

We investigate, we move forward.

Impact report

2024

pasqual
maragall
foundation

barcelonaβeta
BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

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investigate,
**we move
forward.**

Impact report

2024

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BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

20

Edition

Pasqual Maragall Foundation

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Greetings



Arcadi Navarro

Director of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation
and the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center

Working tirelessly to advance. That's exactly what we did in 2024—a year filled with hope for Alzheimer's disease, marked by the European Medicines Agency's (EMA) recommendation to approve the first drug in Europe capable of slowing its progression. This breakthrough marks a profound change in scientific research, as well as in the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. It inspires us to strive for more—and better—science.

Sparked by this great step forward and the Foundation's work thus far—we've achieved significant milestones throughout 2024. In the scientific field, we've made major strides in the early detection of the disease, paving the way for future strategies in prevention. We have developed **cerebral organoids** from stem cells—a research work that enables us to simulate the development of Alzheimer's disease and study its onset and progression in greater depth. We have also demonstrated that **blood flow decreases during the asymptomatic stages of Alzheimer's**. In addition, we've validated a **new metric for measuring the accumulation of the beta amyloid protein in the brain**, among other findings.

But we haven't stopped there. We've actively participated in over 15 conferences throughout the year, including some of the world's most prestigious events in the field, such as the **Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC)** and the **Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Diseases Conference (AD/PD™)**, among others.

In research, we've also awarded our **Pasqual Maragall Researchers Programme** grants for the second year running. These grants, given to projects conducted at institutions outside our Foundation, support outstanding projects aimed at accelerating ground-breaking research in Alzheimer's disease.

We are also proud to have launched a unique initiative in this regard, the **HUB Alzheimer Barcelona**, a collaborative project with Barcelona's leading public hospitals and research centers specialising in Alzheimer's disease. This initiative expanded networking opportunities, fostered scientific excellence, attracted investment and enhanced the transfer of knowledge into clinical practice.

In the realm of institutional and social relationships, we have worked tirelessly to position Alzheimer's disease as a priority on both policymaking and healthcare agendas. The report ***Proposals for a new prioritisation of Alzheimer's disease in Spain***, submitted to the Ministry of Health, was prepared with the collaboration of 30 scientific, health and social rights organisations. This report has been instrumental in shaping a model that promotes a holistic approach to Alzheimer's and other neuro-degenerative diseases.

We also continue to advocate for a change in the social perception of Alzheimer's disease through awareness and prevention efforts. In this regard, we'd like to highlight the **50 talks** on Alzheimer's disease we've held across the region, the 7th edition of the **Brain Film Fest** –our film festival, which achieved again record attendance, as well as the related content across our blog and channels. And all this has been made possible while providing support to **families of individuals affected by the disease** through our online and in-person support programmes.

I invite you to read this report on the Foundation's activities, made possible thanks to the collaboration of over 93,000 members, patrons, businesses, donors and study participants.

Every achievement detailed in these pages has been achieved through their support. They are the driving force behind our daily efforts, and their selfless commitment brings us closer to our goal: a world without Alzheimer's disease.

2024

Alzheimer's today

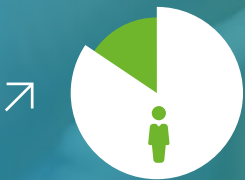
Alzheimer's disease is the main cause of **dementia**, responsible for **60% to 70% of cases**. It is estimated that in Spain there are more than **900,000 people suffering from Alzheimer's** and other dementias, a figure that will double in the next twenty years.



900 Thousand people¹
suffer from Alzheimer's and other dementias.



2 out of 3 people²
have or have had someone with Alzheimer's in their environment.



80% of people³
with Alzheimer's are cared for by family.

¹. Assessing the socioeconomic impact of Alzheimer's in Western Europe and Canada (2017)

². Actitudes y percepciones de la población española sobre el Alzheimer, Fundación Pasqual Maragall (2020)

³. Coduras A, Rabasa I, Frank A, Bermejo-Pareja F, Lopez-Pousa S, Lopez-Arrieta JM, et al. Prospective one-year cost-of-illness study in a cohort of patients with dementia of Alzheimer's disease type in Spain: the ECO study. J Alzheimers Dis. 2010; 19(2):601-15. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20110605/>

Milestones of the year

01



The Foundation holds its seventh annual Brain Film Fest

The Brain Film Fest, held from 13 to 17 March 2024 at the CCCB in Barcelona, honoured Chilean director and producer Maite Alberdi with the Special Film Fest Award 2024. The festival, promoted by the Foundation, recognised Alberdi's sensitive portrayal of ageing and brain-related issues through her empathetic and insightful filmmaking.

02



1.6 million euros awarded to the winning projects of the second edition of the Pasqual Maragall Researchers Programme grants

Endowed with 1.6 million euros, the second call for proposals for the Pasqual Maragall Researchers Programme (PMRP) promotes excellence in Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative disease research. The selected projects, led by Dr Silvia De Santis (CSIC-UMH) and Dr Alberto Rábano (CIEN), open new avenues to improve the diagnosis and understanding of these pathologies.

03



The Foundation launches its new awareness campaign entitled "Coneix la recerca" (Discover the research)

This initiative, involving the posting of video interviews every two months during 2024, aims to educate the general public on the studies, projects and lines of research of the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center. This initiative brings scientific content to the public at large, offering it in an informative format in a language that is easy to understand for all types of audiences.

04



Nearly 1,500 people attend lecture series "Recuerda" (Remember)

Held online and welcoming nearly 1,500 participants, the fifth edition of the lecture series offered a scientific perspective on the impact of the disease on women and how people with Alzheimer's can be cognitively stimulated at home.

05



We celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Alfa Study

Marking its tenth anniversary, the Alfa Study stands as one of the largest and most comprehensive cohorts, comprising nearly 2,700 participants. Over the past decade, it has achieved ground-breaking results in identifying Alzheimer's disease at its earliest stages and developing prevention programmes aimed at delaying or halting the onset of symptoms.

