

A Decade of Excellence: Ten Years of Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN)

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USERN

The Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN) was established as a visionary platform for global scientific collaboration, education, and research (1). The USERN Statute was drafted in 2015, approved by more than a hundred top 1% scientists, and officially revealed on November 10, 2016, coinciding with the World Science Day for Peace and Development, reflecting its commitment to ethical, peaceful, and humanitarian scientific advancement (2).

USERN is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to advancing science for the benefit of humanity, free from political and military influence. Guided by the principle of “Science without Borders”, the network brings together a global constellation of researchers, educators, innovators, and students from all disciplines to promote ethical research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and scientific growth (3).

USERN has a multifaceted mission: to validate and enhance scientific ideas and resources; to connect scientists across borders; and to facilitate collaboration that meaningfully improves human life and global knowledge. Its vision embodies a worldwide network where ideas, facilities, and expertise flow freely, empowering scientists of all backgrounds and strengthening the global scientific enterprise.

USERN offices, interest groups, junior ambassadors, and memoranda of understanding

Over its first decade of activity, USERN partnered

with institutional and structural foundations that support global scientific networking. By the end of 2025, USERN comprised more than 28,000 members from 5 continents, highlighting worldwide engagement and trust in its mission. USERN has established more than 50 offices worldwide and more than 80 active interest groups collaborating on research, education, and interdisciplinary initiatives. USERN also appointed over 60 Junior Ambassadors (UJAs). UJAs are early-career scholars selected to promote USERN's goals in their home regions. In addition, USERN has signed over 150 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with academic and scientific institutions globally, facilitating exchange, joint programs, and cooperative projects. These structures have been essential in realizing USERN's inclusive and distributed model of scientific engagement, enabling both senior experts and emerging scientists to contribute meaningfully to the global scientific community (4).

Publications

Scientific dissemination has been one of USERN's most noteworthy achievements. By the end of 2025, the network's members had contributed to more than 3,500 scientific publications, raising USERN's collective H-index to 105 — a key indicator of scientific impact and influence. Also, since 2021 the Integrated Science Book Series has been published with the USERN concept of “Science without Borders” by Springer Nature. So far, 40 volumes have been published in that series.

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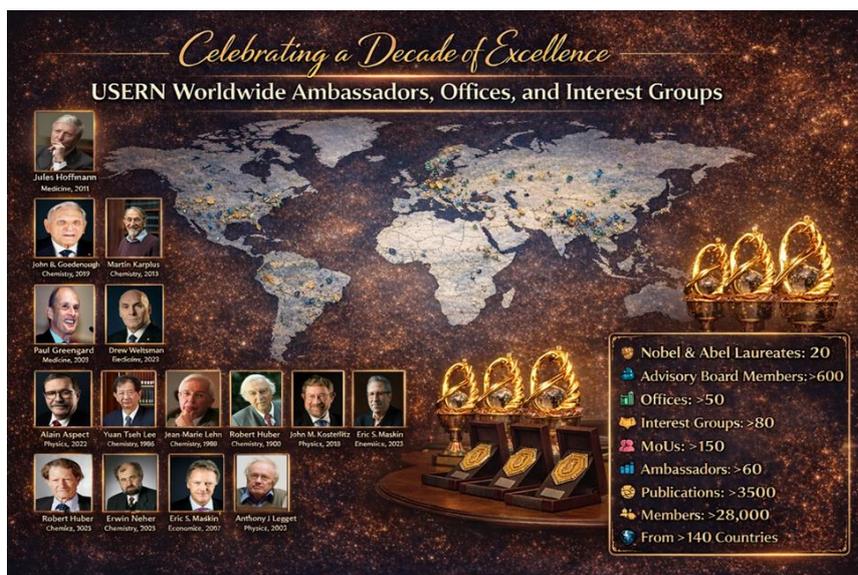


Figure 1. USERN external branch, including the data of the members, advisory board members, interest groups, offices, MoU, and number of publications

