

Scientific hig

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September

Imaging the electrocatalytic activity of single nanoparticles

IBEC in a nutshell



IBFC

The Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) conducts excellent interdisciplinary research at the frontiers of engineering and life sciences in order to generate new knowledge by putting together fields like nanomedicine, biophysics, biotechnology, tissue engineering and the applications of health information technology.

IBEC was established in 2005 by the then Department of Innovation, Universities and Enterprises and the Department of Health of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Autonomous Government of Catalonia), the University of Barcelona (UB) and the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC). The governing body of IBEC is its Board of Trustees, composed of members of the four founding institutions. IBEC's Board of Trustees receives advice from the director of the institute and from the International Scientific Committee.

IBEC's International Scientific Committee plays a key role in the activities of the institute, focusing especially on the selection and evaluation processes of the research group leaders. The committee is composed of international renowned scientists in different bioengineering fields, as well as prestigious professionals in key areas within the activities of IBEC, such as research results valorization or medical technologies validation.

The IBEC is funded by its founding institutions, by national and international competitive funding sources for its research projects, and by R&D contracts with companies.

Mission

IBEC is a research centre whose purpose is to carry out interdisciplinary research at the highest international quality level which, by creating knowledge, helps to improve health and quality of life and generate wealth.

Location

IBEC is mainly situated within the Barcelona Science Park (PCB), the first science park created in Spain, which is one of the largest research clusters in the life sciences in southern Europe. This enables our researchers to carry out their work in a highly stimulating biomedical environment in close cooperation with both public and private sector organisations.

IBEC occupies approximately 2500m² of usable space, providing its researchers with extensive research facilities and a scientific–technical infrastructure, distributed in open and interdisciplinary lab spaces. In particular, IBEC owns the state-of-the-art Nanotechnology Platform, an accessible and versatile research facility featuring 150m² of class 10,000 cleanroom space and laboratories offering cutting-edge equipment for the fabrication and characterization of micro- and nanodevices and structures. Apart from this, access to other powerful technological facilities of the PCB and scientific services of the UB are available.

Research at IBEC

IBEC has developed a new strategic plan for the period 2014-2017, which will play a decisive role in the development and consolidation of IBEC as a top-class research centre. The IBEC model is based on transformative interaction between scientific disciplines and technologies which are apparently separate from one another in order to create added value with the aim of finding engineering-led leading-edge solutions in health and life sciences.

The program's main objective is the better use of the salient features of IBEC: interdisciplinary and convergence technologies.

The knowledge that exists in the IBEC research groups is structured in three broad avenues of knowledge: nanomedicine, cellular and tissue engineering and ICT for health. These are placed at the service of science and society to progress in three major application areas, namely:

- Bioengineering for future medicine, with the aim of developing technology that goes beyond the existing paradigm of medical care in hospital to incorporate new areas such as photopharmacology, organs on chips and diagnosis based on the mechanical behaviour of cells and tissues.
- Bioengineering for active ageing, with the aim of developing assisted living technologies that support daily life with a remote link to a call-centre, and telehealth remote monitoring, consultation and diagnosis to help

support independent living at home, keeping patients out of hospital and residential care for longer.

• Bioengineering for regenerative therapies, with the aim of developing regeneration technology to allow the creation of implants able to bring about the regeneration of damaged tissues or organs and to develop cell therapies.

In short, the IBEC research programme for 2014-2017 represents a unique opportunity to take advantage of the underlying potential in the convergence of science and engineering for both doctors and patients. In particular this is a chance to assure the sustainability of quality, efficient healthcare under the pressure of current demographic changes, as well as fostering advances in other areas of life science to supply researchers with disruptive innovations in ways of observing and interacting with molecules, cells, tissues and organs.





Clinical translation

IBEC counts on the collaboration of medical doctors to provide input on the clinical aspects of its research, so that results are easily extended to clinical practice.

