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BUENAS PRÁCTICAS

Operaciones Cofinanciadas

**“Construction and Equipping of
the Pasqual Maragall Building”.**

**Secretariat for Universities and
Research**

Programa Operativo de Cataluña

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

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Submitted as Good Practice: the project “Construction and Equipping of the Pasqual Maragall Building”.

Pasqual Maragall Foundation Building

This project entails the construction and equipping of the Pasqual Maragall Building, located on the Ciutadella Campus of Pompeu Fabra University. The new building provides the necessary infrastructure to develop a scientific programme, implemented by the Pasqual Maragall Foundation (FPM), which focuses on Alzheimer’s and other related neurodegenerative diseases.



The work of the programme takes place at the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC), a research facility established by the Pasqual Maragall Foundation in cooperation with the Pompeu Fabra University and “La Caixa” Banking Foundation.

The project was submitted to the call for proposals established by the Secretariat for Universities and Research in 2015 to select outstanding institutional initiatives for the construction, acquisition, adaptation or extension of buildings to house R&D infrastructure that facilitate the talent attraction and the development and value of knowledge transfer.

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation was established in 2008 with the mission of promoting and developing biomedical research excellence. The Foundation seeks to become a reference in the development of global solutions to the problem of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as raising social awareness so that the provision of scientific support to meet these challenges receives the priority it deserves.

Until March 2016, the Foundation was housed in leased premises in the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB). During this initial period, fieldwork for the Foundation’s research study was outsourced to nearby facilities such as the Hospital del Mar and Pompeu Fabra University. Since then, and once the construction of the Building on the Ciutadella Campus of Pompeu Fabra University was completed and given to the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, most of this research has been carried out internally reducing costs

The operation had a total cost of 6,050,000 euros, including a total eligible cost of 5,000,000 euros. Taking into account the 50% rate of financing, the ERDF support comes to 2,500,000 euros.

The project enables advances to be made in research into Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as the creation of 18 new positions for researchers.

This operation is presented as Good Practice because it meets the following criteria:

1. High level of dissemination among beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation website (<https://fpmaragall.org/>) publishes all news related to the Foundation and the research it promotes, as well as information about the disease. On the social networks, moreover, the Foundation posts information linked to these new- items and the campaigns it launches.

As regards the media, the Foundation has a constant presence throughout the year and appearances in the media have increased over the last three years. In 2015 there were 363 media appearances, while in 2016 there were 420 and in 2017 there were 950. By way of further example, in 2016 the Foundation accounted for 18% of all interventions concerning Alzheimer's disease published in Spanish and Catalan media.

Finally, as regards scientific dissemination, the Foundation conducts activities aimed at society as a whole. These actions involve not only informing about the Foundation's scientific activities, but also promoting science for all, raising awareness about the importance of science and encouraging scientific vocations. To this end, the FPM talks regularly with students that contact the Foundation to help conduct their research work, organises talks for students at other centres, and it takes part in Barcelona City Council's programme of activities for the World Brain Week. The Foundation also gives open lectures for everyone, promotes sport activities to incentivise healthy habits, organises informative events and takes part in conferences throughout Spain, among other activities.

The most outstanding actions carried out include the following:

- **The Foundation website**, which includes sections on infrastructure (<https://fpmaragall.org/la-fundacion/infraestructuras/> in Catalan, Spanish and English) and non-profits (<https://fpmaragall.org/la-fundacion/empresas-solidarias-contra-alzheimer/> also in Catalan, Spanish and English).
- **The press release on the official presentation of the building in September 2016** (in Catalan, Spanish and English) on the FPM website.

21 de septiembre: Día Mundial del Alzheimer

Nace el BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center, un centro pionero de referencia al servicio de la investigación en Alzheimer

La Fundación Pasqual Maragall ha trasladado su sede y ha unificado toda su actividad científica en un nuevo edificio

El nuevo centro dispone de un servicio de neuroimagen de alta calidad, así como instalaciones para realizar ensayos clínicos e investigación en cognición

El Estudio Alfa, impulsado con el apoyo de la Obra Social "La Caixa", incorpora una nueva línea de investigación para profundizar en la relación entre genética y estructura cerebral

La Fundación Pasqual Maragall ha dado un paso más en su lucha contra el Alzheimer con la puesta en marcha de su centro de investigación, el BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC). Se trata de un novedoso complejo con instalaciones de alto nivel dedicadas específicamente a la investigación clínica para la prevención del Alzheimer.

