



# IRB Barcelona International PhD programme:

## on TARGET for high impact biomedicine

MSCA-COFUND-2024: Aspectos generales de la convocatoria

#### **Anna Montras**

IRB Barcelona -International Strategic Support Office





Founded in October 2005, the **Institute for Research in Biomedicine** is an independent, non-profit research centre engaged in basic & applied biomedical science







42 Research Centers funded by the Govt. of Catalonia



7 Top Research Centres (CERCA members)

#### Our board of trustees:



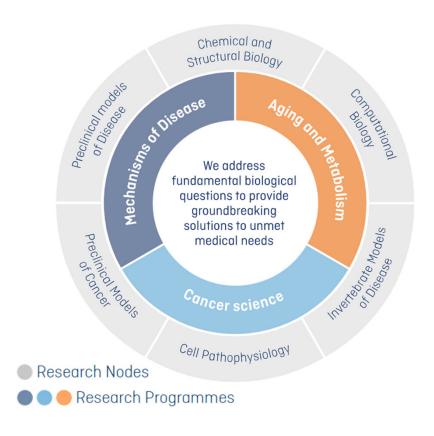






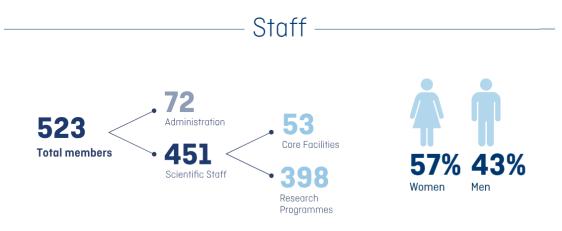


# IRB Barcelona Scientific Structure





### Facts & Figures 2023





#### 30 Group Leaders (GLs)

- 16 ERC grant holders (27 ERC grants awarded at all times; 13 during the 2018-2023 period) [4 out of 6 junior GLs; 2 applying]
- 15 ICREA Researchers
- Female GLs: 2 out of 25 in 2017 (8%); 9 in 2024 (30%)





### PhD Programme - Overview

- Launched in 2008
- Coordinated by the IRB PhD Advisory Committee
- Managed by the IRB Academic Office
- Annual International PhD Fellowship call (~300 applications/year)
- Training multiple doctoral candidates (100 on average)



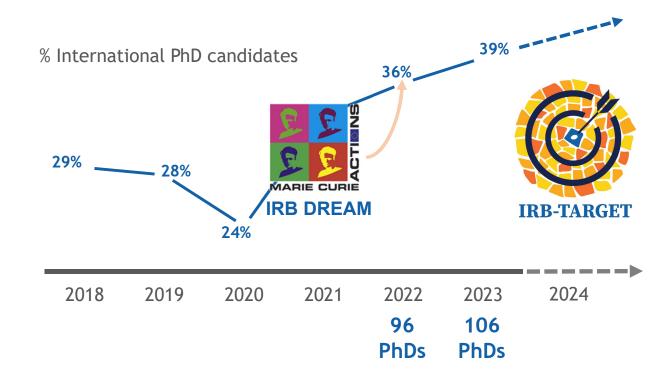






### PhD Programme - improvements with MSCA-COFUND

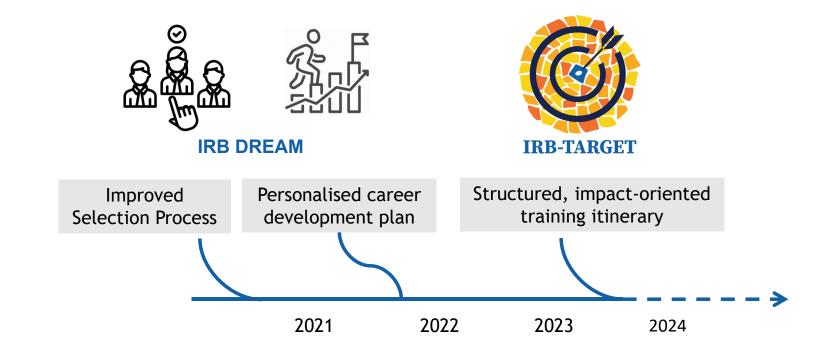
#### 1. Internationalisation of talent attraction





### PhD Programme - improvements with MSCA-COFUND

#### 2. Piloting sustainable improvements





### Excellence of the research and training programme



Core Biomedical Research Project leading to a PhD

Collaborations & Research Stays or secondments in academia, clinic or industry

- Core value: Excellence in Biomedical Research (IRB Barcelona main strength
- Added value: Align with institution's strategic effort to bridge fundamental science with applied+clinical research





Network-wide Training Events organised by & for IRB\_TARGET

Complementary Training Actions from local & other initiatives

- Tailored training itinerary
- Career development and personalised support
- Broad complementary training offer, including technical + transferable skills

#### **ENGAGEMENT**



Communication & Dissemination actions to maximise research impact

Outreach & Stakeholder network engagement for responsible innovation

 Required participation of fellows in dissemination, communication and outreach events to complete programme.



#### Consortium









Partners collaborating with trainings, secondments & research stays

**INNOVATIVE TRAINING** 

**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE** 



### **Core Training**



**IRB induction course:** intro to research facilities, admin support, intellectual property management, visit to external infrastructures.