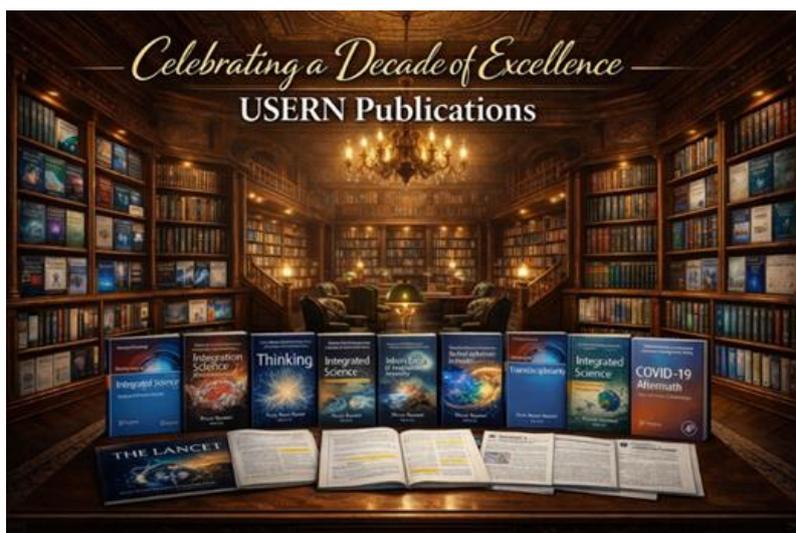


Figure 2. USERN publications, including a number of volumes which have been published with the USERN affiliation

USERN prize

A signature initiative since the organization’s inception, the USERN Prize is awarded annually to young scientist younger than 40 years old who successfully completed a project which significantly advanced science. The USERN Prize is bestowed in 5 field of science, including Formal Sciences, Physical–Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Social Sciences. Every year on November 10th, the USERN Prize Festival celebrates outstanding

achievements of young scientists. So far, USERN awarded laureates from the Netherlands, United States, Iran, Slovenia, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, Canada, Australia, Russia, Denmark, Chile, Switzerland, Finland, Germany, China, Sweden, France, Belgium, India, Poland, Brazil, Macao, Czech Republic, Turkey, and South Korea.



Figure 3. The USERN prize, including awards in five categories of formal, physical-chemical, biological, medical, and social sciences during last 10 years (2016-2025)

USERN congresses

Since 2016, International USERN Congresses and Prize Awarding Festivals have hosted distinguished scientists and young researchers and students from all over the world. Tehran (Iran, 2016 and 2020), Kharkiv (Ukraine, 2017), Reggio Calabria (Italy, 2018), Budapest (Hungary, 2019), Istanbul (Turkey, 2021), Muscat (Oman, 2022), Yerevan (Armenia, 2023), Plovdiv (Bulgaria, 2024), and Campinas, São Paulo (Brazil, 2025). In 2026, the 11th International USERN Congress and Prize Awarding Festival will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan (5).

USERN Congresses gather together senior and junior scientists for plenary sessions, poster presentations, workshops, keynote lectures, and meet-the-expert sessions that provide mentorship experience and foster collaborative research. The annual gatherings not only recognize scientific excellence but also promote interdisciplinary exchange.

International schools and scientific events

USERN partners with different institutes and universities around the world. As a result from these collaborations, USERN organized several scientific events and international schools during its 10 years of activity. Only in 2025, USERN has organized the “Translational Autoimmunity: From Bench to Bedside, From AI to Clinic” in Monastir, Tunisia, the “Immunology Symposium” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and the “Immunology Day” in Astana, Kazakhstan. Previous schools and exchange programs have been held in Kharkiv, Ukraine (2017), Sardinia, Italy (2018), Chandigarh, India (2018), Konya, Turkey (2019), Berlin, Germany (2022), Dushanbe, Tajikistan (2023), Paris, France (2024), Vienna, Austria (2024), and Izmir, Turkey (2024).