06



Researchers conclude that a diet rich in omega-3 fats may be key to preventing Alzheimer's

In collaboration with the Hospital del Mar Research Institute, our research center, the BBRC, finds that the regular consumption of omega-3 rich foods, both from plant and marine sources, could be crucial in preventing Alzheimer's disease.

07



Our research reveals how blood flow in the brain is reduced in asymptomatic stages of Alzheimer's

As part of a multilateral collaborative project led by our research center (BBRC), we have been able to detect decreased blood flow in the brain during the early stages of the disease. This finding represents one of the principal conclusions of the study published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*.

08



We honour those individuals working daily to bring us closer to a world without this disease on World Alzheimer's Day

Once again, this time with the initiative entitled *"La recerca en Alzheimer té nom i cognom"*, we commemorate this day by focusing on members of our research team who work daily to bring us closer to our mission: to live in a world without Alzheimer's.

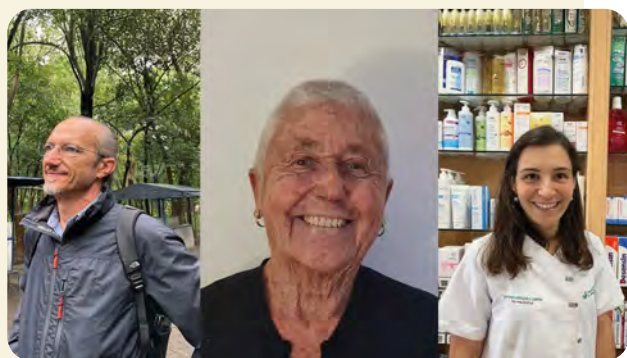
09



We create miniature brains from stem cells to explore the onset and progression of Alzheimer's

Our research center has created cerebral organoids that mimic the function of a real brain, also known as "mini-brains", made from stem cells that allow researchers to simulate the development of the disease and explore in detail the factors that contribute to its onset and progression.

10



We launch a new call for applications for the Ambassador Membership Programme

The new Pasqual Maragall Foundation Ambassador Membership Programme offers our members the opportunity to participate directly in the day-to-day running of the organisation. Each year, select members can actively participate in various Foundation initiatives, including events, sports matches, and campaigns.

11



We participate in prestigious conferences to gain new insights and promote our scientific research and activity

With six talks and approximately twenty posters, the BBRC participates in AAIC 2024, the world's most influential congress on scientific advancements in Alzheimer's and other dementias. This event brought together research teams from around the globe to share the latest developments in their research with the international scientific community.

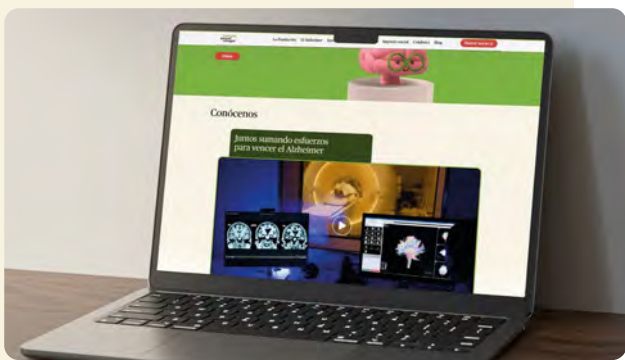
12



Third edition of the Diana Garrigosa Awards

As part of the 7th Annual Meeting with our social base, held under the theme "*La nova era de l'Alzheimer*" (A new era in Alzheimer's) and attended by more than 1,500 people, we present the third edition of the Diana Garrigosa Awards. This year, the awards honour the remarkable careers of Rosa Montero, journalist and writer, and Miguel Ríos, singer, both celebrated for their active and long-standing commitment to social values and rights.

13



Launch of new Pasqual Maragall Foundation website

With a fresh new design, our revamped website is now more intuitive, modern and accessible to everyone. This update further serves to reflect our commitment to Alzheimer's research, as well as to those affected by the disease and their families.

14



Introducing the Alzheimer Barcelona Hub

We launch the Alzheimer Barcelona Hub, a pioneering initiative driven by our commitment to advancing research and enhancing support for individuals and families affected by the disease. Backed by the Barcelona City Council, the Alzheimer Barcelona Hub brings together Hospital de Sant Pau, Hospital Clínic de Barcelona, Hospital del Mar and the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, along with our research center, the BBRC, and the Ace Alzheimer Center Barcelona.

15



We share our work

As part of our meetings with political representatives to raise awareness and highlight the challenges facing Alzheimer's research, we welcomed Her Majesty the Queen Doña Sofía and the President of the Parliament of Catalonia, Anna Erra. During their visit, they toured our facilities to learn about our social and scientific work.

16



We publish of a caregiver's guide for families affected by Alzheimer's

In collaboration with the Barcelona Provincial Council, we have developed a new guide for family members taking care of individuals with Alzheimer's. This guide will address caregivers' concerns, including understanding symptoms, providing care, managing change, navigating the grieving process, and ensuring legal protection, among other topics.

17



Advocating for dementia to be a priority in public policy

On the occasion of the Parliament of Catalonia elections on 12 May, we are joining forces with the Ace Alzheimer Center, the Association of Relatives of People with Alzheimer's and Other Dementias of Barcelona (AFAB), the Alzheimer Catalonia Foundation and the Uszheimer Foundation to call for dementia to be prioritised in public policy, advocating for a National Agreement on Alzheimer's and Dementias.

18



Strengthening our management team

To support our ongoing expansion and adapt to the evolving social and research landscape, we are pleased to appoint Glòria Oliver as Deputy General Director following her tenure as Manager since the Foundation's inception. Additionally, Dr Josep Maria Argimon, our current Director of Scientific Infrastructures, has been appointed Director of Relations with the Health System to further promote this key area.

