

GLOBAL STRATEGIC CALL FOR SENIOR RESEARCH LEADERSHIP IN NEUROLOGY AND NEURODEGENERATION

Join a leading research initiative at the
Barcelona β Brain Research Center (BBRC)

barcelona β
BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

 **Hospital del Mar**
Barcelona

WELCOME

The **BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC)**, a Pasqual Maragall Foundation research centre, is a pioneer in research into the prevention of Alzheimer's disease and the study of the cognitive functions affected by healthy and pathological ageing. Founded in 2012 by the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, with the support of the Pompeu Fabra University and the impetus of "la Caixa" Foundation for its flagship project, the ALFA cohort, its purpose is to provide innovative solutions to decipher and prevent biological changes and cognitive dysfunctions associated with neurodegenerative diseases.

With an eye on the global challenge of an ageing population, the BBRC carries out cutting-edge scientific work with avant-garde technical facilities including an exclusive 3T MRI scanner for research and spaces for clinical trials. The quality of the research is based on effective management and an ongoing evaluation system using high-level peer review.

The **BBRC** is part of the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), one of the most dynamic biomedical research ecosystems in Europe. The PRBB offers an international, collaborative and multidisciplinary environment with a direct connection to clinical activity that favours translational research.

The BBRC has been awarded the HR Excellence in Research (HRS4R) seal by the European Commission, which accredits the institutional commitment to the continuous improvement of human resources policies and to an open, transparent, merit-based work environment, aligned with the European Charter for Researchers.



Hospital del Mar, a University Hospital affiliated with Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) and part of the Catalan public health sector, provides comprehensive healthcare services while actively engaging in health research and prevention programs. The **Hospital del Mar Research Institute (HMRIB)** is the biomedical research institute of Hospital del Mar as defined by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III, from the Spanish Government.

Pompeu Fabra University is a public university located in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain. Established in 1990 by the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, the university has consistently ranked among the top universities in Spain, earning the title of the best university in the country since 2015. It also ranked 16th among the world's best young universities in 2022, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The BBRC, in close alliance with leading clinical and academic partners, provides a unique, fully integrated environment that represents a pioneering effort to fully integrate research, prevention, and clinical care for Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions where cutting-edge clinical care, translational research, and collaborative academic innovation come together.

The BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC) has become a key member of the newly established **Alzheimer Barcelona HUB**, a pioneering initiative bringing together research institutions specializing in Alzheimer's disease and neurodegenerative disorders, as well as the city's leading hospitals—including the **Hospital de Sant Pau, the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, the Hospital del Mar, and the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital**.

This unique project, promoted with the support of the Barcelona City Council, represents a collaborative effort to accelerate scientific progress and improve clinical care for individuals affected by Alzheimer's disease and strengthens the leadership of Barcelona in Alzheimer's research.

The creation of this HUB will promote scientific excellence, attract investments, improve the transfer of research to clinical practice and promote training in Alzheimer's and neurodegenerative diseases.

A PRIVILEGED RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Barcelona is the seventh city in the world in terms of scientific output on Alzheimer's and the second in Europe, behind only London, according to data from the second bibliometric study published in July 2023. This report, prepared by the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, provides a global overview of scientific production on dementia and Alzheimer's between 2017 and 2021.

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation and its research institute, the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center, are part of the city project *La Ciutadella del Coneixement*, a strategic initiative for both the city and the country aimed at connecting research, universities, innovation and citizens, and promoting a step change in scale around the current Ciutadella Campus of Pompeu Fabra University, in the *Vila Olímpica* neighbourhood of Barcelona.

Both institutions are located in the same building of 4,276 m² within the Ciutadella Campus of Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), just 700 metres from the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), of which the Foundation is a member. Within this privileged biomedical environment, the BBRC maintains close collaboration with the other research centres in this ecosystem.

In partnership with Pompeu Fabra University, the Pasqual Maragall Foundation **will expand its facilities** over the next five years in order to consolidate a leading centre for research and support for families affected by Alzheimer's disease within this new knowledge ecosystem in the heart of Barcelona. We work for the brain in the heart of Barcelona.