De esta forma, la Fundación Pasqual Maragall traslada su sede y unifica toda su actividad científica en este edificio, ofreciendo a los investigadores y colaboradores unas infraestructuras especializadas en el estudio del cerebro, y al servicio de las necesidades de investigación en este ámbito.

El nuevo equipamiento está situado en la calle Wellington de Barcelona, dentro del Campus de la Ciutadella de la Universidad Pompeu Fabra, y ha sido diseñado por el arquitecto Juan Navarro Baldeweg, Premio Nacional de Arquitectura en 2014.

El edificio cuenta con 4.276 m2 construidos divididos en 6 plantas sobre rasante y una planta subterránea.



The media appearances.

Actualmente, están ocupadas 4 plantas que acogen varios programas de investigación para la prevención del Alzheimer de la Fundación, como el Estudio Alfa o el proyecto europeo EPAD. Las tres plantas restantes permitirán el futuro crecimiento y se ocuparán dependiendo de las necesidades de los proyectos científicos.

De este modo, el Programa de Investigación Clínica, que actualmente desarrolla el Estudio Alfa y la iniciativa europea EPAD, cuenta con siete despachos de investigación para atención y recogida de datos de voluntarios, un laboratorio para la gestión de muestras biológicas y una sala de congeladores y muestras.

El Programa de Grupos Terapéuticos para cuidadores dispone de una sala específica en la que se llevan a cabo sesiones de terapia grupal con cuidadores de enfermos de Alzheimer con el objetivo de proporcionarles herramientas que mejoren su calidad de vida.

El centro también dispone de una Plataforma de Neuroimagen, con servicio de adquisición de imágenes y personal investigador especializado en posprocesamiento y análisis, dedicado en exclusiva a la investigación de neurociencias. Este hecho es significativo ya que, en general, las unidades de resonancia magnética se comparten entre múltiples especialidades médicas así como con personal clínico e investigador. La plataforma cuenta con una máquina de resonancia magnética 3T de última generación destinada a la obtención de imágenes cerebrales de alta calidad, que permiten explorar cómo funciona el cerebro, entender la neurodegeneración y comprobar los efectos de los medicamentos de prevención que se administran. Cuenta también con la colaboración científica de Philips, experto tecnológico fabricante de la unidad.

Finalmente, las oficinas de la Fundación ocupan una parte de la 4a planta y alojan las áreas de captación de fondos, comunicación y administración.

En total, el edificio acoge actualmente a 53 trabajadores, más de la mitad de los cuales pertenecen al personal investigador del BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center. La infraestructura actual permite realizar las visitas y pruebas de los cerca de 3.000 voluntarios que participan en los diversos estudios.

La inversión total ha sido de 9M€ que corresponden a la construcción, instalaciones y obra civil y 2,9M€ en la adquisición del equipamiento científico. El financiamiento proviene en un 25% de recursos propios (fondos privados recaudados durante la iniciativa Alzheimer Internacional 2011, impulsada con la participación de la Fundación Reina Sofía), otro 25% de fondos FEDER (Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional) gestionado por la Generalitat de Catalunya, y la mitad restante mediante un préstamo sin intereses del Ministerio de Sanidad, Servicios Sociales e Igualdad.



José Luis Molinuevo, Cristina Maragall i Jordi Camí, durant la presentació de l'edifici on hi ha el centre de recerca i la Fundació Pasqual Maragall. ANTONI PUIG

Neix un centre de recerca per a la prevenció de l'Alzheimer

El BarcelonaBeta és impulsat per la Fundació Pasqual Maragall i té la seu al campus de la Universitat Pompeu Fabra. Participa en un assaig clínic per provar una vacuna contra la malaltia

