

## Invitation to the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of AETE, September 13-14<sup>th</sup> 2019 in Murcia, Spain

Dear friends and colleagues

On behalf of the European Embryo Transfer Society, the local organizing committee chaired by Dr Raquel Romar, would like to extend a warm invitation to join us at the 35<sup>th</sup> annual AETE meeting, scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019, in the historical and charming city of **Murcia, Spain**.



*Outdoor area at Hotel Nelva (Welcome Reception)*



### Welcome Reception and Congress Venue

For those of you who will be arriving on the 12<sup>th</sup> a welcome reception will take place at the Hotel Nelva where registration and the AETE scientific program will be held. We will all meet and enjoy a fantastic cocktail of “tapas” and nice environment in the outside gardens of this comfortable and elegant hotel.



*Hotel Nelva (congress venue)*

### Gala Dinner

After a first day of science on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, we will walk from congress venue to Royal Casino (<http://realcasinomurcia.com/>), an architecturally unique building built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This iconic spot in Murcia contains many different styles including a classical and modernist facade and Moorish and Pompeian patios. After visiting this emblematic building we will be served a tasteful dinner based on local Murcian gastronomy and we will enjoy live music and dancing. The Casino is located 1 minute walking from Cathedral's square so do not miss to visit that!



Casino's facade.



Casino's indoor area (Gala Dinner).

### Farewell party

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, when the congress ends, we will take the bus to Campoamor beach (45 minutes) where we will be meeting at Montepiedra Playa Restaurant, a magic place located right by the beach sand to enjoy typical dinner and a get-together party with live music. Buses will take us back to Murcia but for those of you who prefer to spend the night in Campoamor and enjoy the beach please visit the option at the hotels page.



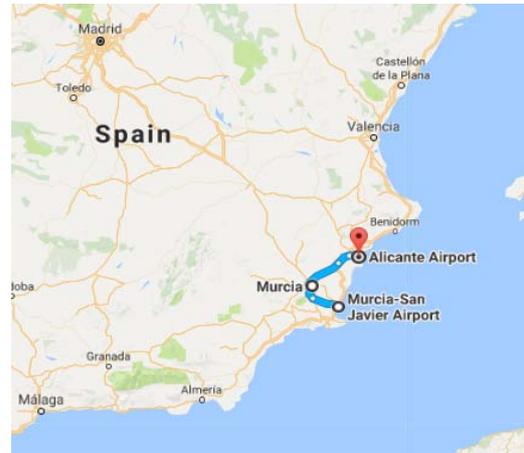
Montepiedra Playa Restaurant (Farewell Party)



Typical seafood "tapa"

### How to get Murcia

The city of Murcia, the sixth most populated city in Spain, is located to the southeast of the Iberian Peninsula. It is the capital of the Autonomous Community of the same name with an area of 11,317 km<sup>2</sup>.



### By plane

Alicante-El Altet International airport (70 km from Murcia downtown).

[www.aena.es/en/alicante-airport/index.html](http://www.aena.es/en/alicante-airport/index.html)

Once landed you can reach Murcia by bus (www.alsa.com/en; Single ticket for 5.19€ and Roundtrip ticket for 9.34€), by taxi (around 50€) or by transfer.

San Javier (Murcia) airport is another option with connections to the city by taxi (around 40€) or transfer. The airport is located at 50 km from Murcia downtown.

[www.aena.es/en/murcia-san-javier-airport/index.html](http://www.aena.es/en/murcia-san-javier-airport/index.html)

For special deals on transfers from airports to Murcia you can contact our partner [congresosmurcia@viajeseci.es](mailto:congresosmurcia@viajeseci.es).

#### By car

Spain has a modern road system so if you prefer to take the car here you have some distances and connections to Murcia:

- From Barcelona the trip takes around 5h 45min (578 km) by AP-7 highway.
- From Madrid the trip takes around 3h 45min (400 km) by A-3 and A-30 highways.
- From Valencia the trip takes around 2h 20min (218 km) by A-33 highway.
- From Alicante the trip takes around 1h (60 km) by A-7 highway.

#### **Accommodation**

You can find many options for accommodation in Murcia and some nice hotels 5-10 minutes walking from the venue. Our partner offers special prices for all AETE attendants. Please log in <http://viajeselcorteingles.symposium.com/24198/section/14197/35th-scientific-meeting-of-the-aete-2019.html> to make your choice or to ask for more options.

Hotel Nelva\*\*\*\*sup (Congress Venue)  
[www.hotelmurcianelva.com/en/](http://www.hotelmurcianelva.com/en/)

Hotel Agalia \*\*\*\*  
[www.agaliahotel.es/en/](http://www.agaliahotel.es/en/)

Hotel Azarbe \*\*\*\*  
[www.hotelazarbe.com/en/](http://www.hotelazarbe.com/en/)

Hotel El Churra \*\*\*  
[www.elchurrahotelmurcia.com/](http://www.elchurrahotelmurcia.com/)

More information at [www.turismodemurcia.es/en/dormir](http://www.turismodemurcia.es/en/dormir).

You can find more detailed information about the scientific and social program of the AETE meeting on the AETE

website. The Local Organizing Committee encourages you to join us in this meeting that we are sure will be worth it both scientifically and professionally speaking. In addition, the organized social events will allow us to meet and enjoy good moments together. We will do our best to make your stay in Murcia as pleasant as possible.

