

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRBLleida) was founded with the goal of fostering collaboration among basic, clinical, and epidemiological research, with the purpose of making biomedical research a catalyst for improving everyday clinical practices, benefiting the broader population. IRBLleida's mission is to advance, develop, transfer, oversee, and disseminate outstanding research, scientific, and technological knowledge. We believe that the capacity to nurture ground-breaking ideas and research is crucial in advancing healthcare and improving lives. In this context, we are glad to announce an open call for funding seed projects specifically tailored to promote innovation and facilitate the knowledge transfer within the field of biomedicine.

1.2. Summary

The primary goal of this call is to provide financial support for implementing new ideas that could potentially lead to the effective transfer of generated knowledge to the healthcare and business sectors. The IRBLleida will fund **1 grant** of 20.000€ for the development of a project within a period of one year.

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

We invite proposals related to different fields, which may include **but are not limited** to:

- Novel medical technologies and devices.
- Biomedical research breakthroughs.
- Innovative pharmaceutical solutions.
- Cutting-edge applications of artificial intelligence in healthcare.
- Advancements in healthcare information and communication technologies.
- Innovations in healthcare related to nutrition.

Projects submitted within this biomedicine-focused call are expected to meet the following criteria:

Innovation: Proposals should introduce novel concepts in the biomedicine field, exploring uncharted territory and addressing previously unassessed health issues. We are particularly interested in inventive solutions that have the potential to enhance clinical practices and open new avenues for business opportunities within the healthcare sector.

Knowledge Transfer: Projects should demonstrate how they intend to transfer the generated knowledge to clinical practice and/or the biomedicine business sector by identifying the most relevant stakeholders in the space and proposing the most feasible route to technology transfer.

Early Stage: Projects should be in their initial stages of development (TRL1-TRL3), reflecting a commitment to pioneering research and innovative ideas that carry an inherent risk. Protection strategy needs to be considered.

Feasibility: Despite being in the early stages, projects must demonstrate reasonable technical and economic viability. Applicants are expected to provide a clear plan for bringing their ground-breaking biomedicine idea to fruition.

2.2. Funding & Payment

The ISP grant is endowed with a maximum of €20,000, which will be administered by the Principal Investigator (PI) through the IRBLeida management office. The project will only fund direct costs, and no overheads will be applied.

Eligible expenses will include all costs related to the purchase of consumables and inventory materials, as well as the use of IRBLeida Core Facilities and external subcontracting services necessary for project development. Personnel hiring is eligible for a maximum of 50% of the budget. Ineligible expenses are travel, publications fees, and other costs unrelated to the project's development.

Once the extended period of the project's activity has concluded, it will be considered finished, and any unused funds must be returned to IRBLeida.

Any matter not clearly addressed in the Bases must be submitted to the CIAC/IRBLeida Management for approval (including the inclusion of concepts, changes to budget items, etc.).

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

ISP grant will last for one year and begin on the first day of the first month following the date of the final resolution of the call. A justified cost-neutral extension can be requested for a maximum period of 6 months.

Call start date: April 10th, 2026

Proposal submission deadline: May 15th (until 15:00 CEST) 2026

Estimated final resolution: July 2026

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

Candidates must be affiliated with IRBLeida prior to the proposal submission deadline and maintain their affiliation throughout the duration of the funded project.

3.2. Incompatibility

The PI must not have received funding from the last two years Innovation Seed Project call.

4. Application & Award Decision

4.1. Proposal Submission

To participate in the call, the candidates will submit the following documentation using the **ISP2026 application form**.

- Curriculum vitae of the candidate in the CVA format (7 last years).
- ISP proposal form including an executive summary, objectives, what problem are you addressing, a detailed work plan, a clear timeline, and an estimated budget. Additionally, describe how you plan to facilitate the knowledge transfer within the biomedicine sector.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

A panel formed by recognized individuals in the innovation and transfer field will review all proposals, based on the following criteria:

| Criteria | Definition | Points |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Innovation | The uniqueness of the idea compared to the state-of-the-art | 27.5 |
| Knowledge transfer | Its potential impact on the biomedicine sector | 27.5 |
| Feasibility | The quality of planning and adequacy of the research team | 20 |
| Commercial viability | There is a market for your idea/product, and if there is, is your solution better than what is currently available? | 20 |
| Other | Implementation of RRI policies (Annex I) | 5 |
| Maximum | Total sum | 100 |

The evaluation panel will determine scores based on their expertise and experience, considering the objectives of the IRBLeida's Innovation Seed Project call.