Figure 4. USERN annual congresses, organized in Tehran (Iran, 2016 and 2020), Kharkiv (Ukraine, 2017), Reggio Calabria (Italy, 2018), Budapest (Hungary, 2019), Istanbul (Turkey, 2021), Muscat (Oman, 2022), Yerevan (Armenia, 2023), Plovdiv (Bulgaria, 2024), and Campinas, São Paulo (Brazil, 2025)

Mentorship and internship programs

Mentorship is rooted deeply in USERN: a volunteer advisory board of over 600 top 1% scientists, including Nobel and Abel laureates support USERN and help early-career researchers. On another level, USERN supports internships and mentoring initiatives: namely Research Internship, Lab Technique Internship, Miniature Talk

Internship, and Executive Internship. These programs are designed to empower students with skills that usually are not included in university curriculums. These programs, developed under the umbrella of USERNiversity, enrich the professional, scientific, and personal growth of participants (6,7).

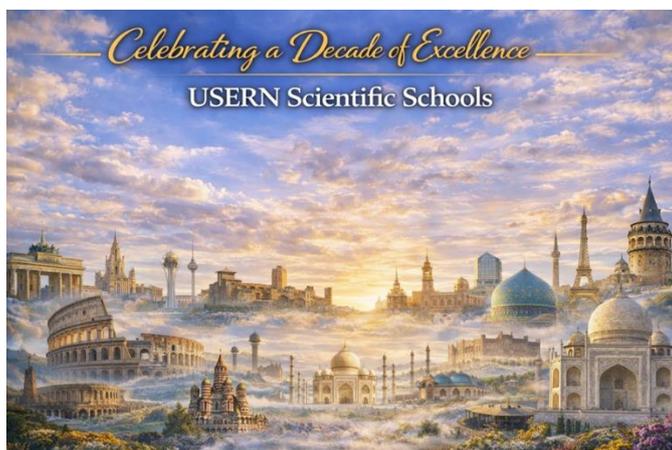


Figure 5. USERN Collaborative Schools and Events, organized in different countries during last decade

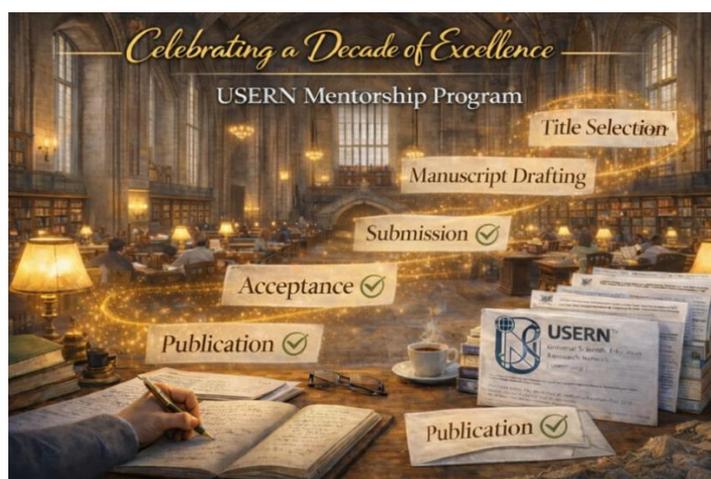


Figure 6. USERN Internships and Mentorships Programs, to improve hard skills and soft skills of young generation.

USERN and companions house and museum

A distinctive and inspirational element of USERN's identity is the USERN House and Museum, which integrates science with cultural heritage. Highlighting scientific achievements alongside artistic expression, the USERN House and Museum is a place for exhibitions, dialogues on the history and philosophy of science, and community engagement that unites scientific and artistic pursuits. The USERN House and Museum is also home for educational programs such as seasonal Research Tours, where young participants practice researcher skills

alongside teamwork (8).