In addition, the former site of the *Mercat del Peix*, located close to the Foundation's current headquarters, will be transformed into a new research and innovation complex of approximately 45,000 m². The complex will include three buildings dedicated to biomedicine, biodiversity and the well-being of society.

The FPM-BBRC group will therefore consolidate its position at the epicentre of Barcelona, within an environment where the knowledge economy generates future progress and development.

Leveraging its collaborative model, the BBRC creates **unmatched opportunities** for neurologists to develop independent research programs while maintaining excellence in clinical practice.

And now we are looking for visionary neurologists eager to thrive in a highly collaborative, translational, and internationally connected environment, shaping the future of neurodegeneration research and care.

For further information see: www.fpmaragall.org and www.barcelonabeta.org

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center (BBRC) invites applications to join a world-leading research environment dedicated to understanding and preventing Alzheimer's disease and related age-associated neurodegenerative disorders. This is a unique opportunity to become part of an institution where clinical excellence, translational research, and innovation converge to shape the future of brain health.

At BBRC, we seek researchers who are passionate about making a global impact.

A key feature of this call is our structured Clinical Research Itinerary: a flexible and supportive framework designed to foster clinical excellence while building a strong, independent research profile.

We are looking for outstanding neurologists to join our mission through:

- **2 Senior Neurologist positions:** Leaders ready to develop fully independent research lines in neurodegeneration. We welcome candidates with experience in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, movement disorders, or related fields. Research directions may include, but are not limited to, disease mechanisms, biomarkers, clinical trials, and translational innovation.

These positions are designed to allow for strategic alignment with BBRC priorities while providing the flexibility to define and lead their own scientific research lines, establishing internationally competitive and high-impact research programmes.

Selected candidates will join a dynamic and collaborative scientific environment, working alongside internationally recognised experts and contributing to cutting-edge advances in the understanding, prevention, and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases.

Beyond professional growth, candidates will benefit from being part of an institution driven by scientific excellence, innovation and societal impact, making this an exceptional career opportunity for talented neurologists who want to help shape the future of the field.

ABOUT THE ROLES

2 Senior Neurologists – Group Leaders for independent research lines in Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases

The Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center (BBRC), in collaboration with Hospital del Mar, invites applications for **two Senior Neurologists** to lead **independent research lines** within the field of **Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders**.

We seek outstanding clinician-scientists with **broad and complementary expertise** across neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, movement disorders, synucleinopathies, and related disorders. Candidates will contribute to a **shared strategic vision**: advancing the understanding, early detection, prevention, and treatment of neurodegeneration across the full clinical continuum.

We are specifically seeking **fully independent research leaders**, capable of defining and driving their own research lines, establishing internationally competitive programs, securing funding, and leading multidisciplinary teams. Applicants are expected to demonstrate a strong track record of high-impact publications and the potential to become leaders in the field of neurodegeneration.

Successful candidates are expected to align their research with BBRC’s mission and to actively **bridge clinical practice and translational research** participating in the integrated model that spans **preclinical stages, biomarker discovery, translational research, and clinical implementation**.

These positions offer a unique opportunity to work in a highly collaborative environment bridging **cutting-edge research and specialized clinical care**, leveraging the joint infrastructure of BBRC and Hospital del Mar while shaping **independent, internationally competitive research programs**.

Key responsibilities

- Lead and develop independent, internationally competitive research programs in Alzheimer’s disease and/or other neurodegenerative disorders (e.g., Parkinson’s disease, synucleinopathies, movement disorders).
- Advance research on disease mechanisms, including early pathophysiology, neurodegeneration, and progression across the clinical continuum.
- Design and implement studies using multimodal biomarkers, including fluid biomarkers, neuroimaging, and digital markers.
- Promote preventive strategies, early intervention approaches, and innovative therapeutic developments, including neuromodulation where relevant.
- Leverage and contribute to large longitudinal cohorts and clinical datasets at BBRC.
- Foster translational research, bridging observational studies, clinical trials, and real-world clinical practice.
- Contribute to and, where applicable, participate in clinical care, particularly in specialized areas such as cognitive disorders or movement disorders, within Hospital del Mar.
- Develop and lead multidisciplinary teams integrating clinicians, researchers, and allied health professionals.
- Establish and strengthen national and international collaborations, including participation in leading consortia in neurodegenerative diseases.

