

PRESS RELEASE

**18th Live Research Fair kicks off today, organised by
Barcelona Science Park and "la Caixa" Foundation**

A fascinating journey through research

- From 27 to 30 April, over 100 researchers from 11 leading research centres in Catalonia will move their laboratories to CosmoCaixa. Science leaves the lab, bringing it closer to visitors at the Live Research Fair, who will get the chance to solve puzzles and take part in experiments using the scientific method and the same instruments the scientists normally use in their labs.
- At the 18th edition of the Fair, with more than 1,600 expected to participate, visitors will also be challenged to guess, in a board game, who are the benchmark scientists in each field of research shown, as a way to break down gender roles in science.
- The Fair format allows participants to speak with researchers face-to-face, discovering some of the most innovative research being done today and, in the process, promoting science careers among the school groups that take part.
- On Saturday 30 April, Big Van Ciencia will perform a play full of intelligent humour with a science monologue that gives a fun, approachable take on cutting-edge research.

Barcelona, 27 April 2022. The Live Research Fair, now in its 18th year, remains committed to its format presenting a selection of research projects from the leading research centres in Catalonia in various fields to open up science to society, encouraging young people to go into STEM careers and promoting scientific culture. The Fair opened its doors today at CosmoCaixa and will welcome school groups from all over Catalonia through 29 April. On 30 April, it will be open to the general public.

The event, organised by the [Barcelona Science Park](#) and ["la Caixa" Foundation](#), this year is bringing one hundred researchers and eleven research groups from leading research institutions all over Catalonia to this emblematic space so participants can join them in experiments related to their current projects, using the same instruments and materials as in their labs.

This format gives school children and the general public the opportunity to speak face-to-face with researchers, discover the most innovative research being done in our country today and, in the process, is helping encourage them to go into STEM careers and promote scientific culture.

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From quantum physics to the secret language of fruit

People visiting the fair can send encrypted messages using quantum physics, extract stem cells from a piece of fat and turn them into adipocytes, decode the secret language of fruit and vegetables, encapsulate a drug inside a nanoparticle so it can 'travel' to a specific part of the human body, or discover how we resemble a 1-mm transparent worm, among other experiments from the teams at the research centres. To encourage interaction with the public, each booth has a puzzle **to be solved using the scientific method**. Plus, **another stand has the three research projects that won the latest PCB BATX2LAB** programme, [so the students can explain their research projects to visitors](#).

Games, cameras and... action!

This year the Fair features two activities in addition to the scientific exhibition. In the **"It takes 100% of the talent!"** space, visitors are challenged to guess, **in a memory game**, who are the benchmark scientists in each of the fields of research shown, as a way to break down sexist stereotypes and gender roles in science.

On Saturday 30 April, at 11:00 am, the public will also get to **watch a funny play**, featuring a **science monologue** by **Big Van Ciència**, interacting with the audience to share research with a fun, attractive approach.

The Live Research Fair is part of the Barcelona Science Park [Research in Society](#) programme which has over 100 activities with nearly 6,000 participants each year, with support from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation's Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) and the [Barcelona City Council](#).

The inauguration of the Fair, which took place this morning, included a guided tour with **Joan Guàrdia**, rector of the University of Barcelona; **Olga Lanau**, general director of the UB Group; **Maria Terrades**, CEO of the Barcelona Science Park; **Ignasi Miró**, corporate director of Culture and Science for the "la Caixa" Foundation; **Anna Font**, director of the Culture and Science Activities Department at the "la Caixa" Foundation; and **Valentí Farràs**, director of CosmoCaixa.

Rector **Joan Guàrdia** emphasized the importance of this event for the research system in general and for the University of Barcelona in particular. "At least in three ways: to promote open research as a basic pillar, both to break down the boundaries of knowledge and to continue advancing in the paradigm of citizen science and the democracy of knowledge," he said, highlight the central role of the PCB as an emblematic research entity in our country and with a direct impact on the city of Barcelona as a reference space in Europe; and to vindicate, as this event demonstrates, the potential of collaboration between institutions to optimize the talent and tools of the Catalan system".

In the words of **Ignasi Miró**, "the essence of CosmoCaixa is the promotion of participation and experimentation by visitors in the different spaces of the museum and also in the collaborative initiatives that are carried out there, like this already established fair in which they can live science in first person, enhancing their curiosity".

According to Park CEO **Maria Terrades**, "The Fair, for a few days, brings the lab to the streets, makes science accessible to society and transfers scientific knowledge. These three days are key in encouraging careers in science among our young people, for them to understand that science is alive and can change our lives. The fact that the fair is now in its 18th edition is proof of its success."

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Participating research institutions

This year's Fair features over 100 researchers from 11 research groups at **3 Catalan public universities**: University of Barcelona (**UB**), Rovira i Virgili University (**URV**) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (**UAB**), through the Institute of Neuroscience (INc-UAB) and the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB), recognised as a María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence; **five institutes with the Severo Ochoa seal**: Institute of Molecular Biology of Barcelona (**IBMB-CSIC**), Institute of Materials Science of Barcelona (**ICMAB-CSIC**), Institute of Photonic Sciences (**ICFO**), Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (**IBEC**) and Institute for Research in Biomedicine (**IRB Barcelona**); and **a global benchmark in translational biomedicine** that integrates all health research in the province of Tarragona, Pere Virgili Biomedical Research Institute (**IISPV**).

■ The Live Research Fair is free of charge for schools on 27, 28 and 29 April, but spots must be booked ahead. On 30 April, it will be open to the general public and is included in the ticket to CosmoCaixa.

■ More information about the participating research groups [here](#) [+]

Germán Sierra
Head of Communication
Barcelona Science Park
Tel: 93 402 16 60
gsierra@pcb.ub.cat

Andrea Pelayo
Press Department
"la Caixa" Foundation
Tel. 618 126 685
apelayo@fundaciolacaixa.org

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