field of scientific research. I share it with all the people I have had the privilege to collaborate with and learn from throughout my career, because science is always a collective endeavor. I hope this recognition helps reinforce society's commitment to responsible, human-centered Artificial Intelligence, and contributes to inspiring more young women to consider AI as a future career path,” said Dr. Nuria Oliver, director of ELLIS Alicante.

Dr. Oliver has been recognized for her innovative contributions in Artificial Intelligence, especially focused on the analysis of human behavior and the study of human-machine interaction. Her work has had a global impact and has been applied in multiple sectors, in addition to having promoted an outstanding transfer of knowledge reflected in the obtaining of numerous patents.

The award ceremony took place on May 4 during the official event of the 2025 National Research Awards, presided over by His Majesty King Felipe VI and held at the Royal Palace of Pedralbes in Barcelona.

The event was attended by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Diana Morant; the President of the Government of Catalonia, Salvador Illa; the Government Delegate in Catalonia, Carlos Prieto, and the Mayor of Barcelona, Jaume Collboni.

In his closing speech, His Majesty King Felipe VI emphasized the importance of supporting scientific research and highlighted that the careers of the awardees represent “science oriented toward the common good, knowledge at the service of people.”



The National Research Awards recognize scientific excellence in Spain across twenty categories covering a wide range of disciplines. Each award is endowed with €30,000. This year also marked a consolidation of gender parity among candidates, with women accounting for 55% of nominations.

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This distinction further strengthens ELLIS Alicante's position as a leading research institution working on human-centered AI for Social Good.

### About ELLIS Alicante | <https://ellisalicante.org/>

ELLIS Alicante is a **non-for-profit private research foundation** focused on **ethical and responsible Artificial Intelligence (IA) for Social Good**.

ELLIS Alicante is part of the European network of excellence in Artificial Intelligence ELLIS

ELLIS Alicante is part of ELLIS (European Laboratory for Learning and Intelligent Systems - [www.ellis.eu](http://www.ellis.eu)), the European network of research excellence in Artificial Intelligence. It is the first Spanish unit to be part of ELLIS and the only one created from scratch, with the spirit of a scientific startup and with a clear focus on Artificial Intelligence focused on humans. Hence, it is nicknamed the Institute for Human(ity) Centric AI (IHCAI). ELLIS Alicante aims to become international and global reference in **AI research by and for people**. To this end, ELLIS Alicante develops three areas of fundamental research: 1) **AI that understands us**; 2) **AI that interacts with us**; 3) **AI that we trust**.

ELLIS Alicante has been created thanks to the drive, commitment and funding of the Generalitat Valenciana. It is also [financed by different](#) public and private institutions, including the Banco Sabadell Foundation, Intel, Nippon Sanso, Caixabank and the Gestamp Foundation. The foundation's work has been awarded major prizes including the 500k XPRIZE Pandemic Response Challenge by Cognizant (2021), the Social Innovation Award (2022) and the San Alberto Magno Award from the University of Alicante (2025).

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