

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. Government action is focused on the deployment of policies in favour of the integral development of the territory, and particularly the territory, as well as on services and actions that strengthen the community. Within the framework of these objectives, IRBLleida, with funding from the *Diputació de Lleida* presents the *6th call for projects to promote health research (PIRS projects)*.

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 “Evaluation and selection of proposals. Evaluation table.” A single PI will lead individual projects. Transversal collaborative projects will be under the direction of two PIs from different research groups at IRBLleida, one of them affiliated with a healthcare centre and the other affiliated with a non-healthcare centre. Principal investigators (PI) affiliated with 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 financed projects.

PIRS grants are each endowed with a maximum of €50,000 which will be administered by the PI 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 financial endowment of the PIRS grants awarded will be deposited in the IRBLleida management unit and administered by the PI(s) through the same unit. In transversal collaborative projects, each co-PI will manage the corresponding portion of the budget as outlined in the work plan and the budget section of the application. The project funds will be available starting from January 1, 2027.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

PIRS grant will last for two years from January 1, 2027. The project execution period cannot be extended.

Call Opening: April 17, 2026

Call Deadline: May 22, 2026

Estimated provisional resolution: October 2026

Estimated final resolution: November 2026

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 with 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 with 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 be awarded to the next project with the highest score in the evaluation.

- Be in possession of the PhD title.
- Have a scientific/technical background related to the field of the project presented in the call. This background will be evaluated by externally, 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 transition towards a new culture of evaluating research activity in all its diversity. These criteria will be applied when evaluating the scientific production of the PI of the proposal.

In the case of transversal collaborative projects, applicants may choose the co-PI to be considered as the PI for the purpose of the scientific production evaluation.

3.2. Incompatibility

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

A researcher who acts as PI or co-PI of a PIRS grant awarded in the fourth (2024) or fifth edition (2025) cannot apply for any other PIRS project, either as PI or as a collaborator, in this PIRS 2026 call. 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 receive 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 2026 application form. All proposals materials 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.

- Highlight the best 5 publications of the PI in the PI Data document (period extendable according to Annex I). Find in Annex II a template for the description of the impact, relevance, repercussion, implementation of public politics and social media impact of the selected publications.
- A detailed project proposal not exceeding 25 pages (single line spacing with Calibri 11) should be submitted using the PIRS 2026 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.
 - Team members and roles.
 - 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, minutes are not eligible).
 - Small equipment*
 - Consumables*
 - Subcontracting (may not exceed 50% of the total grant requested).
 - Travel expenses: may not exceed 5% of the total grant requested. Accommodation and transport costs follow the reference amounts established by the Generalitat de Catalunya (Decree 138/2008 of 8 July on compensation for service-related expenses).
 - Other expenses: publication costs, etc. (may not exceed 10% of the total grant requested).

**According to what is established in Chapters 2 and 6 of Annex III of Order EHA/3565/2008, of 3 December, which approves the budget structure of local entities, regarding the definition of current expenditure and capital expenditure. Please contact the project office if you have any doubts.*

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- 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 led by CIAC (Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission) through an external company. The key aspects that will be evaluated are the scientific excellence of the proposal, the track record of the two Co-PIs, the proposal's feasibility, and the project's potential impact. More specifically, the proposals will be scored according to the criteria indicated in the following table:

Criteria	Definition	Maximum Score
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? Has the gender perspective been considered?	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 and scientific production (last 7 years of the PI)	Evaluation of the principal investigator profile and adequation of the research production to the scientific field of the project. This evaluation will consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scientific production and its impact on the scientific community (10 points). - Leadership in competitive projects, especially those related to the scientific field of the proposal (10 points). Human resources funding, SGR groups or network grants will not be considered as competitive projects. - Intellectual and industrial property protection (5 points). 	25
Curriculum of the co-PI	Holistic evaluation of the co-principal investigator profile and complementarity for the proposal development.	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 IRB Lleida (Annex III)	5
	Implementation of RRI policies (Annex IV)	5

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	One of the two co-PIs is the head of an emerging group or under the age of 45 (period extendable according to Annex I).	5
	Possibility of transfer to the SNS	5
Total sum		100

At least two independent experts in the proposal field will evaluate the proposals, in a process led by CIAC through an external company.

4.3. Award Decision

Any allegations regarding the provisional award decision must be submitted within 5 days of its publication. The external company will address the allegations, and if necessary, will be requested to respond. 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 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 project's first year, the PI(s) should submit a scientific intermediate report to the IRBLleida Projects Unit (postaward@irbllleida.cat).

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.

To ensure the proper protection of intellectual and/or industrial property arising from this action, Principal Investigators (PIs) hosting postdoctoral researchers must inform the IRBLleida Innovation Office (innovacio@irbllleida.cat) of any communication and/or dissemination related to the work of the postdoctoral researchers. PIs are responsible for ensuring that the guidelines for the accurate identification of IRBLleida's scientific output are followed.

The PIs of the awarded PIRS projects undertake to participate in one act of dissemination per year of their project and/or results, as deemed necessary by both the Lleida Provincial Council and IRBLleida, which does not involve the loss of more than one working day for any of them.

5.3. Final Reporting

Within a maximum period of three months after the end of the project, the PI(s) must be sent to the IRBLleida Projects Unit (postaward@irblleida.cat). This report must include details of the scientific objectives achieved, as well as any publications and communications resulting from this action. The final report template can be found on the website under the intramural calls section.

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 involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject to the 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 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 IRB Lleida 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 data processing 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 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.

Specific 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 the processing of their data 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

In cases where the evaluation of any type of merit is subject to a defined assessment period, the time frame will be adjusted to exclude the proportional duration of interruptions due to the reasons listed below, calculated according to the following criteria:

- A) Periods of leave related to maternity or paternity, adoption, or foster care, taken in accordance with the protected situations recognized under the General Social

Security Regime. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of leave taken per child.

- B) Temporary incapacity due to serious illness or accident of the applicant, with a medical leave of three months or more. A one-year extension will be applied.
- C) Temporary incapacity during pregnancy due to pregnancy-related causes. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of leave. This extension may be added, where applicable, to the one indicated in section A.
- D) Care for dependent persons, as established in Law 39/2006 of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for People in a Situation of Dependency. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times 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

Publication			
Authors <i>(as they appear in the publication)</i>			
Applicant author position <i>Define if leading (first or co-author), corresponding or collaborator author</i>			
Title			
Journal <i>(name, volume, first-last page)</i>			
DOI			
Year			
Quartile		Decile	
Description of the publication:			
Relevance <i>Publication citations</i> <i>Excluding auto-citations</i> <i>Impact indicators</i>		(Max. 400 words):	
Repercussion <i>Patent or clinical practice guide derived from the publication</i> <i>Reference, title or similar for validation</i>			
Implementation of public politics <i>Any public politics derived from this publication</i>			
Social and media impact			

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Any impact made on traditional and digital mass media

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.



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(PIRS26)

With the collaboration of:



And for the record and for the purposes of my participation in this call, I sign this declaration in Lleida at _____ of _____ 2026.