**IRB-TARGET frame setting** session (with supervisors and career advisors)

**Research integrity** and best lab practices



Gender dimension in research

Science communication, public speaking, engaging with your audience



Open Science & Research Data Management



Entrepreneurship and innovation management

**Professional Development** for Young Scientists



### Excellence of selection, recruitment and working conditions



Alignment of institutional procedures and policies with quality standards of MSCA, as described in WP, is essential.

#### DISSEMINATION

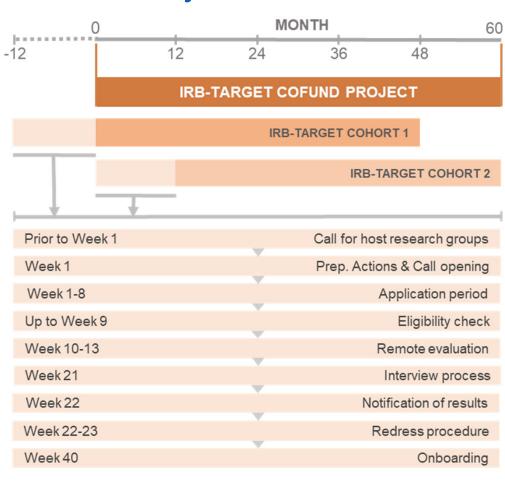
- Integration in IRB Barcelona global call optimizes dissemination efforts.
- IRB-TARGET details published on dedicated web page, containing all specific information
  - ✓ Training plan
  - ✓ Supervision
  - ✓ Research options
  - ✓ Employment and working conditions, info on open calls)

#### **EVALUATION AND SELECTION**

- All information on open calls accesible from web page:
  - ✓ How to apply
  - ✓ Eligibility criteria and required docs
  - ✓ Selection procedure incl. evaluation criteria (remote + interview).
  - ✓ Helpdesk info
- HRS4R best practices (equal opportunity, etc.)
- Evaluation and Selection Committee appointed by PhD advisory committee
  - ✓ Involvement of independent external experts in Remote and Interview Phase
  - ✓ External experts from clinics + industry + academia in all interview panels.

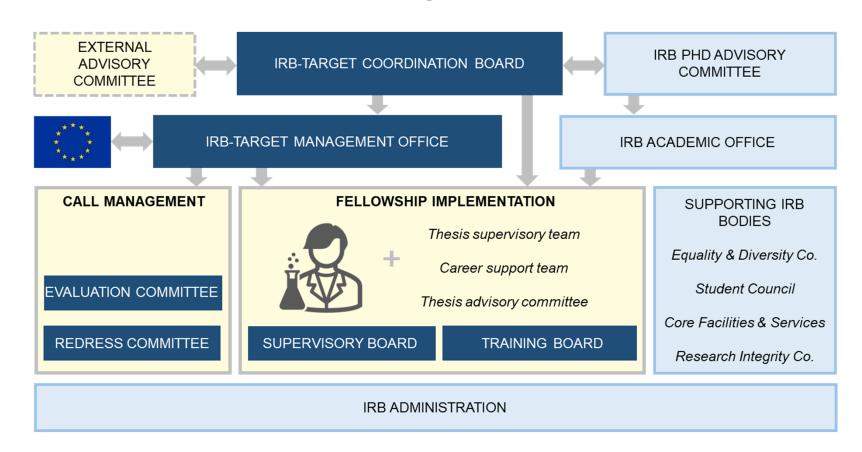


### **Project Timeline**





### Management





#### 2024 Call



#### **IRB-TARGET**

Co-funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Work Programme under arar ment No. 101126676, IRB-TARGET is offering 5 four-year fellowships for the academic year 2024-2025 for rchers interested in carrying out their PhD projects.

the-art laboratories that tackle cutting-edge topics in cancer/metastasis, ageing and cell reprogramming, metabolism,

#### IRB Barcelong offers:

- · A vibrant multidisciplinary research
- Personalised doctoral training itinerary
- A wide range of outreach activities · A rich social and cultural environment
- (Cool-off parties, sports, exhibitions) · A healthy culture that promotes and
- facilitates well-being Assistance with the administration procedures to join IRB Barcelona, with relocation and immigration affairs and university enrolment procedures and

IRB-TARGET will recruit prospective tolented researchers of any nationality gender culture, religion sexual orientation or age to undertake a PhD in biomedicine. To be eligible for an IRB-TARGET fellowship please visit: http://bit.ly/497XxeS

- · Call opening: 23 October 2023
- Deadline for applications: 5 January 2024 · Interviews at IRB Barcelona: 4-5-6 March



The IRB-TARGET doctoral programme, co-funded by the EU's Horizon Europe, exemplifies IRB Barcelona's commitment to attracting top talent for cutting-

This programme is a strategic effort to bridge fundamental science with applied and clinical research, providing a robust framework for innovation and career development in the biomedical sector.

For more information: https://www.irbbarcelona.org/en/careers/voung-scientists/irb-target-2024-cal



#### **IRB-TARGET INTEGRATED IN IRB CALL**

#### IRB GLOBAL CALL HIGHLIGHTS

- 5/10 IRB-TARGET fellowships on offer
- IRB-TARGET Integrated into IRB Barcelona anual call
- 303 applications
- 89,5% international
- 50% women

#### **IRB-TARGET HIGHLIGHTS**

- 229 eligible applications
- 29 eligible candidates invited to interviews
- 5 selected candidates: 4 nationalities, 60% women







Thank you!