We all look forward to seeing you in September 2019 in Murcia.

The LOC (in alphabetical order)  
Estefanía ALCAZAR TRIVIÑO  
Sebastián CÁNOVAS BERNABÉ (Co-chair)  
Pilar COY FUSTER  
Joaquín GADEA MATEOS  
Josep GINER TORRES  
María JIMÉNEZ MOVILLA  
Pablo LARROSA MORALES (El Barranquillo SL)  
Carmen MATÁS PARRA  
Daniel MARTÍNEZ BELLO  
Juan Eladio OLIVA TRISTANTE  
Raquel ROMAR ANDRÉS (Chair)  
Salvador RUIZ LÓPEZ

#### **Some reasons to come to Murcia**

Region of Murcia is located on the Mediterranean arc in the area known as *Costa Calida*, one of the lesser known tourist spots in Spain what makes it the ideal place to travel to get an authentic Spanish experience without the usual crowds. Murcia is a city made to measure by its inhabitants, perfect for long walks to allow visitors to uncover its great exuberant personality and Islamic soul. Come and explore the Murcia region, known as the garden of Spain and the orchard of Europe.

Some of the areas in the city that deserve a visit are:

### ***The Cathedral and its tower***

It was built over the course of five centuries (14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>), and its various styles (Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque) are an impressive testimony to the history of Murcia. Construction began on the building in 14<sup>th</sup> century, on the ground that formerly housed the largest mosque in the city.



*Spot of Murcia Cathedral with its tower (left) and Bishop's Palace (right)*

The bell tower is 90 metres high (95 with the wind vane), making it the second highest in Spain after the Giralda in Seville. It is the highest point of the entire city and is composed of five structures decreasing in width. Each of them shows a different artistic style than the last, making it a must-see for visitors.

### ***The Bishop's Palace***

In the same Cathedral Square, next to the magnificent façade of the Cathedral, stands the Bishop's Palace. It is said that when Bishop Mateo decided to construct a residence from which he could view the newly finished façade of the Cathedral, he ordered this square-shaped palace. The official seat of the Diocese of Cartagena, it was constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and today is one of the most important buildings of the city of Murcia's monumental heritage.



### ***The Malecón esplanade***

“El Malecón” is an embankment wall to protect against the flow of the river Segura. It dates back to 1420 when, following two major floods, the City Council decided to demolish the old and damaged houses in order to build a wall, which was built on the same boundaries of the current esplanade.



*Segura River on its way through Murcia*

### ***Flowers Square***

This beautiful and vivacious square, in the center of the city is surrounded by nineteenth-century buildings and is the place of “tapas” par excellence.



*“Plaza de las Flores”*

You cannot leave “Plaza de las Flores” without a stop at the pastry shop Bonache, one of the most famous in the

city, and try a unique Murcian speciality: the meat pie.



*Meat pie (“pastel de carne”)*

### **Gastronomy**

Murcia is known as the Orchard of Europe. If look at the label of the fruit and vegetables that you find in your supermarket you will probably find it comes from Murcia region. Tasting fruits and vegetables from Murcia and its traditional recipes of rice dishes, grilled meats and fish, is a pleasure.



*Murcian rice with vegetables*

Some of our traditional dishes from “la huerta” (orchard) include Paparajotes, a typical Murcian sweet treat, made with lemon leaves.



*“Paparajotes”, traditional Murcian sweet.*

### **Weather**

Finally, our prevailing good weather is yet another reason to visit us any time of year. One of the most characteristic aspects of Murcia is its constant blue skies, and the bright sunlight that permeates the city.

Murcia enjoys a very mild Mediterranean climate with **more than 300 days of sun a year** and mild temperatures -even in winter- with a yearly average of more than 19°C.

In September temperatures typically ranges from 18° to 31°C. Bring light clothes and swimming dress!



*Calblanque beach*

With two seas on one coastline, the Mar Menor and the Mediterranean sea, beaches of endless white sand and wild coves with crystal-clear water, the Costa Calida has the beaches you have to visit no matter which (Calbanche, La Manga, San Pedro, Mazarrón, Aguilas, ...).

### **Outside Murcia city**

Murcia Region retains innumerable vestiges of the past in different places such as **Cartagena**, a port fronting on the Mediterranean Sea, **Lorca**, the town of a Hundred Coats of Arms, or **Caravaca**, the Holy Town. The abundant remains and archaeological sites include rock-paintings in cave-shelters dating back to the Iberian period, the splendour of Roman

antiquity, Visigothic cities, Arab medinas, Christian castles, watch-towers or churches and temples. Just 45 minutes by car from Murcia, in Cartagena, a city with more than 3,000 years of history, you can visit the Roman Theatre, built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century before Christ by Emperor Augustus.

For special deals on trips and visits to touristic spots please contact our partner [congresosmurcia@viajeseci.es](mailto:congresosmurcia@viajeseci.es).



*Bolnuevo Erosions (Mazarrón), rock formations carved and sculpted by wind and water*



*View of Roman Theatre in Cartagena city*



*San Pedro del Pinatar salt lagoons*