- Secure competitive funding and publish in high-impact peer-reviewed journals.
- Mentor and supervise fellows, junior faculty, and residents, contributing to training the next generation of clinician-scientists.
- Contribute to education and outreach activities for healthcare professionals, patients, and the broader community.

REQUIREMENTS

- Degree in Medicine and Surgery.
- Specialization in Neurology (via residency program or equivalent recognition).
- Proven expertise in dementia and cognitive impairment.
- Strong interest and experience in clinical research.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Familiarity with biomarkers, neuroimaging, and clinical trials in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.
- Ability to work collaboratively within multidisciplinary teams in hospital-academic settings.
- Proven track record in independent research.
- Experience obtaining competitive research funding.
- Strong leadership skills and ability to work effectively in a team environment.
- Extensive experience in clinical care and research related to Parkinson's disease with special focus on neuromodulation (HIFUS, LIFUS, DBS, other).

Languages

- Excellent communication skills in English.
- Fluent in Catalan and Spanish.

WORKING CONDITIONS

BBRC offers a stimulating and collaborative research environment in one of Europe's most dynamic biomedical research hubs. Selected candidates will benefit from:

- Highly attractive remuneration, aligned with top hospital-academic and clinical sector standards.
- Excellent agreement of the organization regarding the annual schedule of effective hours: 1.618 hours full-time.
- Weekly working hours: 38 hours/week.
- Hybrid work model (on-site + remote).
- Flexible Time Management through Results-Oriented Work model.
- 23 working days of vacation proportional to the hire date, plus additional calendar days distributed throughout the year, and days off in March–April and December.
- Flexible benefits program (meal card, health insurance, childcare).
- A highly collaborative international research environment.
- Integration within Hospital del Mar clinical programs.
- Opportunities to participate in high-impact international clinical research.

- Build your academic and clinical career in an internationally visible environment.
- Support for grant applications and research development.
- Professional development opportunities within BBRC.
- Group Leader including starting package, lab space and management support.
- Access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources at PRBB – UPF Mar Campus.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Preselection

The selection committee, in collaboration with the HR Department, will evaluate applications based on the qualifications, experience, and motivation expressed in the cover letter and CV. This process will be merit-based, resulting in a list of preselected candidates.



2. Interview stage

The selection committee will assess each application, ensuring that every profile is evaluated according to internal selection policies, which are based on transparency and merit, in compliance with the HRS4R Excellence Award. Preselected candidates will participate in the following phases:

Vision statement

Candidates will be asked to develop and present a plan outlining their leadership style, approach to team management, and strategic vision for the future. This plan should align with the Foundation's strategic objectives and mission.

Visit

Finalists will have the opportunity to visit the organisation. During this visit, they will meet the team and experience the working environment, gaining an overall view of the institution's culture.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested candidates should submit a single PDF file containing the following documents:

- Cover letter addressed to Dr. Arcadi Navarro and Dr. Pablo Villoslada, highlighting motivations, experiences and interest in the position.
- Up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- References: Up to three contacts may be requested for references during the selection process.

The documentation must be sent confidentially and electronically to talent@barcelonabeta.org (please specify the position you are applying for in the subject line).

We are committed to providing equal opportunities to all, regardless of background. We encourage candidates to apply regardless of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, marital status, pregnancy, or maternity.

We promote excellence in neuroscience through diverse perspectives and actively support the development and leadership of women in our scientific community.

Deadline for submitting applications: Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

Contact:

talent@barcelonabeta.org



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