19



We confirm the Centiloid metric as a reliable tool for measuring amyloid plaques in Alzheimer's

Building on research led by our research center and published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, we have demonstrated the reliability of the Centiloid scale for quantifying amyloid plaques in the brain, a key hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

20



We present the report “Proposals for a new prioritization of Alzheimer’s in Spain” to the Ministry of Health

As part of the Alzheimer’s Observatory, an initiative led by our Foundation in collaboration with key organisations and experts from the scientific, health, and social sectors, we present this report to the Ministry of Health. It aims to advance a model for a comprehensive approach to Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

21



Taking care of those who take care of us

We offer support to more than 300 individuals through our online and in-person support programmes for caregivers of relatives with Alzheimer’s.

22



Spreading the word about Alzheimer’s and its prevention

In 2024, we organised several informational conferences across the region to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and its prevention, while addressing any questions regarding this form of dementia and its broader context. This year, we have offered a total of 50 talks nationwide.

23



We successfully conclude the campaign “The biggest lie about Alzheimer’s” with excellent results

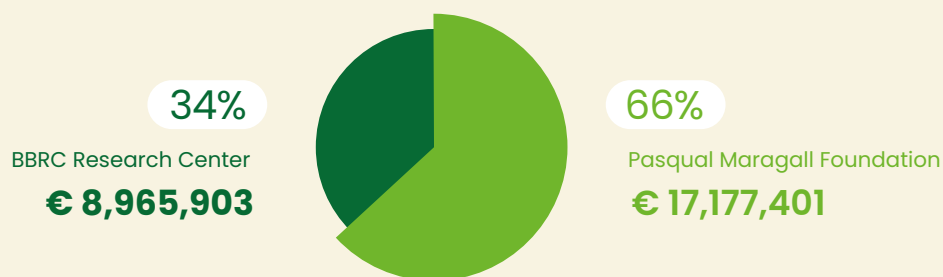
The Foundation closes the “The Biggest Lie About Alzheimer’s” campaign on a high note, raising €373,795 through charitable donations. The funds will support the Beta-AARC study at the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC), which focuses on investigating biomarkers for the early detection of Alzheimer’s disease.

In detail

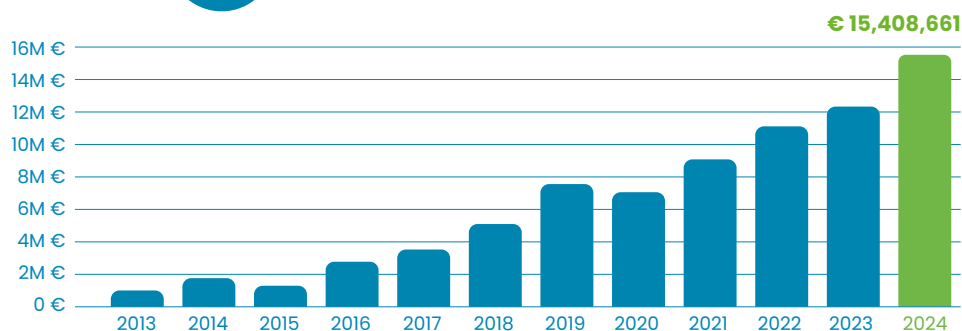
Economic activity

Budget

€ 26,143,305



Investment in Research in the last years



MORE THAN
€ 75M
IN RESEARCH
2013 - 2024

€ 15M
IN RESEARCH
2024

→ Total revenue

€ 26,143,305

Individuals

€ 14,732,888 56%

Contributions from members and donors.

Companies and foundations

€ 7,340,479 28%

Donations from companies and other foundations.

Public funds

€ 3,095,490 12%

State and European subsidies for scientific or social impact projects.

Revenue from services

€ 336,656 1%

We offer our state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to other organisations, reinvesting the revenue generated into our mission.

Financial income

€ 637,790 3%

← Total expenses

€ 26,056,628

Research programmes

€ 15,408,661 59%

Pioneering research on the early detection and prevention of Alzheimer's conducted at our research center, the BBRC. Through our research grants programme, we also support innovative projects across Spain.

Support for families, awareness initiatives and public advocacy

€ 3,883,116 15%

Investment in caregiver support programmes, advocacy for public agenda change and raising awareness on the need for investment in Alzheimer's research, detection and prevention.

Investment in partner and donor network

€ 5,623,645 22% *

Programmes to expand membership in support of our cause through campaigns, events and other initiatives.

Administrative expenditures

€ 1,103,671 4%

Investment to ensure the day-to-day operations and structure of the organisation.

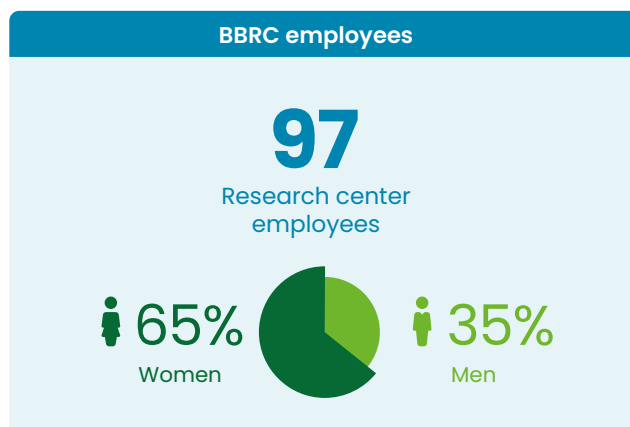
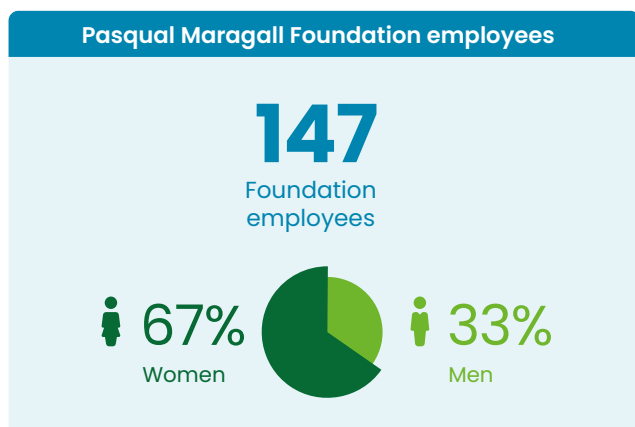
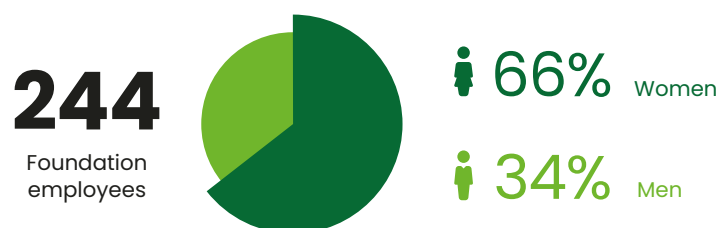
Financial expenses

€ 37,533



Aggregated data from the Pasqual Maragall Foundation and its research center, the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC).
Provisional closure in 2024. Financial data subject to annual account audit.

