

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The *Institute for Biomedical Research of Lleida Fundació - Dr. Pifarré (IRBLleida)* opens the third call for grants to support the Institute's associated clinical groups. This call is financed with IRBLleida's own funds. The communication of this call will be made through the website, social networks and corporate dissemination mailing list by subscription of IRBLleida, as well as on other web portals intended for this purpose.

1.2. Summary

The purpose of this call is to support researchers from associated clinical groups with the aim of accelerating the research dynamics in the groups to boost their conversion into emerging groups in a short period of time. This grant is part of the package of actions to support associated clinical groups provided for in the support plan for emerging research groups and staff (DI-022).

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

Two grants will be awarded, which will finance three complementary actions, in which the principal investigator will be listed as the person in charge:

- 1) A research project of €20,000 that will have to be developed over a period of one year.
- 2) A one-year intensification contract, endowed with €32,500 so that the PI of the project can devote at least 50% of the time to the development of research activities.
- 3) The hiring of an external consultant to provide personalized support for the drafting of a proposal for the call for projects in health AES2028.

2.2. Funding & Payment

IRBLleida will provide the funds for this call and supervise its organization, the management of the funds and the monitoring of the funded projects and the intensification contract in the healthcare center, after the transfer of the necessary funds for the hiring of the care personnel who will carry out the tasks in the hospital of the intensified PI.

Once the final resolution is published, the financial endowment of the AGA project awarded (maximum €20,000) will be deposited in the IRBLeida management unit and will be administered by the principal investigator through this unit. In the case of the intensification contract, the allocation of €32,500 will be transferred to the HR department of the Hospital where the PI is contracted after the signing of an agreement between the two parties that regulates the conditions of the contract and the justification for it.

Finally, IRBLeida will be responsible for contracting and covering the costs of the consultancy services that will support the preparation of a health project for submission to the AES 2028 call.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

The project's expected start date is January 1, 2027, with a duration of one year. This period may be extended for a maximum of six additional months. After this extension period, the project will be definitively concluded.

In the same way, after the resolution of the call and the signing of the agreement with the corresponding hospital, the intensification contract can be started with a maximum duration of 12 months, although they do not necessarily have to be consecutive. The only condition is that the contract must be developed while the AGA project is active.

The support of the external consultant will be used to prepare a proposal for an IP project in health of the AES 2028 call, with the coordination of the IRBLeida competitive projects unit.

- **Publication of the call:** 22nd July 2026
- **Application deadline:** 30th September 2026
- **Estimated provisional Resolution:** November 2026
- **Estimated final resolution:** December 2026

3. Candidates Profile

3.1. Eligibility

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Be in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Have a link with IRBLeida as a member through the specific agreement with the contracting centre (ICS or GSS). The affiliation with IRBLeida must be at least 6 months old with respect to the closing date of the call and must remain during the period of activity of the funded AGA project.

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- Belong to one of the clinical associated groups of IRBLleida.
- Have a scientific/technical history related to the field of the project presented in the call.

3.2. Incompatibilities

The aim of these grants is to encourage associated clinical groups to become emerging groups. According to IRBLleida's current research group regulations, a basic requirement to do so is to obtain competitive funding for a national/international or two regional projects by a researcher from this group.

Therefore, it will not be possible for doctoral research staff from associated clinical groups to participate in this call, if at the time of the closing of the call any researcher in this group is PI of a national project or two regional competitive projects.

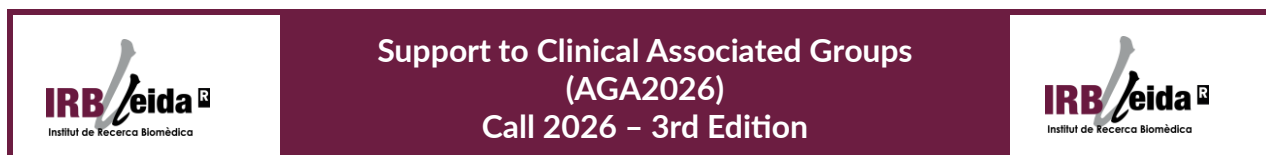
Researchers who act as PI of an active AGA grant awarded in the first (2024) or second (2025) editions are not eligible to apply to this year's call.

4. Application and Resolution of the Grant

4.1. Application for the Grant

The necessary documentation must be submitted through the link provided for this purpose in the intramural calls section of the IRBLleida website (<https://www.irbllleida.org/es/convocatorias-intramurales/>).

- Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (CVA) of the principal investigator (FECYT format).
- Document "data of the candidate", with the scientific merits of the PI. This document includes a selection of the five best publications in the last seven years (or extensions as described in Annex I).
- Application form with the standardised template – intramural section of the IRBLleida website containing the following sections:
 - Summary.
 - Background and state of the art.
 - Relevant bibliography.
 - Hypothesis.
 - Objectives.
 - Work plan and methodology.
 - Previous experience of the team related to the project.
 - Potential for technology and/or knowledge transfer.
 - Adaptation to the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation.
 - Budget requested, maximum €20,000 distributed in:
 - Staff: Not Eligible.



