



Barcelona
Biomedical
Research
Park



Performance Report

PRBB Consortium

February 2016

2015

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Website of the Performance Report:

performancereport2015.prbb.org

A rundown of 2015

Last year was very intense! Highlights from 2015 included the alliance of the PRBB-PCB animal facilities under a single management regime and the opening of new spaces for the CRG-UPF Proteomics service. The work on our facilities to improve energy management came to a close, and two new UPS (uninterruptible power supplies) were installed along with a new wifi system.

Last spring saw a visit from 20 rectors from different German universities, the first edition of BioJunior, and the tenth edition of the PRBB Award. Ten additional Intervals courses were held and the Open Day increased both its number

of activities and volunteer participation. 2015 also saw the founding of our own PRBB orchestra.

As 2016 begins, we are waiting for the resolution of a FEDER project that will allow us to make further, necessary improvements to the research facilities. As we start preparing to celebrate the PRBB's tenth anniversary, we invite you to explore in this website a summary of our activities in 2015. The full report is available in Catalan at

informederesultats2015.prbb.org

Marga Sala

Head of Administration of the PRBB Consortium

January 2016

Website of the Performance Report:

performancereport2015.prbb.org

The Park

The Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (**PRBB**) is one of the largest hubs of biomedical research in southern Europe.

The **seven centres** located in the park conduct science of excellence in a wide diversity of fields, with a critical mass of 1,500 people hailing from 50 different countries, an accumulated R&D budget of approximately 90 M• per year and cutting-edge scientific equipment. This allows us to explore, in a unique building, the most relevant questions in life sciences and biomedicine today, from the molecular up to the populational perspective. The physical connection of the PRBB with the Hospital de Mar next door also provides an excellent insight into clinical reality.

Organisation

The PRBB Consortium manages and maintains the park and its facilities. It also manages the animal facility as a scientific service. The research centres pay for the rent of space in relation to area and type, as well as for various services in the park. The park receives no structural subsidies.

The PRBB coordinates together with the centres various working groups and committees (scientific sessions, occupational health, information technology, waste, etc.). It also promotes synergies and inter-institutional collaboration whilst respecting the individual identities and autonomy of the centres.

The governing council is the board of rectors which includes representatives from the Government of Catalonia, Barcelona City Council and Pompeu Fabra University and is chaired by the Catalan Minister for Economy and Knowledge. The PRBB Consortium is headed by the General Director, Jordi Cami, and General Administrator, Marga Sala.

Vision: The Consortium PRBB provides an open scientific infrastructure so that the institutions of the park can perform biomedical research that is internationally competitive.

Mission: The Consortium PRBB contributes to create the best conditions so that the scientific community of the park is successful.



Highlights of the year 2015

The #passion4science campaign

With the goal to plant the seeds where future scientists will arise from, the PRBB launched in March the #passion4science campaign, asking researchers from around the world why and at what time their scientific vocation awoke. During the BioJúnior event, a [video with a selection of](#)

[more than 100 contributions](#) received so far, was presented. The #passion4science campaign continues on social networks, and you can go see all the comments received [here](#).

The PRBB Open Day

On Saturday, 3rd October, for the eighth year in a row, the PRBB opened its doors to the public. Almost **300 volunteers and more than 3,500 visitors** shared a day that started off a bit damp, but not enough to quench people's desire to experience science first-hand.

More than 2,300 people visited the building, taking one of the eleven parallel routes that passed through different labs or core facilities, and where the researchers explained their work. While the parents had a tour, around 140 kids aged between 3 and 8 had the opportunity to experience first-hand how maggots smell. About 700 people grew the microbes from their skin on a plate, with and without deodorant. They

had to wait two days for the results, and you can check them out at openday.prbb.org. More than 1,000 DNA extractions were made, and about 1,200 visitors observed microorganisms down the microscopes in the square.

Experiments for the little ones, specialised workshops for the older folk, and guided tours of the labs for all were only part of what was on offer. Eleven lectures by researchers at the park, two photo exhibitions and a science café on vaccines put the finishing touches to a day full of science, in which more talks and workshops were taking place next door at the Mar University Campus Open Day.

