

PRESS RELEASE

The Barcelona Science Park and "la Caixa" Foundation get the 16th Live Research Fair underway

From African clawed frog oocytes... to drugs that are activated by light

- As part of the 16th Live Research Fair run by the Barcelona Science Park (*Parc Científic de Barcelona*, PCB) and "la Caixa" Foundation, from today to Saturday 14 April nearly 90 researchers from eleven centres in Catalonia are bringing their laboratories to CosmoCaixa to interact with the community and give visitors a chance to participate in their most cutting-edge projects.
- The Fair is expecting over 1,500 visitors and admission is free, although on 11, 12 and 13 April it is aimed only at schools. On 14 April it is open to the public and at 12 p.m. Francesc Orella —the actor who plays the charismatic philosophy teacher in the TV series *Merlí*— will deliver an open-to-all class to discuss the transcendent aspects of scientific research using his unorthodox methods.

Barcelona, 11 April 2018. The [Live Research Fair](#), which opens its doors today at [CosmoCaixa Barcelona](#) until Saturday 14 April, aims to raise public awareness of research by opening up dialogue between the community and researchers and encouraging young people to consider scientific professions.

This year the exhibition, organised by the [Barcelona Science Park](#) and "[la Caixa](#)" Foundation, is bringing eleven research groups from several leading centres in Catalonia to this hallmark venue where visitors can take part in experiments connected with the researchers' ongoing projects using the same instruments and materials that they normally employ. Each stand features a problem for the public to solve using the scientific method as way of enhancing interaction.

From the laboratory to CosmoCaixa

Developing a drug that is activated by light; examining African bullfrog oocytes to discover how proteins are formed; assessing the ecological quality of a river using an App; breaking down a water molecule to obtain hydrogen and using it as a clean energy source—these are just a few of the experiments that attendees will be able to participate in.

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The [eleven research groups](#) attending this 16th event come from: the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ), the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), the Molecular Biology Institute of Barcelona (IBMB-CSIC), the Institut Català de Paleontologia Miquel Crusafont (Miquel Crusafont Catalan Institute of Palaeontology, ICP), the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB), La Salle-Ramon Llull University, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), the University of Barcelona (UB), the University of Vic (UVic-UCC) and the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV).

In addition, the three prize winners from the [BATX2LAB](#) programme —aimed at upper secondary school students who carry out the practical part of their research project at the PCB— will have their own stand to talk about their projects.

This year the Live Research Fair is once again supported by [Barcelona City Council](#) and the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology ([FECYT](#)) and partnered by the University of Barcelona ([UB](#)). It is part of the Barcelona Science Park's [Research in Society](#) programme, which includes over 100 activities involving more than 5,000 people every year.

On 11, 12 and 13 April the event is aimed at schools, with advanced booking required. On Saturday 14 April no booking is required and visits are included in the entry fee to CosmoCaixa Barcelona.

You can see what's going on at the Fair on social media via the hashtag [#RecercaenDirecte](#)

Guided tour and class with the inimitable teacher Merlí

■ At 11 a.m. on **Saturday 14 April** there will be a **guided tour** of the Fair's stands attended by **Jordi Portabella**, Director of the Science Popularization and CosmoCaixa Area; **Lluís Noguera**, Director of CosmoCaixa; and **Ignasi Belda**, Director of the Barcelona Science Park.

■ At 12 p.m. **Francesc Orella**—the actor who plays the charismatic teacher in the TV series *Merlí*— will be at the Fair with his students Elisabeth Casanovas and Iñaki Mur (Tània and Oliver in the series) to deliver an **unprecedented, open-to-all class** debate on the transcendent aspects of scientific research using his renowned “unorthodox” methods.

■ **Both activities are open to the media. For more information:**

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