People



Scientific research

57 Published articles



Published in **Q1** journals

84%

Published in **D1** journals

63%

29
Ongoing studies

3
Clinical trials

25,000
Samples processed

942
MRIs

8
Study protocols

956
Clinical sessions

881
Cognition sessions

818
Nursing sessions

16
Conferences attended

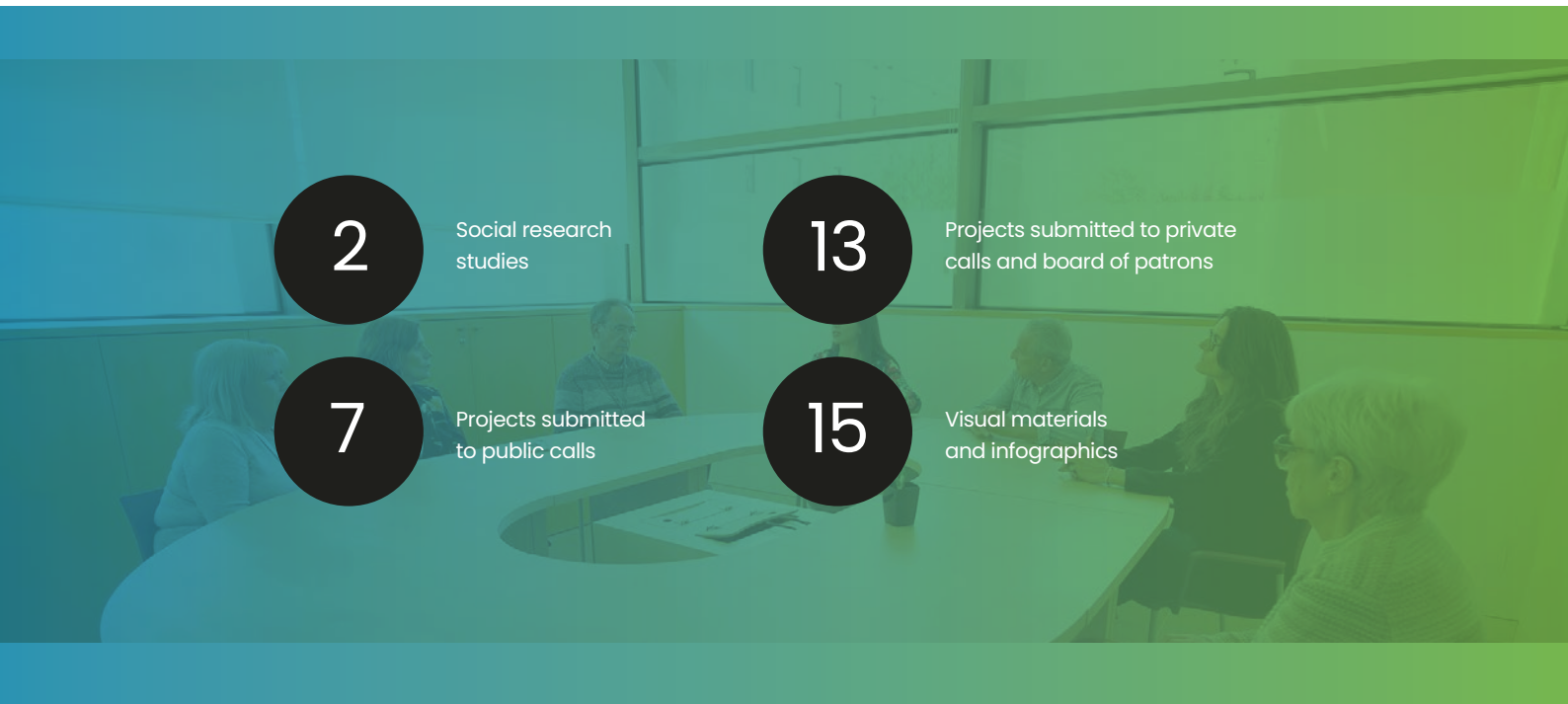
35
Posters presented

25
Oral presentations

1,641
Total sessions

Support programmes for caregivers

Therapy groups		Online support programme "Learn to take care and take care of yourself"		"Learn to take care and take care of yourself" meetings	
5	In-person therapy groups	31	Online sessions	4	Meetings
40	Participating caregivers	287	Participating caregivers	49	Participating caregivers



1

Guide "Psychological and behavioral symptoms of Alzheimer's: understanding them and learning to manage them", funded by the Barcelona Provincial Council



Awareness



1.9M

Visits to the blog "Let's talk about Alzheimer's"



22

New articles



3

New help guides



50

Educational talks



4,516

Brain Film Fest attendees



Media

34

Press releases

89

News published in the website

1,896

Media appearances

640,661,300

Total media audience

€ 11,500,324

Advertising value equivalent



Social media

1,472

Social media posts

12,711,912

Impressions

128,821

Followers

Social support



93,554 Members



18,574
New members

€ 14,732,888
Members contribution



6,285
Donations

€ 416,786.40
Donors contribution



15
Companies on the
patronage council

€ 580,200
Contribution from
the patronage council



491 Solidarity
initiatives

186 Solidarity
celebrations

652 Unforgettable
shops

247 Unforgettable
pharmacies

210,000 €
Contribution of the solidarity initiatives

18,507.36 €
Collection of the Marina Walk Trail



25 Bequests

€ 853,551.86 Bequests
contributions

691 Individuals expressing
interest in bequests



392,988 Telephone
conversations

418,500 Face to face
conversations

Research

To work towards a future without Alzheimer's, we need to conduct research that is rigorous, innovative and collaborative. In 2024, the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center made significant progress in understanding and preventing Alzheimer's. By focusing on **prevention and analysing** cognitive functions in both healthy and pathological ageing, we have continued to advance our knowledge of the biological processes of this disease. Our four collaborative research groups and four technology platforms have established new **methodologies that enhance early detection** and accelerate Alzheimer's research.