Science and art

The philosophy of USERN embraces the interplay between science and art as complementary ways of understanding and enriching the human experience. Integration of art in USERN activities targets both children and adult scientists. The International Festival of Paintings for Pediatric Patients (IFPPP) exhibits wonderful paintings by children from all over the world, and awards prizes to the authors of the best ones at the

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opening ceremony of the annual USERN Congress. Music and performing arts are inseparable part of USERN events. For example, the Talk Theater show is an integration of science and art. “Complexity”, “Forgetfulness”, “Loneliness”, and “Resilience” were the title of previous Talk Theater shows, integrating science and art, emphasizing humanistic values and creativity as essential partners of scientific inquiry.

The young executive team: volunteers driving global impact

At the heart of USERN is its executive team of young volunteers, whose dedication underpins program development, research coordination, and global outreach (9). These volunteers, spanning diverse cultures, nationalities, and scientific background, bring fresh perspectives, energy, and commitment to fulfill USERN’s mission.



Figure 7. USERN and Companions House and Museum, for exhibitions, dialogues on the history and philosophy of science, and community engagement that unites scientific and artistic pursuits

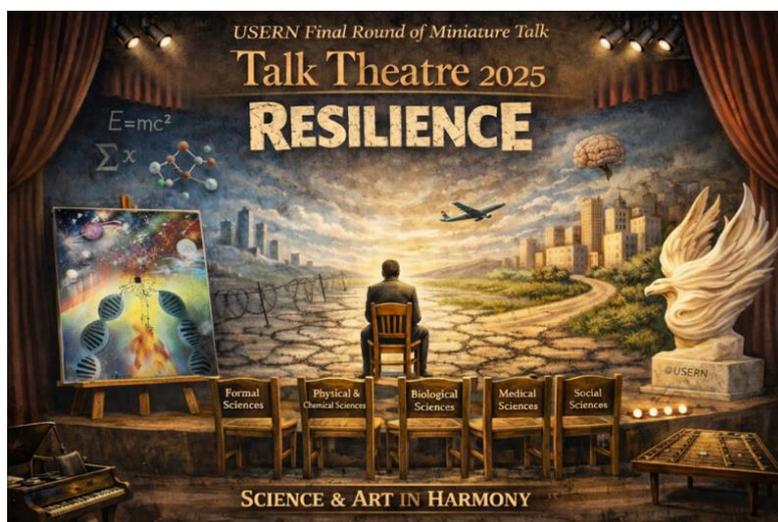


Figure 8. Integration of Science and Art: Resilience talk theater show at the 10th USERN anniversary, December 31st, 2025



Figure 9. USERN executive team, who are doing a hard-working job, aiming and planning for the highest peak to mean the science without borders

The USERN family

As USERN celebrates ten years of support of science without borders, it stands not only as a network but as a global family united by commitment to advancing science for the common good. USERN family members contribute to scientific collaboration and educational

activities that go beyond geography, scientific discipline, and age.

USERN envisions a world where science knows no borders — a world where collective intellect and compassion shape a better future for humanity. Join the USERN family!

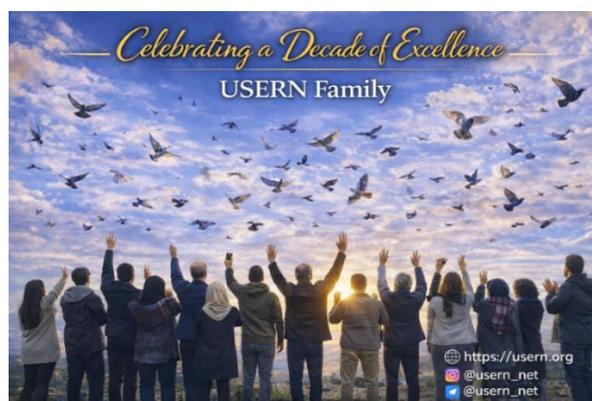


Figure 10. The USERN family, the key which led to sustainable programs despite several obstacles. “Flying together to make the sky beautiful, hoping to have a better future for next generation...”

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