- Equipment*.
- Consumables*.
- Subcontracting (may not exceed 50% of the total requested).
- Travel expenses (they cannot exceed 5% of the total requested).
- Other expenses: publication costs, etc. (they cannot exceed 10% of the total requested).
- Responsible Declaration Form (Annex II).

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.

- If applicable, approvals from ethics committees (CEEA and/or CEIm) and biosafety committees, or documents indicating that the proposals have been submitted for approval.
- Letter of acceptance from the head of the department/service to which the candidate belongs (standardised template available in the intramural section of the IRBLleida website).

4.2. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation process will be carried out by external evaluators from the field of clinical research, under the supervision of the internal scientific evaluation committee (CIAC). The key aspects to be evaluated are the scientific excellence, feasibility and potential impact of the proposal, and the track record of the PI. The implementation of RRI policies will also be considered, and an extra score will be given to candidates who are under 45 years of age at the time of the closing of the call. More specifically, the proposals will be scored according to the criteria indicated in the following table:

Criteria		Score
Scientific/technical aspects of the proposal	Quality, novelty and originality	30
	Feasibility and Work Plan	25
	Impact/Transfer to the NHS	25
IP Scientific Production	Publications DORA Criteria (last 7 years) *	10
Implementation of RRI policies		5
Young IP (under 45 years old) *		5
Total		100

*Period extendable according to Annex I.

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4.3. Award Decision

After completing the evaluation process, the CIAC will submit to the director of IRBLeida (or his/her delegate) a list that will include the selected candidates and the candidates in reserve. The director (or delegate) will issue a provisional resolution, detailing the selected candidates and the prioritised bookings. After the provisional resolution, applicants will have 5 working days to submit possible allegations to the decision by sending an email to projects@irbllleida.cat. The allegations will be studied by the panel and will be given a response within a maximum period of 10 working days. Once the allegations have been resolved, the final resolution will be made public.

Within a period of one month from the publication of the final award decision, the selected candidates proposed as beneficiaries must sign a document accepting the grant. Failure to accept the position within this period will be considered a resignation of the grant.

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 CIAC. This also applies to changes in the budget, which cannot be carried out without the written approval of CIAC and the IRBLeida Management Office.

5.2. Project Outputs

In order to guarantee the adequate protection of the intellectual and/or industrial property derived from this action, the beneficiary of the grant must inform the IRBLeida Innovation Office (innovacio@irbllleida.cat) of any communication and/or dissemination related to the project.

The material that is made public within the framework of the project linked to the grant of this call, as well as any dissemination action in which the beneficiary of the grant participates, must include a mention of the source of internal funding of IRBLeida ("This work has received funding from the IRBLeida Intramural Research Grants Program (IREP)").

5.3. Final Reporting

A complete report must be sent to the IRBLeida Projects Unit (postaward@irbllleida.cat) within two months of the end of the grant. This report must include details of the scientific objectives achieved, as well as any publications and

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communications resulting from this action. You can find the template of the final report on the website – section intramural calls.

6. Other Clauses

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

6.1. Confidentiality of Documentation

The documentation associated with the applications will be treated as confidential information, and it will be mandatory for all personnel involved in their evaluation to treat the information confidentially. The information may be used for information and dissemination purposes with the prior authorisation of the applicant.

6.2. Terms and Conditions, Industrial and Intellectual Property

The intellectual or industrial property rights and exploitation rights that may arise from the implementation of the idea granted will belong to IRBLleida, recognising as authors or inventors the people who have conceived and put these ideas into practice and applying IRBLleida's intellectual and industrial property regulations.

6.3. Information Clause on the Processing of Personal Data

Responsible for the call: Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida Dr. Pifarré Foundation (IRBLleida).

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

Legitimacy: The legal basis of the processing is the completion of a selection process to provide financial support to research projects.

Recipients: 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 the 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, precise and up-to-date manner in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December (LOPDGDD). The legal

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basis for data processing is compliance with 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 purpose, respecting in any case 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 for it to be resolved correctly or because it is provided for in a regulation with the force of law.

As long as the interested party does not communicate otherwise, it will be considered that their data has not been modified and that they undertake to notify IRBLleida of any variation.

Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, limitation of processing, deletion, 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@irblleida.cat or to the Data Protection Officer of IRBLleida, dpd@ticsalutsocial.cat. A copy of your identity document must be attached or the email must be signed with a recognised electronic signature. In the event of disagreement with the processing, you also have the right to file a complaint with the Catalan Data Protection Authority.

7. Annex

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.

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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.

Temporary incapacity situations and periods of time dedicated to full-time leave due to gestation, pregnancy, risk during gestation, pregnancy or breastfeeding, birth, maternity, paternity, adoption for the purpose of adoption or foster care, or accumulated breastfeeding leave taken as full working days, or analogous situations related to the above, as well as the use of full-time leave for reasons of work-life balance or care of minors, family members, or dependent persons, and the time dedicated to leave of absence for the care of a child, a family member, or due to gender based violence during the duration of the contract, shall interrupt the calculation of the maximum duration of the contract.

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

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 Intramural Research Program

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7.2. Annex II

RESPONSIBLE DECLARATION

I, Dr./Dra., of legal age, with ID / Passport No. I declare that I meet the requirements to participate in this call and that all the information provided in it is true.

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