Research groups



Clinical Research Group and Risk Factors for Neurodegenerative Diseases

It is made up of experts in clinical, genetics, biomarkers and neuropsychology who are in charge of examining the correlates of the biological processes that precede the onset of dementia. Its goal is to establish prevention programmes to stop or delay the onset of cognitive decline and dementia in asymptomatic people at risk.



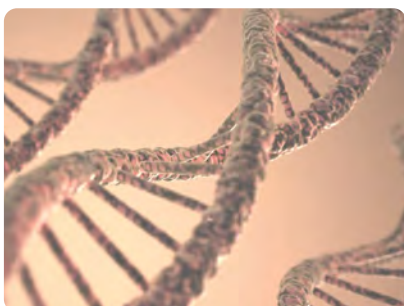
Neuroimaging Research Group

It is structured in a multidisciplinary team of experts in the acquisition, processing and analysis of complex neuroimaging data, and they focus on the study of brain images obtained with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET). These images reveal pathophysiological changes associated with Alzheimer's disease and healthy aging that can be informative for new prevention strategies. Neuroimaging data are analysed together with cognition, genetics, biomarkers, and other clinical, environmental, and lifestyle factors to detect their impact on the brain at the structural, functional, and molecular levels.



Biomarkers Research Group in Fluids and Translational Neurology

It is made up of researchers with diverse backgrounds (clinical neurology, biochemistry, proteomics, bioinformatics, biostatistics and neuropsychology), and focuses on better understanding the biological basis of Alzheimer's and other age-related neurodegenerative diseases, especially during the early stages. The group has a strong translational focus and conducts research to develop, identify and validate biomarkers to improve the diagnosis of neurodegenerative diseases, discover new therapeutic targets and investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying these types of diseases.



Genomics Research Group

It is organised in a multi-institutional and transdisciplinary environment, with experts in genetics, bioinformatics, biochemistry and cell biology who carry out research on the genomics of neurodegeneration and aging. Its research focuses on the causes of aging and age-related diseases, especially neurodegenerative diseases.

Research platforms



Neuroimaging Platform

It is responsible for supporting the execution of research projects involving the acquisition, management and processing of brain images using magnetic resonance imaging. Its interdisciplinary team is responsible for optimizing the MRI sequences, maintaining the equipment and ensuring the quality of the images.



Platform for Biomarkers in Fluids

It addresses the entire biomarker development workflow, from candidate biomarker identification to assay development and clinical validation, to ultimately achieving clinical implementation. The platform aims to achieve a better understanding of neurodegenerative diseases, and to provide biomarkers that are relevant for clinical purposes.



Data Center

It works to provide high-quality data management procedures in research projects, as well as the design of procedures to maintain data integrity while respecting Good Clinical Practices (GCP) and legal restrictions, and ensuring the integrity, traceability and the quality of data management and analysis. Its work is essential so that the research staff can analyse, hypothesise and draw the main conclusions of their studies.



Research Management Office

It is in charge of providing assistance to the research community of the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center (BBRC) in the search for and obtaining competitive funds, offering support throughout the life cycle of each funded project. Likewise, the Research Management Office carries out medical writing tasks related to the design, implementation and execution of clinical studies sponsored by the BBRC, and the review and submission of scientific publications, among others. It is also responsible for the management of the Alfa+ project and collaborates in the identification and selection of candidates for other Alfa substudies.

Main research studies



Alfa Study

The Alfa study is a key research platform for **understanding the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's in its preclinical phase and advancing the development of preventive treatments**. Launched in 2013 by the "la Caixa" Foundation, it is one of the most ambitious research initiatives in the world, involving **2,743 participants aged 45 and 75**, the majority of whom are descendants of individuals with Alzheimer's.

The Alfa study represents a strategic infrastructure enabling further research into **early detection and identification of risk factors for the disease**. It also provides essential data for most BBRC studies and serves as a basis for clinical trials focused on Alzheimer's prevention, thanks to the detailed characterisation of its Alpha participants.

2,743

People between the
ages of 45 and 75

HeBe

The aim of HeBe is to identify blood factors that have a rejuvenating or aging effect on the human brain.

The results will improve the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or other neurodegenerative diseases in their earliest stages. They will also be useful for detecting people more susceptible to developing these diseases, predicting their prognosis, monitoring their progression and the effectiveness of a possible treatment.

This project receives funding from the European Research Council (ERC) within the framework of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement no. 948677).



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

PROAD

The PROAD project aims to identify proteomic profiles in blood that can predict cognitive decline in cognitively healthy people with an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's.

With this study, in which plasma samples from the Alfa+ cohort will be analysed, the BBRC team hopes to be able to find new prognostic biomarkers in the preclinical phase of the disease.

NeuroCOVID

This study, funded by La Marató de TV3 Foundation and lasting three years, investigates the neurological effects of Covid-19 in people with different risks of developing Alzheimer's.

To this end, the researchers use mini-brains as an analytical and predictive model, customised organoids of human brains, from participants of the Alfa cohort, and subjected to different traumas, including SARS-Cov2 infection.