Víctor Pérez BARCELONA

"Abans serem capaços d'evitar que moltes persones acabin patint la malaltia que de tant en tant que ja tenim els símptomes." El director de la Fundació Pasqual Maragall, Jordi Camí, va insistir a dir en aquest "canvi de paradigma" durant la presentació del Barcelona Beta Research Center, el primer centre de recerca dedicat "exclusivament" a la prevenció de l'Alzheimer. El nou centre ha estat impulsat per la mateixa Fundació Pasqual Maragall. La seu de les dues institucions és un edifici de nova creació construït en un solar cedit per la Universitat Pompeu Fabra al

campus de la Ciutadella. Més de 4.200 metres quadrats dividits en sis plantes que ofereixen als investigadors unes infraestructures especialitzades en l'estudi del cervell, entre les quals destaca un centre de neuroimatge mèdica de darrera generació i orientat únicament a fer recerca. El complex ha tingut un cost global de prop de 13 milions d'euros, i s'ha finançat en un 25% amb recursos propis i un 25% amb fons FEDER gestionats per la Generalitat, i el 50% restant amb un préstec sense interessos del Ministeri de Sanitat.

Les frases

44Abans serem capaços d'evitar que moltes persones acabin patint la malaltia que de tant en tant que ja tenim els símptomes." **Jordi Camí** DIRECTOR DE LA FUNDACIÓ PASQUAL MARAGALL

44La diferència és que aquí no treballem amb persones malaltes, treballem amb persones sanes." **José Luis Molinuevo** DIRECTOR DEL CENTRE D'ESTUDI DE RECERCA

44Hi ha molta feina per fer, però tenim moltes famílies afectades i això és difícil de fer." **Cristina Maragall** PORTAVEG DE LA FUNDACIÓ PASQUAL MARAGALL

Jna malaltia amb vint anys d'evolució

Alzheimer és una malaltia neurodegenerativa progressiva que, contínuament al se es pensava fa uns anys, i més de vint anys d'evolució. Només a Catalunya es estima que afecta 122.000 persones. Durant aquestes dècades de lenta evolució es va acumulant al cervell

una quantitat excessiva d'una proteïna anomenada amiloide, que resulta tòxica per a les neurones i les acaba matant. Els experts, segons explica el director del servei de neurologia de l'hospital Sant Pau, Rafael Blesa, treballen per intentar interferir en l'acció de

l'amiloide, però de moment tots els tractaments han fracassat. Blesa insisteix en la necessitat de treballar per prevenir-la. "La millor manera és seguir una dieta mediterrània, fer exercici i dormir bé", resumeix Blesa. El dia mundial de l'Alzheimer és el 21 de setembre.

quatre plantes on es desenvolupen diversos programes de recerca per a la prevenció de l'Alzheimer, com ara l'Estudi Alfa, en què participen 2.743 voluntaris, fills i filles de persones que han patit la malaltia. Tenen entre 45 i 75 anys i l'objectiu de l'estudi és que les seves històries permetin identificar biomarcadors i factors de risc per dissenyar estratègies de prevenció de la malaltia. "Aquí els fem proves de per vida per entendre la història de la malaltia, i aquí també els donem la possibilitat de provar alguns medicaments", explica Camí. Entre els assaig clínic en què podran participar d'aquestes persones hi ha una vacuna impulsada per Novartis que ja està en la fase 3 de l'assaig clínic. Les persones que hi participaran són les que ja presenten unes característiques genètiques que indiquen que tenen risc de desenvolupar l'Alzheimer. Jo hi ha una nova línia d'investigació en marxa, dins del mateix Estudi Alfa, per estudiar la relació entre la genètica i l'estructura cerebral.

"La diferència és que aquí no treballem amb persones malaltes, treballem amb persones sanes", va destacar el director científic de Barcelona Beta, José Luis Molinuevo.

La Fundació Pasqual Maragall es va crear ara fa vuit anys per després del mateix Pasqual Maragall amb l'única objectiu de dedicar-se a la recerca científica. Els primers objectius eren bastant més ambiciosos, però, segons va explicar Camí, "el fet d'haver crescut en plena crisi econòmica ha impedit que tinguem el suport de l'administració". Han hagut de tenir en compte que "diners financers i de mercat empresarial".