In this way, IBEC benefits from its privileged position as technological counterpart of the major hospitals in the Barcelona area, four of which (Hospital Clínic, Sant Pau, HSCSP and Bellvitge) are recognized as Biomedical Research Institutes of Excellence by the Spanish government. IBEC's framework agreements and collaborations with these nearby hospitals allow easy access to clinical samples and patients.

In addition, IBEC also has two of its groups physically located at the Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge, where they work on research projects alongside the clinicians.

Technology transfer

IBEC actively pursues the establishment of research projects with industry partners who share its commitment to bringing high-quality health research and technologies to market and patients. These partnerships take full advantage of the IBEC groups' interdisciplinary expertise in various fields, as well as our state-of-the-art equipment and core facilities.

Our industry partners complement our abilities with their strong market expertise and presence and by pinpointing specific industrial needs that can be addressed by our scientific and technological support. These partnerships play a central role in achieving IBEC's mission of knowledge and technology transfer to the biomedical sector, and ensure that our research is guided by and addresses concrete problems and real-world requirements.

Recent projects, inventions and patents

A new technology to combat dozing off when driving was developed by IBEC, the UB and industry partner Ficosa. Somnoalert® is a smart phone application that uses inertial sensors and GPS data to detect movements that are characteristic of nodding off at the wheel, such as deviation from the driving lane or sudden corrections, and incorporates biomedical sensors to analyze respiration data.

Una aplicación móvil para detectar la somnolencia al volante

No solo las marcas de con interesado en los os por relacionarse ersidad. Fabricanponentes de auto-no Ficosa también do acercarse al démico. Hace un mundo académico. Hace un año, por ejemplo, el grupo año, por ejemplo, el grupo dical to el Somnoalert, una aplicación que usa sensores inerciales y datos de GPS para detectar si el conductor se está quedando dormido, una de las principales causas una de las cucidente. El software,



resultado de un proyecto de colaboración entre Ficosa, el IBEC (Instituto de Bioingeniería de Cataluña) y el departamento de Ingeniería Electrónica de la Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña.

El consejo europeo de investigación otorga dos nuevas distinciones a Cataluña



Estas distinciones se han otorgado a Mario Cáceres, de la Universitat Autònoma Estas distinciones se nan otorgado a mano Caceres, de la Universitat Autoric (UAB), y a Xavier Trepat, del Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC).

El Estado español ha recibido ya siete reconocimientos Proof of Concept, seis de lor esponden a investigadores del sistema catalán.

El secretario de Universidades e Investigación, Antoni Castellà, ha destacado hoy que los resultados de la segunda convocatoria del Proof of Concept 2013, "evidencian que la excele del sistema catalán de investigación está plenamente consolidado".

Castellà ha añadido que estos reconocimientos "demuestran la capacidad de transformar менения в помым чие сомо теменоминитымо мененевает на марачива и в выполните.

nuestra investigación en ideas innovadoras que tienen impacto en el mercado e impulsan la productividad y el crecimiento económico en el futuro". nvocatorias otorgan hasta 150.000 euros por proyecto durante un año y tien

objetivo de "fortalecer la excelencia científica en Europa y su liderazgo a nivel mundial", dicen desde el ERC.

Desde su creación en 2007, Cataluña ha obtenido hasta ahora 133 proye

Highly-competitive ERC grants are considered Europe's most prestigious research awards, and during IBEC's life its researchers have been awarded nine so far. The research projects funded by the ERC focus on such topics as the therapeutic applications of light-regulated drugs, how to regenerate the mammalian kidney, and engineering complex intestinal epithelial tissue models.

Nanorobots de disseny per atacar la malària

Els farmacs s'encapsulen dins de nanopartícules que circulen per la sang i només entren en acció quan troben una cèl·lula infectada

A joint unit of IBEC and the Barcelona Centre for International Health Research (CRESIB) is a collaborative initiative with the mission to develop new diagnostic and therapeutic systems for malaria. Specifically, they aim to demonstrate the feasibility of nanovectors as antimalarial drugs or carriers of other existing drugs, and have patented an approach that may become a new class of potent anti-malarial agents.