Beta-AARC

The project 'Beta-AARC: Cohort study for the identification of blood biomarkers in the population with subjective cognitive decline', underway from 2021, deepens the knowledge of the factors that influence the onset of Alzheimer's disease and the detection of biomarkers to identify people at increased risk of developing the disease before the first symptoms appear.

It is a cohort study that will include approximately 200 people aged between 55 and 80 who experience a subjective deterioration of memory or other cognitive abilities, such as attention, planning ability and orientation.

The Beta-AARC study is supported by ACS Foundation, Ramón Areces Foundation and the Naccari Ravà Foundation.

FUNDACION
ACS



FUNDACIÓN
RAMÓN ARECES

Fundació **Naccari Ravà**



Alfa+

Alfa+ is a cohort, prospective and observational study that aims to describe the biological processes and identify factors that can predict the preclinical phase of Alzheimer's disease.

Thanks to the extensive characterization of 420 participants without cognitive impairment from the Alfa study, the Alfa+ analyses the association between biological, structural, functional and neurocognitive brain markers that characterise the preclinical phase of the disease and describe its natural history. It is supported by the Adey Foundation and the Sabadell Foundation.



AlfaSleep

The aim of the AlfaSleep project is to characterise sleep patterns with subjective and objective measures in middle-aged adults without cognitive impairment and with an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's in the future, and relate them to biomarkers and state-of-the-art neuroimaging data.

Thanks to its multimodal approach and the study participant cohort, enriched by risk factors, the project will contribute to the understanding of the mechanisms underlying the association between sleep and cognitive impairment.

Thus, the project aims to develop non-invasive biomarkers and preventive strategies aimed at sleep. AlfaSleep has the participation of 200 people from the Alfa+ cohort.

PROSPECT-AD

Speech impairments are a feature of the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and, consequently, the analysis of speech performance is a promising new digital biomarker for the detection of the disease.

The aim of PROSPECT-AD is to validate speech biomarkers for the identification of individuals with early signs of Alzheimer's and monitor them longitudinally

In addition, digital biomarkers of language and speech open the door to screening methods for populations at greater risk of suffering the disease at very early stages, necessary for future clinical trials on Alzheimer's disease-modifying drugs. PROSPECT-AD collects data from participants from European cohorts, 100 of them from the BBRC Beta-AARC study.

SCAP-AD

The SCAP-AD project aims to validate new ultrasensitive diagnostic methods for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease. Led by the CIEN Foundation and with the participation of the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC), this project seeks to apply precision medicine to improve the diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The BBRC is responsible for coordinating the neuroimaging work of participating centers, overseeing the collection and archiving of magnetic resonance images from each site, and ensuring high-quality image processing and quality control.

The study will establish two large population cohorts: A digital cohort to explore the use of an online cognitive assessment test via a web platform and a large clinical validation cohort.



Financiado por
la Unión Europea
NextGenerationEU



Plan de Recuperación,
Transformación
y Resiliencia



GOBIERNO
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Instituto de Salud Carlos III



Fundación Centro Investigación
Enfermedades Neurológicas

International consortia

PROMINENT

The BBRC is part of the PROMINENT consortium, a public-private collaboration, funded by the Innovative Health Initiative for a period of five years, which brings together experts in neurodegenerative diseases and clinical neuroscience, artificial intelligence, health economics and patient advocacy.

The project partners also include some of Europe's leading medical centers for the diagnosis and treatment of cognitive disorders.

SpeechDx

The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) SpeechDx longitudinal study is the first to create the largest repository of speech and voice data to help accelerate the detection, diagnosis and monitoring of Alzheimer's disease through these biomarkers.

The recorded voice samples from the study will be combined with clinical and biomarker data to develop algorithms for the creation of new speech biomarkers. The study will last three years and will collect data from 2,650 participants from five different centers, including the BBRC, which will contribute 400 people from the Alfa+ and Beta-AARC cohorts.



EU-FINGERS

The BBRC is partner and leader of one of the work packages of the "EUROFINGERS project: multimodal precision prevention toolbox for dementia in Alzheimer's disease".

This initiative aims to generate prevention tools for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and seeks to provide a common framework for multimodal studies on the prevention of dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. In the context of this project, a BBRC study participant is part of the EU-FINGERS advisory committee to provide advice and recommendations to researchers and enrich the research with a diversity of voices and perspectives.

AD-RIDDLE

The AD-RIDDLE consortium brings together public and private leaders from across Europe to transform Alzheimer's prevention and treatment, equipping healthcare professionals with advanced tools for accurate detection and diagnosis.

Over five years, the project will develop a modular platform featuring a suite of tools to support every stage of the clinical pathway. This includes a digital community engagement portal, advanced screening tools for more accurate risk detection and early diagnosis, a decision-support toolkit for healthcare providers, and therapies tailored to each patient.

COMMUTE

The COMMUTE project investigates the risk of dementia and neurodegeneration following coronavirus infection. The study will examine the underlying mechanisms connecting COVID-19 infections to neurodegenerative diseases.

Funded by the European Union, the project brings together 11 partners across Europe. It integrates computational and biological research methods, using artificial intelligence to analyse patient data and evaluate whether COVID-19 infection increases the risk of neurodegenerative diseases.

Clinical trials



1,400
participants

AHEAD A3-45

The BBRC is one of the centers selected to participate in the AHEAD trial. The study plans to gather 1,400 participants from around the world to evaluate the efficacy and safety of a monoclonal antibody directed against the beta-amyloid protein, lecanemab, to prevent Alzheimer's disease in people aged 55 to 80 with high risk of developing it.

The selected participants will undergo the tests described in the trial protocol at the BBRC facilities, such as neuropsychological tests, or MRIs among others. The drug will also be administered to the people that meet all the requirements.

Elecsys Amyloid Plasma Panel

Elecsys Amyloid Plasma Panel (EAPP) is a multicenter, prospective and non- interventional study with the aim of demonstrating the clinical performance of the EAPP test, a test to facilitate the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's.

This tool would identify the likelihood of amyloid pathology in people with subjective memory complaints from a blood test, and determine whether they should undergo further evaluations and tests that could confirm the diagnosis. In this clinical trial will participate people aged between 55 and 80 with subjective memory complaints or mild cognitive impairment.