4.3. Award Decision

In the provisional funding decision, the panel will prioritize applications. The recognized individuals may declare the call for proposals void if, after evaluation, the proposals do not meet the minimum quality criteria established in 60 points.

After the provisional funding decision, applicants will have 5 working days to submit any possible allegation to the decision by sending an e-mail to innovacio@irbllleida.org including a formal written letter. The panel will study the allegations, and a response will be given within a maximum of 7 business days.

5. Beneficiaries' obligations

5.1. Project Follow-up

Obtaining the grant implies committing to developing and implementing of the idea under the supervision of the Innovation Unit of IRBLeida. The beneficiary must inform IRBLeida of any application for or receipt of grants, public and/or private, for the same purpose; as well as any incidence or variation that may occur in relation to the original proposal.

5.2. Project Outputs

Any oral or written communication based on data generated from the Innovation Seed Project must be communicated to the innovation unit at least one month before the intended date of the communication to avoid compromising the possible protection of assets.

5.3. Final Reporting

Within a maximum period of three months after the grant's effective finalization, the PI will prepare a final report detailing the results obtained and send it to the Innovation Unit e-mail (innovacio@irbllleida.org). The Innovation Unit will assess the need to protect the results within a month.

6. Other Clauses

Participation in this call for proposals implies knowledge and acceptance of all its terms and conditions, including:

6.1. Proposal Documentation Confidentiality

The documentation associated with the proposals will be treated as confidential information, being obliged to maintain the confidentiality of the information to all persons evaluating and assessing the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject to the prior consent of the applicants.

6.2. Terms and Conditions, Industrial and Intellectual Property

The intellectual or industrial property and exploitation rights that may derive from the implementation of the granted idea will belong to IRBLleida, recognizing as authors or inventors the people who have conceived and implemented these ideas and applying the intellectual and industrial property regulations of IRBLleida.

6.3. Personal Data Collection Purpose and Processing Information

Responsible party: Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRBLleida).

Purpose: Management of calls and, where appropriate, the awarding and delivery of the prize.

Legitimation: The legal basis of the processing is the carrying out of a selection process to provide financial support for research projects.

Addressees: The data will not be transferred to third parties, except in the legal obligations established by law.

Rights: Access, rectification, and deletion of data, as well as other rights, as explained in the additional information.

Additional information: You can consult additional and detailed information on Data Protection on our website <http://www.irbllleida.org/en/legal-notice/>.

The data provided by applicants will be incorporated into the processing system owned by IRBLleida in order to manage and resolve the selection process, and will be processed in a lawful, fair, transparent, adequate, relevant, limited, accurate, and up-to-date manner, in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December (LOPDGDD). The legal basis for the processing of data is the fulfilment of a legal obligation on the part of the controller reinforced with the consent of the data subject.

This data must be kept for the period of time strictly necessary to fulfil the aforementioned purpose, respecting in all cases the period determined by these rules and regulations governing the call for applications and the applicable archiving regulations.

Certain data may be communicated to third parties in the public or private sphere, either because the intervention of these entities during the aid management process may be necessary because it is correctly resolved, or because it is provided for in a regulation with the status of law.

As long as the interested party does not communicate otherwise, it will be understood that their details have not been modified and that they undertake to notify the IRB Lleida of any variation.

Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, limitation of processing, suppression, opposition to data processing or exercise their right to portability by writing to IRB Lleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address protecciodedades@irbllleida.cat or to the IRB Lleida's Data Protection Delegate, dpd@ticsalutsocial.cat. You must attach a photocopy of your ID card or sign the e-mail with a recognized electronic signature. In the event of disagreement with the processing, you also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Catalan Data Protection Authority.

7. Annexes

7.1. Annex I

Points to consider implementing RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) principles:

1. Gender equality in the teams and in their decision-making bodies.
2. Citizen participation considering various actors who can participate throughout the process to align the results with the values, needs and expectations of society.
3. Scientific education: Improving the educational process to equip citizens with the skills and knowledge necessary to understand and participate in research and innovation debates.
4. Accessibility to the information generated, both at the beginning of the research and at the end (publications in open access).