

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida - Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRBLleida) has the objective of creating synergies between basic, clinical, and epidemiological research, so that biomedical research is the engine for improving daily clinical practice, for the benefit of the entire population.

The *Diputació de Lleida* is a supra-municipal institution that has its reason for being in them councils of its territorial scope and, therefore, in all its Lleida inhabitants. The corporation has always been signified by the exercise of municipalism committed to the people, the defence of the local world and the international projection of the lands of Lleida. The governmental action is focused on the deployment of policies in favour of the integral development of the territory and, in particular, the territory and on services and actions that strengthen the community. Within the framework of these objectives, IRBLleida, with funding from the *Diputació de Lleida* presents the 4th call for projects to promote health research (PIRS projects). Hereinafter, the "call".

1.2. Summary

The objective of this call is to promote quality health research in the Lleida health region and in Alt Pirineu i Aran health region by granting five grants of €50,000 each one (hereinafter, the "PIRS grants") for two-year research projects of excellence that are developed under the supervision of principal investigators (PI) with a recognized research trajectory.

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

PIRS projects can be individual or transversal collaborative, applying the criteria indicated in section 7 (Evaluation and selection of proposals. Evaluation table). Individual projects will be led by a single PI. Transversal collaborative projects will be under the direction of two PIs from different research groups at IRBLleida, one of them affiliated to a healthcare centre and the other affiliated to a non-healthcare centre. Principal investigators (PI) affiliated to healthcare centres, for the purposes of this call, will be considered as such, regardless of whether they are also affiliated to a non-healthcare centre.

2.2. Funding & Payment

The *Diputació de Lleida* will provide the funds for this call and IRBLleida will oversee its organisation, the management of the funds, and the follow-up of the projects that are financed.

PIRS grants are each endowed with a maximum of €50,000 that will be administered by the PIs, through the IRBLleida management office. In transversal collaborative projects, each co-PI will manage the part of the funds that corresponds to it as indicated in the budget section and in such a way that it proceeds to the schedule of activities of the work plan presented in the request.

Once the final award decision is published, the economic endowment of the PIRS grants awarded will be deposited in the IRBLleida management unit and will be administered by the PI(s) through the IRBLleida management unit. In transversal collaborative projects, each co-PI will manage the corresponding part of the budget as indicated in the work plan and in the budget section of the application.

The funds will be available as of 1st January 2025.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

PIRS grant will last for two years from 1st January 2025. This period may be extended for a maximum period of 6 months.

Call Opening: April 2024

Call Deadline: May 2024

Estimated provisional Resolution: September 2024

Estimated final resolution: October 2024

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

The PIs must meet the following requirements:

- Be linked to a healthcare centre in Lleida or to a non-healthcare biomedical research centre in Lleida (University of Lleida or IRBLleida) throughout the duration of the PIRS project.
- Be affiliated to IRBLleida or have applied for affiliation before or at the time of submitting the grant application and maintain the affiliation throughout the duration of the project. If the PI is affiliated to the *Espitau Vall d'Aran* or the Sant

Hospital Foundation, it will be necessary for the corresponding healthcare centre to sign an agreement with IRBLleida before the PI accepts the grant to regulate the terms and conditions of the affiliation of the PI to IRBLleida. If the agreement is not signed within two months after the award decision, it will be understood that the applicant declines the grant, which will then be awarded to the next project with the highest score in the evaluation.

- Be in possession of the title of (PhD).
- Have a scientific/technical background related to the field of the project presented in the call. This background will be evaluated by the *Agencia Estatal de Investigación* (www.aei.gob.es), incorporating DORA criteria. IRBLleida has adhered to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) with the conviction that we are at an optimal moment to move towards a new culture of evaluation of research activity in all its diversity. These criteria will be applied during the evaluation of the CV of the PIs. In the case of transversal collaborative projects, applicants may choose the co-PI that will be considered PI for the purpose of being evaluated by the above section d).

3.2. Incompatibility

A researcher who applies to the call as PI or co-PI of a project cannot participate (as PI, as co-PI or as a collaborator) in any other project presented in the call. In case of non-compliance with this requirement, all PIRS projects with the participation of said researcher will be excluded from the call.

A researcher who acts as PI or co-PI of a PIRS grant awarded in the second edition (2022) and third edition (2023) cannot apply for any other PIRS project, neither as PI nor as a collaborator in this PIRS 2024 call. The researchers who participate in the call exclusively as collaborators may do so in a maximum of three projects.

To avoid double funding, the PI must declare any funding applications pending decision and overlapping with the current proposal. Applicants who are awarded a PIRS project and also obtain funding for an overlapping grant from another organization must decline the funding from one of the two projects.

