INNOVACTION: From ideas to impact. From bench to bed

1. Programme 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 to raise innovative ideas and advance them with working sessions, experts' input and collaborative discussion to submit more robust proposals to next year innovative competitive calls.

1.2. Summary

INNOVACTION is a programme promoted by the Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida (IRBLleida) with the aim of supporting research teams in transforming scientific knowledge, ideas and identified unmet needs into innovation opportunities with potential for transfer and societal impact.

The first edition, **INNOVACTION BENCH** programme is designed primarily for projects at **early stages of development**, particularly those with low Technology Readiness Levels (TRL 1–4), and seeks to provide participants with practical tools, methodologies and support to structure their ideas and prepare them for future competitive funding, collaboration, investment and/or transfer opportunities.

INNOVACTION combines training, practical work on participants' own projects, feedback from the Innovation Unit and subject-matter experts and networking within the IRBLleida innovation ecosystem.

2. Programme Description

2.1. Scope

INNOVACTION is intended to support ideas and projects arising from research and healthcare activity within the IRBLleida ecosystem, including, but not limited to:

- scientific or technological innovations;
- products and services;
- diagnostic or therapeutic approaches;
- medical devices and digital health solutions;

- innovations addressing clinical or healthcare process or organizational needs;
- other knowledge-based innovations with potential for transfer and impact.

The programme will focus **primarily on early-stage projects, particularly projects in TRL 1–4**. Projects at higher TRLs may be considered where participation in the programme is justified by the objectives and activities of the programme.

2.2. Funding & Payment

Participation in the programme is free of charge.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

For the **2026 first BENCH edition**, the indicative programme calendar is:

KO meeting: September 9th, 2026
Call start date: September 10th, 2026
Ideas submission deadline: September 22nd, 2026 (until 23:59 CEST)
Selection of participating projects: September 25th
Working/training sessions: October 5th – November 9th (every Monday for 1 hour)
Final pitch/ Demo day: End of November 2026

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

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

3.2. Incompatibility

None.

3.3. Additional considerations

To accommodate and facilitate the participation of the ideas in the programme, we allow (and **strongly recommend) the submission of the idea with the figure of a Project Leader and a co-Leader** so any of the two leading members (or both) can attend the working sessions and later advance with the idea based on the working session learnings.

4. Application & Award Decision

4.1. Proposal Submission

To participate in the call, candidates will send the following documentation to innovacio@irblleida.cat:

- Excel Form named *FORM INNOVACTION BENCH* available in IRBLleida website: https://www.irblleida.org/en/innovation/innovaction/
- Any questions related with the form can be send to innovacio@irblleida.cat

You will receive a confirmation email once your form has been successfully registered. Please allow up to 2 business days for processing before requesting a confirmation check. Last-minute submissions may not receive the confirmation email until after the 22 September deadline.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed according to criteria aligned with the objectives of INNOVACTION BENCH (low TRL and with transference potential) to ensure fruitful working sessions. Excluded projects will be offered alternative support programmes.

4.3. Award Decision

Applicants shall be informed no later than the 25th of September of the award decision by individual communication.

5. Beneficiaries' obligations

5.1. Project Follow-up

Selected participants shall:

- actively participate in the training and working sessions;
- comply with the timetable and deadlines established by the programme;
- dedicate the expected time to the development of their project;
- complete the practical assignments associated with the sessions;
- provide the Innovation Unit with the information reasonably required to provide feedback and support;
- participate in the final presentation or pitch, where applicable;
- use the tools and resources provided by the programme responsibly;
- respect the confidentiality of information shared by other participants and IRBLleida;
- comply with applicable IRBLleida policies and procedures concerning intellectual property, confidentiality, data protection and research integrity; and

- promptly inform the Innovation Unit of any circumstance that may materially affect the development or eligibility of the project.

Participants shall be responsible for ensuring that any information they share during the programme can legitimately be disclosed.

The programme is intended to provide a safe environment for constructive exchange, and participants are encouraged to share their ideas sufficiently to benefit from feedback and collaboration. However, participants must take appropriate precautions where disclosure could compromise intellectual property, confidentiality or contractual obligations.

Participation in the programme does not replace the formal procedures established by IRBLleida for the disclosure, assessment or protection of intellectual property.

5.2. Project Outputs

Not applicable.

5.3. Final Reporting

Not applicable.

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.irblleida.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 IRBLleida 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 IRBLleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address protecciodedades@irblleida.cat or to the IRBLleida'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.

IRBLleida
Institut de Recerca Biomèdica
Intramural Research Program