Així Cristina Maragall, filla de l'empresari i portaveg de la fundació, es mostrava emocionada en veure com havia evolucionat el projecte. "Fa uns dies vaig tornar a veure Bicicleta, cultura, porra i em va impressionar la vitalitat i la voluntat del pare quan estava en actiu", va dir. Va reconèixer que no ha estat fàcil, "Hi ha molta feina dels 7.000 socis que ho han fet possible i es va comprometre a continuar treballant. "Hi ha molta feina per fer, però tenim moltes famílies afectades i això m'indigna", va resumir Cristina Maragall.

- The poster in the entrance lobby of the building.



- More than **25 tweets** informing about the facilities and activities at the new headquarters, using two hashtags: **#fonsuegencat** **#FEDERrecerca**.



2. Inclusion of innovative elements



At the inauguration of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation Building in 2016, Jean Georges, President of Alzheimer Europe, the organisation that brings together all European associations for people with Alzheimer’s, made the following statement to the media: *“This outstanding building is the first centre of excellence in Europe devoted exclusively to research into prevention of Alzheimer’s disease.*

The building houses excellent technical facilities, including areas for clinical trials, a scanner dedicated to research, offices for gathering data from ALFA volunteers for research purposes, EEG

la and Eye Tracker laboratories. All this infrastructure enables the Foundation to implement its internationally-recognised neuroscience research programmes.

The infrastructure is used to develop research programmes about the cognitive decline associated with age, with the goal of providing practical solutions to the global challenges posed by the aging of the world's population. The Foundation's work seeks to meet this objective by promoting primary and secondary prevention programmes for Alzheimer's disease and other related neurodegenerative disorders.

The Foundation pursues the mission of providing society with different, innovative solutions for studying the cognitive decline associated with age through complementary research programmes aimed at achieving a multidisciplinary vision of the aging process and the pathophysiology of neurodegeneration.

Competitive international recruitment, state-of-the-art scientific facilities, efficient management and top-level continuous peer review are key procedures implemented by the Foundation to guarantee first-class results in research.

Below are examples of two projects that are particularly outstanding due to their innovative nature:

- **Longitudinal study of the ALFA cohort.** A considerable proportion of the research conducted at the Pasqual Maragall Foundation's BBRC is enabled by data obtained from the ALFA (Alzheimer and Families) Study, an initiative supported by "la Caixa" Banking Foundation. The ALFA Study comprises innovative research infrastructure consisting of around 3,000 cognitively healthy people, being most of them descendants of patients with Alzheimer's disease. The participants, aged between 45 and 75 years, take part in the BBRC's research voluntarily. According to the project they take part in, these volunteers periodically undertake clinical, cognitive and neuroimaging tests and have the chance to take part in preventive clinical trials.
- **Neuroimaging platform services.** This platform provides the support and capacity necessary to obtain and manage complex neuroimaging sequences for basic, clinical and translational research. This is a research service designed specifically for researchers, providing high-performance infrastructure for more efficient large-scale processing and management of neuroimaging data with access to supercomputer nodes.

3. Linkage between results obtained from the supported actions and the objectives established

The construction of the new 4,276 m² building and the full equipping of all interior spaces in the basement, on the ground and in fourth and fifth floors for research was completed in March 2016. The works also included equipping these spaces with small laboratory equipment (freezers, centrifuges, scales, water baths and so on) to enable their operation.

The first, second and third floors were left ready, provided with civil works and basic fittings for the future needs of additional research facilities.

The construction of the building meant that the entire core activity of the research projects was integrated onto this single site, enabling the internalisation of the main activities and reducing project costs. The research projects are grouped as follows:

- ✓ Alzheimer's Prevention Programme
 - Clinical Research, Biomarker and Risk Factor Group
 - Neuroimaging Research Group

- ✓ Memory Programme
 - Research Group on Decisions, Emotions and Memory
 - Research Group on Neuronal Mechanisms of the Memory
- ✓ Social Intervention Programme

The facilities created enable all programmes to be provided with the necessary space for their development. Accordingly, the objectives initially established in the operation have been achieved. These were:

- **To generate spaces for the Alzheimer’s Prevention Programme.** These spaces include, principally: offices equipped with the facilities necessary for research; rooms to collect and systematically enter experimental data on cognition and clinical records; and laboratories equipped to manage and process biological samples and to conduct clinical trials on the prevention of Alzheimer’s disease.
- **To generate spaces for the Neuroimaging Platform and the Neuroimaging Research Group.** These spaces include, particularly, rooms for magnetic resonance imaging acquisition and to house research equipment.
- **To generate spaces for implementing the Memory Programme.** These are mainly: rooms for cognitive experimentation; control rooms for experiments and the analysis and management of data from studies; and spaces for monitoring, Big Data analysis, bioinformatics, methodological support and coordination.
- **To generate spaces for the Social Intervention Programme.** This includes, particularly, rooms for conducting studies and experiments with therapeutic groups.
- **To generate spaces for the future growth of the Foundation’s research programmes.** The first, second and third floors are furnished with floors, bathrooms and the necessary pre-installations to generate heating and cooling, voice and data, as well as to provide electricity, gas and water.

4. Contribution to resolving a regional problem or weakness

Dementias, which include Alzheimer's disease, are fast becoming one of the main global medical and health challenges. Constantly-increasing life expectancy throughout the world also generates a proportional rise in cases of dementias such as Alzheimer's, incurable diseases, and accelerated aging processes. It is likely that the number of cases will continue to increase unless effective treatments for the prevention and cure of such diseases are found. There is a considerable concern about the sustainability of this situation, given the high degree of disability and dependence that this disease causes.

Recent figures show that 10% of the population over 65 years old are affected by some type of dementia, with prevalence ranging from 1.5-5% in the 65-69-year age group to over 30% among people over 85 years old. **There are 7 million cases estimated in Europe, including around 800,000 in Spain. In Catalonia, more than 110,000 people could be affected by Alzheimer's disease.**

To help prevent neurodegenerative diseases and promote healthy aging, the BBRC implements two complementary research programmes: the **Alzheimer's Prevention Programme** and the **Memory Programme**. Within the framework of these programmes, projects are conducted in

the fields of primary and secondary prevention of Alzheimer's disease, neuroimaging and the cognitive functions affected by aging, such as memory, learning and decision-making, among others.

As its name indicates, Alzheimer's disease is the main focus of the BBRC's Alzheimer's Prevention Programme. This disease is currently the main cause of neurological disability in elderly people, thus creating a huge social and economic burden for modern societies. Although the clinical-pathological characteristics of this disease were described more than a century ago, its precise aetiology remains unknown and, to date, all clinical trials conducted to evaluate medications to modify the disease have failed. Recent studies show that the pathology of Alzheimer's disease develops decades before the clinical symptoms appear: this asymptomatic, silent period is known as the **preclinical Alzheimer's disease stage**. Advances in detecting and understanding this asymptomatic stage have opened up new opportunities for developing new therapeutic strategies, and the hypothesis has been formulated that, to increase the chances of success, drugs that failed in trials performed on patients with symptomatology of the disease should be tested on cognitively healthy individuals with a high risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. In order to conduct preventive studies, it is necessary to identify participants with a high risk of developing Alzheimer's disease in the near future. These participants are optimal candidates to be recruited as asymptomatic individuals in clinical trials.

In Europe, the total cost of dementias represents 1.24% of GDP (Alzheimer's Disease International's *World Alzheimer Report 2014*). These costs vary greatly according to the level of development in each different country, and the role played by families in caring for patients. **In Spain overall, dementias are believed to cost around 216 million euros per year (60 million euros per day), of which less than a quarter is accounted for by social and/or healthcare costs.** This is a truly spectacular figure, one in striking contrast with the low priority given by public policies to investment in research. Cancer and cardiovascular diseases, the main causes of mortality, continue to receive much more attention.

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation Building enables the development of a unique, innovative research project that will make a definitive contribution to preventing Alzheimer's disease.

The Foundation's Alzheimer's Prevention Programme focuses on understanding the asymptomatic silent period known as the preclinical Alzheimer's disease stage in order to formulate intervention strategies that can help to delay the onset or slow down the advance of the dementia stage.

5. High degree of coverage of the target population

The first risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is a non-modifiable variable: **age**. The more the population ages, the greater the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease, and the higher the number of cases can be found. The target group that the actions of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation are aimed at is the world population as a whole.