4. Application & Award Decision



4.1. Proposal Submission

To participate in this call, the candidates will submit the following documentation using the PIRS 2024 application form. All the materials in the proposals should be written in English (unless otherwise stated). The materials needed for a full proposal to be evaluated are:

- Curriculum vitae (CVA FECYT format) of the two co-PIs of the proposal, highlighting the best 5 publications for each of the Co-PI over the last 5 years (period extendable according to Annex I). Find in Annex II a template for a brief description of the relevance of the best publications selected.
- A detailed project proposal not exceeding 15 pages (single line spacing with Calibri 11) should be submitted using the PIRS 2024 template form. The proposal will include the following points:
 - Summary in English and Spanish or Catalan
 - Background and state of the art.
 - Relevant bibliography.
 - Hypothesis.
 - Objectives.
 - Justification of the interest of the Project and synergies brought about by the collaboration Work plan, if applicable.
 - Work plan and methodology.
 - Previous experience of the team related to the project.
 - Technology and/or knowledge transfer potential.
 - Prospects of extending collaboration beyond the project.
 - Other funds granted and/or requested substantially overlapping with the project proposed and pending award decision.
 - Adaptation to the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation
 - Requested budget, maximum € 50,000 distributed in:
 - Personnel: Directly involved in the proposal (May not exceed 50% of the total grant requested).
 - Small equipment.
 - Consumables.
 - Subcontracting (may not exceed 50% of the total grant requested).
 - Travel expenses (may not exceed 5% of the total grant requested).
 - Other expenses: publication costs, etc. (may not exceed 10% of the total grant requested).
- If needed, ethics (CEEA and/or CEIm) and biosecurity committees' approvals or documents indicating that the proposals have been submitted for their approval.
- Responsible Declaration Form (Annex V).

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation process will be carried out by the *Agencia Estatal de Investigación* (www.aei.gob.es). The key aspects that will be evaluated are the scientific excellence of the proposal, the track record of the two Co-PIs, the feasibility of the proposal and

 IRB Lleida <small>Institut de Recerca Biomèdica</small>	Call for Projects to Promote Health Research 2024- 4th Edition (PIRS24)	With the collaboration of:  Diputació de Lleida <small>La força dels municipis</small>
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the potential impact of the project. More specifically, the proposals will be scored according to the criteria indicated in the following table:

Criteria		Definition	Points
Scientific-technical aspects of the proposal	Quality, novelty and originality	How is the proposal expanding horizons against the state-of-the-art? What is the experimental design? Is the gender perspective been taken into account?	15
	Viability and workplan	Define the work packages. Include a Gantt's Chart containing project workflow.	10
	Impact	How is the proposal improving current solutions in terms of social, patient welfare, economic and/or other relevant impact?	10
Curriculum of the PI		-	25
Curriculum of the co-PI		-	5
Transversal collaborative project		Applicable to all transversal collaborative projects (according to the definition of this call; see point 2)	15
Other	Adaptation of the proposal to the strategic lines of the Diputació de Lleida and the IRBLleida (Annex III)		5
	Implementation of RRI policies (Annex IV)		5
	One of the two co-PIs is the head of an emerging group or under the age of 45 (born 1979 or later).		5
	Possibility of transfer to the SNS		5
Maximum		Total sum	100

The evaluation of the proposals will be performed by at least two independent experts in the field of the proposal and handled by an external agency (AEI).

4.3. Award Decision

Any allegations to the provisional award decision will have to be submitted within 5 days of its publication. The allegations will be addressed by the external agency, and if it is deemed necessary, the AEI will be requested to respond to them. Once the allegations are resolved, the final award decision will be published.

5. Beneficiaries' obligations

5.1. Project Follow-up

Any change that may affect the development of the project must be duly notified and justified to the CIAC (Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission) of IRBLleida. This will also apply to changes in the budget, which cannot be made without the written approval of the CIAC.

At the end of the first year of the project, the PI(s) should submit a short report to the Grant Office indicating to what degree the proposed objectives and milestones have been met, justifying any deviation from the original plan.

5.2. Project Outputs

The support of IRBLleida and *Diputació de Lleida* must be duly acknowledged in all project outputs. In any oral or written communication about the research project and/or the results obtained from the received grant, the main researcher (or the person who shows/disseminates the results) must mention specifically the support of IRBLleida and the *Diputació de Lleida* and use the logos of both institutions whenever possible.

The PIs of the awarded PIRS projects undertake to participate in those acts of dissemination of their project and/or results that both the Lleida Provincial Council and the IRBLleida deem necessary, up to a maximum of 3 per year and that do not involve the loss of more than one working day none of them.

5.3. Final Reporting

Within a maximum period of three months after the end of the project, the PI(s) will submit a joint final report to the internal Grant Office, describing the degree of compliance with the objectives and the outputs achieved (publications, patents, clinical practice guidelines...).

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 all persons

involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject to prior consent of the applicants.

6.2. 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 in the course of 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 the processing of their data or exercise their right to

portability by writing to IRBLleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address protecciodedades@irbllleida.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.