Scholarships and grants



Research contract, Ramón y Cajal programme

Lead Researcher (LR): Dr Marta del Campo

Funded by: Spanish Research Agency (AEI) – Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities

Project Number:

RYC2023-043831-I, funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by the ESF+

CoPATH-AD: Understanding the effect of multiple co-pathologies on AD pathophysiology

LR: Dr Marta del Campo

Funded by: Spanish Research Agency (AEI) – Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities

Project Number: PID2023-153312OB-I00, funded by MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by ERDF, EU

Establishing a personalised cerebral health service for dementia risk stratification and prevention: The B-HEALTH Project

LR: Dr Oriol Grau-Rivera

Funded by: Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII) – Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities

Project Number: PI24/00116, funded by the Carlos III Health Institute (ISCIII) and ERDF, EU. Project managed by IMIM (Hospital del Mar Research Institute)

ALFA+EBRAINS: Integrating ALFA+ cohort study in EBRAINS for Neurodegenerative Research

LR: Xavier Serra Picamal (Data Center)

Funded by: EBRAINS Open Calls
Project Number: ALFA+EBRAINS project, financed by the EBRAINS Open Call “Recruiting large data collections for FAIR data sharing and analysis in EBRAINS”

DETEC-PK: Detection of Aggregated TDP43 in CSF and Plasma via Proteinase K

LR: Dr Marta del Campo

Funded by: CaixaResearch Institute – Innovation Hub Fund

Project Number: DETEC-PK project, funded by the CaixaResearch Institute in the second call for proposals of the Innovation HUB Fund

Support programmes

Alzheimer's is a disease that affects not only those diagnosed, but also everyone around them. Therefore, in 2024, we have continued our mission to support those caring for family members with Alzheimer's through **group support and training programmes**, both in-person and online.

The in-person group therapy programme has established 5 new groups, involving a total of 40 caregivers.

The programme has received a grant awarded by the Department of Social Rights of the Generalitat de Catalunya and funding from Barcelona City Council.

Currently, **1,653 people** have participated in the **177 groups** organised since the initiative was launched in 2013 throughout Spain.

1,653

people have participated
in the 177 groups
since 2013

The online support programme "Learn to take care and take care of yourself" has conducted 31 groups, with 287 participants.

The programme has received a grant from the Department of Health of the Generalitat de Catalunya and also the support of Barcelona City Council and the Ministry of Social Rights, Consumption and Agenda 2030 of the Spanish Government.

Also the support of Santalucía Seguros, Aigües de Barcelona, Libra and the M. Teresa Rodó Foundation (FMTR).

Since 2021, the year in which the psychoeducational programme began, we have accompanied **770 caregivers in the 88 organised groups.**

770

caregivers in the
88 organised groups
since 2021



You make it possible

Collaborators

Patronage Council

Strategic patron



Major patrons



Patrons



Associated companies



Institutional support



Strategic partners



Collaborating entities

Ineco

Inmo Bosmer, S.L.

RTVE

Fundació Antoni Serra Santamans

Alzamora Carton Packaging

Institute of Knowledge and Networking SLU

Cirsa Servicios Corporativos

Caprabo

Scientific collaborations

Janssen	IHE. The Swedish Institute for Health Economics
Lilly	Bioartic
Roche Diagnostics	Uniklinik Cologne
Lund University	Figers Brain Health Institute
University of Amsterdam	Maastricht University
Universitat de Barcelona	University of Leicester
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya	Imperial College London
CNIC	Alzheimer Europe
IRSI Caixa	University of Perugia
ViewMind Inc	Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative
Altoida	Fujeribio
KIElements	Sanofi
F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd	C2N Diagnostics
University of Gothenburg	Neotiv
IDIBAPS	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft
Karolinska Institutet	University of Luxembourg
Combinostics	University of Copenhagen
Hospitaux de Bordeaux	Barcelona Supercomputing Center
UKC Ljubljana	University of Vienna
VUMC	Kairntech
University of Eastern Finland	Luxembourg Institute of Health

Unforgettable businesses and pharmacies



652 Businesses



247 Pharmacies



See the full list
of partners

Members



In 2024, your solidarity and commitment have grown stronger than ever. Over 18,000 people, organisations and companies have joined our project to help create a future where everyone can hold onto their memories.

Thanks to your support, we can continue advancing research and supporting people living with Alzheimer's. You are part of the solution, and with your strength, we move closer each day to a future without this disease.

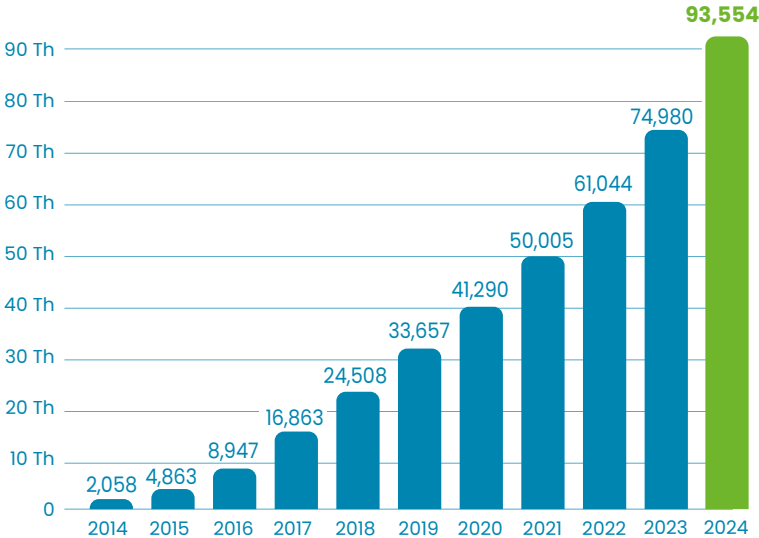
Once again, individuals and organisations from across the country have dedicated their creativity to this important cause. Your initiatives and ideas have made a lasting impact and propelled our mission.

