



# Scientia potentia est & marine biology is the proof

30th Annual Newth Lecture by Ibon Cancio,  
Associated Professor in Cell Biology



*A lecture exploring the history  
of marine biological stations and  
their roles in the 21st century*

The lecture will be live streamed here at:  
<https://youtu.be/H6w5Xm91VQY>

SAMS, William Speirs Bruce Lecture Hall, Scottish Marine  
Institute, Oban • Argyll • PA37 1QA • Scotland • UK

6th Dec 2019 at 16:30

You are warmly invited to the Scottish Association for Marine Science's 30th Annual Newth Lecture, held in the William Speirs Bruce Lecture Hall. The lecture will also be live streamed at - <https://youtu.be/H6w5Xm91VQY>



**Prof Ibon Cancio**  
Plentzia Marine Station,  
University of the Basque Country

## **Scientia potentia est** and marine biology is the proof

The sea is not our habitat but has for most of human history been just a passway - or void - between lands. The organisms that inhabit the oceans were consequently mostly unknown. To explore this environment new skills and infrastructures including vessels and onshore study sites had to be developed. The study of coastal biodiversity has thus been the mission of marine biological stations since their inception in the 19th century.

Marine biological stations were set up to shelter travelling scientists, to hold pooled research equipment and to

provide access to training. In the 175 years since the first station opened in Ostend (Belgium), seas and oceans have provided avenues for basic science at the forefront of biomedical research through the utilisation of marine model organisms.

Marine life has also provided useful resources. With fisheries research, initially conducted within marine stations, nation states began to invest into science, creating the first national research programmes and funding schemes. Basic biological studies within fisheries research then

triggered transnational collaborations, building upon the international spirit that had enabled the analysis of the specimen collection of the Challenger Expedition. This all occurred because 'knowledge is power' and research is an investment and not an expenditure. In the 21st century, marine biological stations continue to provide new tools to achieve 'power': the accelerating growth of blue biotechnology is the latest contribution to the socioeconomic development of maritime regions. The continued success of SAMS is proof the knowledge is power!