The over-65 age group is expected to increase up to 31.5% of total population by 2060. What is more, the population of people over 80 years will reach 14.2% by that same year, 2060.

As explained in the *World Alzheimer Report 2015*, the **incidence of dementia after 65 years increases exponentially.**

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation works to resolve a global problem: the incremental degree of disability linked to expected population aging.

The translation of the Foundation's actions to cover a large segment of its target population generates considerable benefits:

- **Benefits in the health sector:** the knowledge generated by research into the prevention of the most prevalent dementia, Alzheimer's disease, will reduce the total costs linked to this progressive disability.
- **Benefits in the field of health and research policies:** the results obtained from research help to inform the decision-making process as regards health and research policies and the actual implementation of these policies.
- **Socio-economic benefits:** we live longer, no doubt, but we also want to live better. We dream of a future without Alzheimer's, a future in which growing older is just another stage in life that finds us in our plenitude.

6. Compliance with horizontal principles (sustainable development, equality between men and women and the principle of non-discrimination) and environmental legislation

Measures to integrate people with disabilities

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation (FPM) works in partnership with responsible providers. The Foundation's providers are required to respect human rights, comply with current legislation and minimise their environmental impact. In addition, preference is given to companies and organisations whose workforces include people at risk of social exclusion and/or with disabilities

In this regard, three partners of the FPM that work for the integration into employment of vulnerable groups are:

- The Incorpora Programme of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation: three people from this programme for integration into employment have joined the staff of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation, with excellent results.
- Multiple Sclerosis Foundation Special Work Centre (FEM-CET).
- Ginesta Foundation: The *Interpas* special work centre, managed by the Ginesta Foundation, centralises all mass mailings to be sent to ALFA volunteers regarding the study, as well as all documents regularly sent out to partners, such as tax certificates and abridged reports among others.

Measures against discrimination on grounds of gender

Point 6 of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation's Code of Good Practice in Transparency and Accountability, approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2014 states that: "In its staff recruitment processes and employment conditions, the Pasqual Maragall Foundation adopts a policy based on the general principles of objectivity, non-discrimination, merit, ability and equal opportunities, guaranteeing minority groups access to employment on equal terms."

Before any recruitment process is launched, the profiles of vacancies are established, taking into account the organisation's needs, the complementarity of staff members, their training, motivation and diversity, and their identification with the Foundation's mission. All vacancies are announced on the Foundation website, <https://fpmaragall.org/ca/treballa-amb-nosaltres>, and on specialised platforms.



At the end of 2017, the staff of the FPM and the BBRC was formed by 65 people - 42 women and 23 men.

Environmental measures

The project design takes efficiency and environmentally-friendly construction criteria particularly into account. The building obtained Energy Rating B, corresponding to the second-most efficient category on the scale. The certification takes into account such factors as CO₂ emissions, annual non-renewable primary energy consumption and annual energy demand for heating and cooling, among other indicators.

7. Synergies with other policies or instruments of public intervention

Internationalisation of activities conducted

A key aspect of research into preclinical Alzheimer's disease is the need for cooperation between research groups and the stakeholders involved (financing bodies, participants in studies, regulatory agencies, etc.). The most important studies currently underway, and with which the Foundation actively cooperates, are as follows:

- **European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia (EPAD).** The European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia (EPAD) (www.ep-ad.org) project is a major European initiative in which the academic and private sectors cooperate to test innovative interventions targeted at the prevention of Alzheimer's disease.
- **Amyloid Imaging for the Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease (AMYPAD).** (<https://amypad.eu/>) is the largest cooperative project launched in Europe. The goal of the initiative is to improve understanding, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease through the use of PET β -amyloid imaging.
- **The TriBEKa Imaging Platform (Tri Barcelona, Edinburgh and Karolinska).** (<http://tribeka.org/>) is a consortium set up to help us understand the brain changes that take place prior to the onset of the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.
- **Organising mechanistic knowledge about neurodegenerative diseases for the improvement of drug development and therapy (AETIONOMY).** This project was launched in order to respond to the need to reformulate the taxonomy of human diseases.

Finally, to implement its projects, the BBRC **forms partnerships with other institutions whose work complements** the field research conducted at the Pasqual Maragall Foundation Building.