

# ANNUAL REPORT **2023** *A YEAR IN REVIEW*



**Dr Begoña Benito**

VHIR's Director

## Letter from our Director


I would like to start this editorial by congratulating all the people who are part of the VHIR, and who have contributed to make year 2023 an extremely productive year despite being it a year of changes. Changes resulting from the arrival of a new management team and the reconceptualization of the organization's structure, which have undoubtedly introduced a renovated direction to the institution.

We remain, however, committed to our institution's mission of promoting and managing research in close collaboration with the Vall d'Hebron Hospital. As a result, we can be proud to produce high-level clinical, translational and basic research, covering all areas of human health and disease and throughout all stages of life. Indeed, this is our essence, which we always keep in mind: we do impactful research to improve everyone's health.

As we move into 2023, I would like to begin by highlighting 2 remarkable institutional milestones, namely the CERCA evaluation and the first phase of reaccreditation as a Health Research Institute by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, the Institute of Health at the national level. The CERCA evaluation, an entity that brings together all the research centers in Catalonia, is carried out periodically with the spirit of contributing to improve our institutions' performance. In this evaluation, VHIR was awarded with a B+, which indicates a high degree of scientific excellence, with strong acknowledgement to the growth of the institution in recent years, and a good encouragement to follow the same trendlines in the future. Likewise, in 2023, we submitted all the documentation required to ensure the reaccreditation of the HUVH Health Research Institute, of which VHIR, Hospital Vall d'Hebron, VHIO, UAB, IDI and BST form part. The resolution will be communicated in 2024.

As mentioned, scientific production in 2023 has been very high. We had more than 1,500 scientific publications, more than 25% of which were in D1, and leadership percentage that exceeds 50%. We also obtained more than 200 projects and competitive grants, both from national and international calls. It is worth highlighting 2 unique calls launched in 2023 by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III: CERTERA, a call to create a network consortium for the development of advanced therapies at national level; and FORTALECE, a call to strengthen strategic research lines and groups in research centers. The Vall d'Hebron Research Institute was awarded with more than €5 million from these two calls.

Our activity in clinical trials has continued to grow, consolidating our position as a national and international reference center. I would like to highlight the noteworthy entry of clinical trials in pediatrics and rare diseases, as well as in medical devices, and especially in early-phase and innovative clinical trials. Examples are the VHIR's role as the first center to recruit a patient in a clinical trial addressed to evaluate the efficacy of CAR-T cells in lupus, or VHIR's participation in a clinical trial



to evaluate the efficacy and adherence to treatment using 3D-printed candy-shaped drugs in the paediatric population.

Innovation continues to be a strategic asset of our institution. VHIR has a successful model in this area, with a portfolio of 16 active spin-offs and start-ups, and two successful exits. I would like to highlight our great success in 2023 to raise competitive funds for transferable projects or for our spin-off portfolio, as well as the important funding obtained from the 8 investment rounds in which we have participated, which exceeds €34 million.


The excellence of our researchers is echoed by the number of awards received by our scientific community this year, which have been plentiful. At an institutional level, I would like to highlight two awards: the Narcis Monturiol Plaque, as an acknowledgement to the scientific and technological production of the institution; and the Joan Roget Prize in recognition to our Knowledge Transfer activity. Both prizes were awarded by the Department of Research and Universities of the Catalan Government.

Finally, I would like to highlight the large number of initiatives that we have developed during 2023 in responsible research and innovation, promoting open science policy, working on research impact assessment, and developing projects with citizen participation.

I will end this overview by mentioning a huge project that has been with us throughout 2023 and will shine on its own in 2024. This project is none other than the new research building, whose construction is on schedule for 2023 and is expected to be completed in the summer of 2024. During 2023, we have been planning the layout of the new space, taking the opportunity to carry out a strategic reorganization of the research groups. The opportunities offered by the new building are many: its open spaces will facilitate synergies between groups, more research space with better equipment will be offered and it will undoubtedly represent an important source of talent attraction and retention. In addition, we plan to include unique spaces, such as an Innovation Hub, to facilitate new research initiatives resulting from public-private collaboration.

I bid farewell to this 2023 and look forward to 2024 with full energy to face new challenges and help our researchers to make even more excellent research. In 2024, we will turn 30 years old as an institution, and this will be the ideal occasion to recognize the entire history of science in our institution throughout these years. I invite you all to join us in this celebration.

Thank you very much to all of you who are part of the VHIR community.



# OUR ACTIVITY

## Facts and Figures

More information:



## Human Resources

**2,389**

Total Staff

**1,199**

Research Staff

**65.55%**

% Woman Staff

**64**

Research groups

**9**

IDIAP research groups

**7**

eCORE



eCORE  
**Chronic, Prevalent  
Diseases & Aging**



eCORE  
**Global Health**



eCORE  
**Brain & Mind  
and Behavior**



eCORE  
**Woman & Child Health  
& Rare Diseases**



eCORE  
**Advanced Therapies and  
Interventions, Nanomedicine,  
Transplant & Donation**



eCORE  
**Cancer**



eCORE  
**Personalised Medicine,  
Innovative Diagnostics, Molecular  
Imaging & Digital Health**



## Publications

**1,574**

Publications

**14,393**

Total impact factor

**9.14**

Average impact factor

**302**

Publications in high influence journals (IF>15)

**58.32%**

Q1

**50.16%**

Leadership

**44.76%**

Female in leadership

**8.87%**

HCP10 (2019-2023)

**64.25%**

Open Access

**50.13%**

International collaboration



## Clinical Studies

**266**

New clinical studies

**193**

Clinical trials

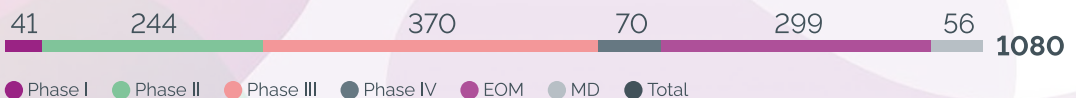
**59**

EOM (post authorization studies)

**14**

Medical devices studies

### Active clinical studies



● Phase I ● Phase II ● Phase III ● Phase IV ● EOM ● MD ● Total



## Research projects and networks

**220**

New granted projects

**25.44M€**

Competitive projects & HR funding

**20.29M€**

National funding

**5.15M€**

International funding



### Ongoing Projects

**485**

Total

**97**

International

**388**

National



## Innovation

**2**

New spin-offs approved in 2023

ARTIS

ENDOLIPID DERMA

**16**

Total active spin-offs (2 exit and 2 closed)

**131**

Accumulated patent applications

**35**

Licensed



## Education and Training

# 78

Theses read

### University Master's Degree in Translational Biomedical Research (VHIR – UAB)

# 47

Enrolled students

# 73%

Internship students at VHIR

# 92%

Average working insertion rate



## Media

# 216

News in the website

# 19

Press releases

# 750

News in press

# 53

News in radio and TV

# 187

Events and seminars

# 71

Outreach activities

### Social networks and followers

22,920

10,929

38,143

● X ● Facebook ● LinkedIn

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More  
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