Una gasa amb nanopartícules accelera la curació de les llagues

. Dermoglass, desenvolupada a l'IBEC i la UPC, fomenta la creació de vasos sanguinis i evita les cicatrius



A collaboration with Barcelona's Hospital Clínic led to the development of Dermoglass a wound dressing which accelerates the regeneration of the skin in hard-to-heal skin ulcers. This project was the subject of IBEC's first venture into crowdfunding.

Latest research highlights

Descubren nuevos mecanismos para el control de la metástasis



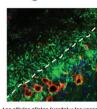


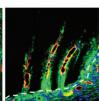
A study in Nature Materials revealed how mammary cells detect tissue stiffening, which is key to the development of breast cancer.

Descubren un mecanismo celular clave en la detección del cáncer de mama

El estudio científico fue impulsado por la Obra Social de La Caixa

Un nuevo implante ayuda al cerebro a autoregenerarse





Researchers at IBEC, UB and the UPC developed an implant that could aid the regeneration of brain tissue, particularly in cases of pre- and postnatal injury.





IBEC researchers and their collaborators announced the development of the first ever light-controlled drug whose effects focus specifically on the largest, most important class of drug target proteins.

Investigadores españoles crean el primer bazo en un chip

Researchers from IBEC and CRESIB made a major breakthrough in the field of microengineered organs on chips, designing the first-ever functional 3D splenon capable of reproducing the function of the spleen.

IBEC researchers found that ribonucleotide reductases (RNRs) – enzymes that provide the building blocks for DNA replication in all living cells – play an important role in Escherichia coli virulence and infection, opening the way to developing targeted drugs against the condition

Estudiamos las infecciones en intestino de la bacteria E.coli"

= ara.cat

societat

Una nova tècnica genètica pot evitar la transmissió de malalties hereditàries

Un estudi amb participació de l'Hospital Clínic, l'IDIBAPS, l'Hospital Sant Joan de Déu il IBEC ofereix esperança per als portadors de malalties mitocondrials que vulguin tenir fills sense la malaltia

di al costat d

"centrals elèctriques" que generen energia a les cèl·lules del cos, no és Aquest conjunt de malalties es transmeten de forma exclusiva de la ma pot optar al diagnòstic genètic preimplantacional per sele

A study published in Cell revealed a simple technique to eliminate mitochondrial mutations in mouse eggs or embryos at an early stage of development.



Robots del tamaño de virus

El químico Samuel Sánchez gana el premio Princesa de Girona de Investigación por el desarrollo

usos en la lucha

One of IBEC's newest groups focuses on the study of a broad range of phenomena occurring at the interface between materials and biology, culminating in the design of miniaturized devices such as self-propelled nanorobots for more accurate drug delivery.

Institutional news

IBEC and Genomica create joint unit for research and development of diagnostic devices

IBEC and

Genomica

of diagnostic

devices



BEC and Genomica S.A.U. (Grupo Zeltia), the leading Spanish company in molecular diagnostics, announce the creation of a Joint Research Unit that will provide an operational framework for close interaction on various R&D tivities related to healthcare

The unit, which will be located at IBEC's headquarters in Barcelona, will see researchers and industry technicians sharing a host of know-how and in-house capabilities to develop and bring to market point-of-care diagnostic products and other and technologies

> SALUD

create joint unit for research and development

España entra en el proyecto europeo EIT sobre salud

Cinco instituciones científicas de Catalunya, acreditadas como centros de excelencia

Cinco de las ocho nuevas instituciones científicas que el Gobierno acreditó ayer como centros de excelencia son de Catalunya. El Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya fue reconocido como centro Severo Ochoa. Como unidades María de Maeztu, fueron reconocidos el Institut de Ciències del Cosmos, la Barcelona Graduate School of Mathematics, el departamento de Ciències Experimentals i de la Salut de la UPF y la Unitat de Biologia Estructural del CSIC./Redacción



IBEC receives Severo Ochoa **Excellence Award**

IBEC is a core partner in the winning proposal for the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) on healthy living and active ageing, EIT



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