Thank you for being there and for standing by our side, now and always.



93,554 Members

Evolution of the number of members



Solidarity from companies



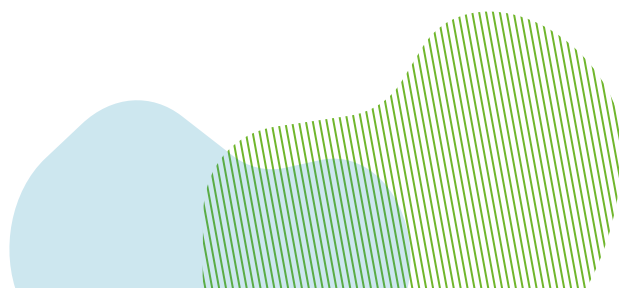
Susanna Juan
CSR Manager
at Bonpreu i Esclat

Rounding up for early detection

Year after year, more and more businesses choose charity rounding up—a powerful initiative that generates a triple positive impact: bolstering the fight against Alzheimer's, fostering a spirit of solidarity, and communicating the company's core values to its community.

“

“Our experience has been very positive and professional. Following each campaign, we normally visit the recipient organisations, where they share with us the specific projects that benefit from the donations. Our visit to the Pasqual Maragall Foundation was particularly memorable, not only for the warm welcome we received but also for the chance to gain first-hand knowledge into their research on Alzheimer's disease and the support they provide to family caregivers.”





Marina Rubio

From Recuperat-ion.com, joining us in the commitment against Alzheimer's

Unforgettable businesses and pharmacies

In 2024, **652 businesses and 247 pharmacies** joined the **Pasqual Maragall Foundation** in the fight against Alzheimer's. Bakeries, hairdressers, pharmacies and cafés came together to help us create a future where everyone can remember, becoming unforgettable allies in this mission.

247
Pharmacies

652
Businesses

“

“At Recuperat-ion, one of our core objectives is to collaborate with projects and initiatives that promote solidarity. This year, we decided to join forces with the Pasqual Maragall Foundation in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. We are proud to be a part of this initiative, because we firmly believe in the importance of its work in advancing prevention, diagnosis and treatment of this disease, which has a profound and growing impact on society.”



Ricardo & Blanca

Unforgettable couple

Solidarity events

In 2024, solidarity became the hallmark of numerous special occasions, culminating in **186 solidarity events**. These events not only promoted our social and scientific initiatives but also raised **€68,279**.

186
events

“

“When planning our wedding, we were clear about not wanting to give our guests wedding favours that might be forgotten. Our lives have been marked by Alzheimer's, as two of our grandparents died from this disease. Their unconditional support inspired us to contribute our grain of sand to this cause. Our guests were touched by the magnets and the postcards we shared, which carried a meaningful message.”



Maribel Pérez i Piñero

Director of the Amics de l'Hospital del Mar Foundation

Solidarity initiatives

The year 2024 saw significant strides in Alzheimer's research, bringing us even closer to a future without this disease. Thanks to the **491 initiatives** promoted by our partners, we raised more than **€210,000** to ensure continued research.

Our second consecutive year with the Marina WalkTrail

In 2024, the Nordic pole walking event, co-organised by the Amics de l'Hospital del Mar Foundation and the Pasqual Maragall Foundation raised **€18,507**. This donation represents a vital boost for the collaborative research project between the BBRC and the Hospital del Mar Institute for Medical Research (IMIM).

“

“At the Amics de l'Hospital del Mar Foundation, we believe in the power of solidarity, health and sport as catalysts for change. The Marina WalkTrail, a Nordic walking route, was created to inspire healthy habits through physical activity while fostering emotional well-being and promoting values such as philanthropy, camaraderie, friendship, and the shared commitment of walking together for a cause. This initiative unites efforts to promote biomedical research at Hospital del Mar and supports the fight against diseases such as Alzheimer's. It demonstrates that physical activity and solidarity can work hand in hand to drive progress in medicine.”



Dolores Vendrell

Co-author of the book

Books that inspire – *Leve Atardecer: Cuando solo nos quede el amor* (Gentle Sunset: When all we have left is love)

This book was born from the co-author Dolores' desire to share her personal journey as she cared for her husband during his struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Along with her friend María Jesús Mañas, they have crafted a book that brings together practical advice and poetry, offering both solace and everyday solutions to families dealing with similar life challenges. The book was a family endeavour, featuring cover art by her daughter and the support of her sons throughout the process.

“

“We chose to transfer our copyrights to the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, in support of its research in the fight against this devastating disease. My family, along with my friend and co-author, agreed to make this modest contribution. For 15 years, my husband has been on a journey into the mists of forgetfulness, his memory of names and faces slowly fading. Yet I walk beside him joyfully, as I still remember his name.”

Solidarity Wills

In 2024, 25 people formalised their solidarity wills, while **691** others expressed interest in leaving a legacy of hope—a future free from Alzheimer's, where no family has to endure the devastating impact of this disease. Thanks to their generosity, the Pasqual Maragall Foundation has received more than **€850,000** in 2024.

Testimonial

Juana and Carmen Polo Ferrer, two women who are no longer with us, yet their legacy continues to support ongoing research. Their memory and commitment will live forever in the fight against Alzheimer's.

“

“My dear aunts, Carmen and Juana Polo Ferrer, epitomised generosity—a trait seemingly woven into the very fabric of their being. This found its ultimate expression in their solidarity will.”

They chose the Pasqual Maragall Foundation as the beneficiary of their legacy, as they were convinced that their contribution would really serve to advance research towards a cure for Alzheimer's. Their decision was rooted in the Foundation's demonstrated commitment, integrity, solvency and proven track record of solidarity. They were confident that their legacy would be instrumental in shaping a brighter future for those affected by this disease.”

Pilar Polo



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maragall
foundation**

barcelonaβeta
BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

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BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

Can you help us to beat Alzheimer's?

If you are not yet a member,
call **900 545 545** or capture
the QR with your mobile phone.



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