7. Annexes

7.1. Annex I

Important aspects that will be evaluated in this proposal are inputs (funding, industry contracts, etc) and outputs (publications, patents, etc) of the PIs of the projects during the last 5 years. This period of 5 years can be extended due to the following situations:

- a) Six months for each maternity/paternity leave
- b) Temporary incapacity during pregnancy for reasons related to it. An extension of the same duration as the sick leave will be accumulated to the extension included in section a).
- c) For temporary disability due to serious illness or accident of the applicant, with medical leave equal to or greater than three months, the extension period will be the same as the disability duration (certified with official leave).
- d) Care of people in a situation of dependency, in accordance with the provisions of the Law 39/2006, of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Attention to people in a situation of dependency. An extension will be applied in weeks resulting from the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional caregiver.

All the leaves must be correctly credited at the time of filing the grant application.

7.2. Annex II

Please provide here a selection of the five best publications over the last five years. A brief description of the impact and relevance of the publication in the field can be provided (maximum 200 words). This will be evaluated following DORA criteria with the conviction that we are at an optimal moment to move towards a new culture of evaluation of research activity in all its diversity. The Impact Factor of the journal and the quartile/decile must be obtained from Journal Citation Reports (JCR) of the publication year. For new publications take the last JCR available. (<https://www.isciii.es/QueHacemos/Servicios/Biblioteca/Paginas/JCR.aspx>). The Field-Weighted Citing Impact, FWCI, that shows a normalized citation impact, can be obtained from SCOPUS (<https://www.scopus.com/search/form.uri?display=basic&zone=header&origin=#basic>). Further information of how to obtain the publication indicators could be found in

“Guia rápida de indicadores DORA del ISCIII” (<https://zenodo.org/records/10617727>)
 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnCiW4L6tpo>)

Publication 1			
Authors <i>(as they appear in the publication)</i>			
Title			
Journal <i>(name, volume, first-last page)</i>			
Year			
FWCI (Scopus)			
Publication type <i>(O: Original research, R: review)</i>			
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)			
Main author (Y/N):	Journal Impact factor:	Quartile 1 (Y/N):	Decile 1 (Y/N):
Relevance/impact of the paper in the field (Max. 200 words):			

Publication 2			
Authors <i>(as they appear in the publication)</i>			
Title			
Journal <i>(name, volume, first-last page)</i>			
Year			
FWCI (Scopus)			
Publication type <i>(O: Original research, R: review)</i>			
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)			
Main author (Y/N):	Journal Impact factor:	Quartile 1 (Y/N):	Decile 1 (Y/N):
Relevance/impact of the paper in the field (Max. 200 words):			

Publication 3	
Authors <i>(as they appear in the publication)</i>	
Title	
Journal <i>(name, volume, first-last page)</i>	
Year	
FWCI (Scopus)	
Publication type <i>(O: Original research, R: review)</i>	

Digital Object Identifier (DOI)			
Main author (Y/N):	Journal Impact factor:	Quartile 1 (Y/N):	Decile 1 (Y/N):
Relevance/impact of the paper in the field (Max. 200 words):			

Publication 4			
Authors <i>(as they appear in the publication)</i>			
Title			
Journal <i>(name, volume, first-last page)</i>			
Year			
FWCI (Scopus)			
Publication type <i>(O: Original research, R: review)</i>			
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)			
Main author (Y/N):	Journal Impact factor:	Quartile 1 (Y/N):	Decile 1 (Y/N):
Relevance/impact of the paper in the field (Max. 200 words):			

Publication 5			
Authors <i>(as they appear in the publication)</i>			
Title			
Journal <i>(name, volume, first-last page)</i>			
Year			
FWCI (Scopus)			
Publication type <i>(O: Original research, R: review)</i>			
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)			
Main author (Y/N):	Journal Impact factor:	Quartile 1 (Y/N):	Decile 1 (Y/N):
Relevance/impact of the paper in the field (Max. 200 words):			

7.3. Annex III

Strategic lines of research of the Lleida Provincial Council and IRBLleida

- Health of children, young people, and women.
- Nutrition, obesity, and sedentary lifestyle.
- Aging.
- Mental health.
- Chronic diseases, frailty, alternatives to hospitalization and institutionalisation.
- Territorial equity (accessibility, emergencies, technology)
- Healthy territories, exposure to pesticide, insecticide, and fungicide contaminants.
- Cardiovascular.
- Neurology and neurosciences.
- Cancer.

The adaptation of these lines to the following transversal lines in the projects is encouraged: styles of life, big data, promotion and prevention, social inequality, digitization, and pig model.

7.4. Annex IV

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).

7.5. Annex V

RESPONSIBLE DECLARATION FORM

I, Mr/Ms. of legal age, with National Identity Card No. / Passport No. declare that I meet the requirements for participation in this call for applications and that all the information provided in the same is true.

And for the record and for the purposes of my participation in this call, I sign this declaration in Lleida at _____ of _____ of 2024.

