**IBEC Clinical Immersion Program for Ph.D. students with the support of CoMB**

**Motivation**

The Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) is a leading interdisciplinary research center based in Barcelona, dedicated to conducting research of excellence at the intersection of engineering and life sciences. Its mission is to generate new knowledge by combining fields such as nanomedicine, biophysics, biotechnology, tissue engineering, and digital health technologies.

Through its research, IBEC aims to contribute to building the medicine of the 21st-century, one that ensures healthy lives, promotes universal well-being, and improves people’s quality of life. With its scientific and technological expertise, IBEC seeks to contribute in developing this future-focused medicine, based on bioengineering, capable of designing and analyzing biological systems, as well as creating new biomedical technologies. One of IBEC’s goals is to transfer scientific advancements to patients and to society in general through an open innovation model, creating a shared space among scientists, engineers, doctors, and fostering partnerships with clinicians and biotechnology/medical technology companies.

The Official College of Physicians of Barcelona (Col·legi Oficial de Metges de Barcelona - CoMB), founded in 1894, is a century-old institution established to defend the collective interests of the medical profession while ensuring the right to good medical practice and the protection of individuals' health. Over more than a hundred years, the organization has fought in defense of these objectives, maintaining constant vigilance over ethical and professional principles, while also adapting its Code of Ethics to health and social changes.

Within the framework of the close and growing connection between bioengineering and medicine, IBEC and CoMB express their desire to collaborate and develop joint initiatives with the following objectives:

* Establish a dialogue between bioengineering and clinical practice that promotes the exchange of cultures and experiences, and the creation of a shared understanding of medical practice. This approach integrates new tools from bioengineering into 21st-century medicine and ensures that future healthcare professionals, in a broad sense, share a common vision and professional ethics.
* Promote the translation of IBEC's research results to patients, ensuring that the clinical problem addressed is relevant and that the approach is the most appropriate.
* Provide IBEC researchers with first-hand knowledge of the most relevant problems and needs faced by healthcare professionals.
* Raise awareness among healthcare professionals about the latest innovations in bioengineering applied to health.
* Identify developments with transfer potential that can be valorized through the Entrepreneurship Program of the Barcelona College of Physicians – Meditecnologia.

This collaboration will initially be structured through the **IBEC Clinical Immersion Program for Ph.D Students**, which will connect IBEC doctoral students with clinical specialists who will act as mentors and provide their perspective from a clinical point of view throughout the development of the doctoral thesis.

**Advantages for Ph.D students**

* Receive guidance from a clinical specialist (mentor) throughout their doctoral thesis
* Gain first-hand knowledge of clinical practice
* Receive support in identifying the clinical potential of their research
* Participation in the annual IBEC-COMB event to present the progress made in the program.

**Obligations of Ph.D students**

* Arrange meetings with the mentor
* Share with the mentor the development of their doctoral thesis
* Provide information on trends and advances in their research field
* Sign a confidentiality agreement

**Advantages for mentors**

* Certificate accrediting participation in the program
* Learn about research in bioengineering applied to their medical specialty
* Inclusion as a mentor on the IBEC website specifically dedicated to the program
* Possibility of participating free of charge in IBEC-organized seminars and in the annual symposium
* Opportunity to participate in the IBEC Clinical Colloquia program by giving a seminar to the IBEC community
* Inclusion in the IBEC Superamics program, with its associated benefits
* Participation in the annual IBEC-COMB event to present the progress made in the program
* Possibility of receiving support from an IBEC group leader for their own research, in case the mentor is also involved in research activities, at various levels, from occasional technological advice to co-supervision of Ph.D theses

**Mentor responsibilities**

* Meet with the Ph.D student at least three times (ideally at the beginning, middle, and towards the end of the doctoral thesis)
* Provide their perspective on the relevance of the problem to be solved, the best translational approach, and other potential applications of the technology initially unforeseen pathologies
* Sign a confidentiality agreement

**How the program works**

* This year, IBEC will launch two calls between May and December for applications among its doctoral students to select those whose research is most focused on addressing a specific clinical need. (Maximum 20 doctoral students per year). To this end, an internal committee will be created at IBEC, composed of the IBEC Director (Prof. Josep Samitier), the Deputy Director of Talent and Training (Prof. Elisabeth Engel), the Head of Human Resources (Carol Marí) and the Head of Strategic Initiatives (Teresa Sanchis).
* The list of Ph.D students, along with a brief description of the research project and its potential clinical application and impact, will be shared with the COMB.
* The COMB will make a call to its members to find specialists interested in being mentors for any of these PhD students.
* A COMB-IBEC committee will make the final matching between the Ph.D students and their mentors.

**Transversal aspects of the program**

* A COMB-IBEC monitoring committee will be created. Among other tasks, the committee will be in charge of making the PhD student–mentor matching and supervising the proper functioning of the program, as well as suggesting improvement elements and other activities.
* The committee will meet at least twice a year.
* An annual IBEC-COMB event will be organized to present the progress of the program, as well as an initial event to introduce the program and attract the interest of Ph.D students and mentors.

**Deadlines**

* June 25th, 2025
* December 15th, 2025

*The Application Form can be found on the following page.*

**CLINICAL IMMERSION PROGRAMME FOR PHD STUDENTS IN COLLABORATION WITH COL·LEGI OFICIAL DE METGES DE BARCELONA**

**Title of the PhD project:**

**Name of PhD student:**

**IBEC group:**

**Expected finishing date of PhD thesis:**

**Summary of your PhD thesis (max 1 page)**

**Technological area:**

**Medical area:**

**Potential clinical impact (max 1/2 page)**

**Potential market impact (max 1/2 page)**

**Time to market (if applicable)**

**Current state of the project (which results have been obtained so far, publications if any, required future developments, etc.) (max 1 page)**

**Are you already collaborating with a clinician? Who?**

**What do you expect from the clinical mentoring programme? (max 1/2 page)**