BioJúnior, encouraging scientific vocations

April 17 was the first edition of BioJúnior, organised by the PRBB centres for students in the last year of secondary school and doing the first year of baccalaureate. About 300 students and teachers will have the opportunity to do a guided tour to the park, visit a lab and a core facility, listen to a scientific conference and participate in several activities organised at the inner square of the PRBB.

The event coincides with the [tenth anniversary of the PRBB Prize](#) for research by high school students organised by the UPF and PRBB, which this year has received 270 entries. Some of the winners of the first edition are now doing research in one of the groups at the park. But

it is the stage before this when the demand grows from science teachers, to guide students. It is the perfect moment to address scientific concerns and plant the seeds that will grow into future scientists. Also, the initiative #passion4science has been put in place to ask scientists when the scientific spark was set alight for them.

Getting to know the PRBB and the centres that make it up, listening to the scientists that work there and being led into the labs and services by those very researchers will surely be a stimulating experience for the young students and could be the starting point of a scientific career in this passionate world.

PRBB PCB Animal Facility Alliance

Interview of J.M. Caballero in *El·lipse*: “The alliance will foster collaboration between groups at the two institutions” in June 2015

In December 2014, the agreement for the alliance between the PCB and PRBB animal facilities, the two largest in Catalonia, was signed. The fusion involves a total area of 7,000 m² between the two sites (with the possibility of expanding into 2000 m² more), 60 employees and 600 users. Promoted by the Catalan Government, the alliance has received a SUMA grant of 185,000 euros to be developed. Juan Martín Caballero, the alliance director, divides his time between the two

animal facilities and tells us about the process.

Why this fusion?

The objective is twofold: firstly to harmonise the management of experimental animal use so that everyone follows the same international standards of animal welfare and quality of research. And secondly, to optimise resources at all levels, facilities, equipment, personnel, and so on. Also, the alliance will boost collaboration

between the research groups from the two institutions thanks to the sharing of animal models,

techniques and equipment, as well as the exchange of experiences and projects... [\[read more\]](#)

Christmas concert of the PRBB choir and orchestra

The PRBB auditorium was packed out on the day of the Christmas concert in December. The 250 seats were all occupied and the aisles full of people standing up listening, clapping, and trying to resist the urge to start dancing.

The veteran PRBB choir, with over eight years under its belt (making it almost as old as the park itself), was joined on this occasion by the orchestra, which was set up in 2015.

Two very different repertoires, the first ranging from *The Chorus* to *Mamma Mia*, and the second spanning the opera *Carmen* to the *Radetzky march*, culminating in a jointly performed Christmas carol, left the public speechless and wanting more. PRBB scientists showed that they have more than one string to their bow when it comes to improving people's wellbeing!

Data and Facts

Scientific publications from researchers at the park

	2015	2014*
Total	1,228	1,087
<i>Nature</i>	12	15
<i>Science</i>	6	8
<i>The Lancet</i>	1	3
<i>The New Engl J Med</i>	1	2
<i>Cell</i>	1	4
Other Nature group journals	21	17
Other Lancet group journals	7	2

(*) There fluctuations during the year in the total number of publications that are in press at the end of the year. For this reason, the numbers do not coincide with the report of 2014.

Scientific conferences

	2015	Yearly change	2014
Total	277	-17%	334
Internal conferences	81 (29%)		123
External conferences* ¹	196 (71%)		211
“PRBB CRG Conferences”* ²	63	+17%	54

(*1) Most representative locations of the research centres of the speakers: USA (52), Spain (41), UK (19), Germany (13), France (10), Switzerland (8)

(*2) 12 of the speakers were women (19%) in 2015. In 2014 there were only 4 (7%)

The demography of the residents

	2015	% of total	2014
Residents	1,512		1,393
Senior researchers	206	14%	224
Postdocs	330	22%	231
PhD students	291	19%	307
Research technicians	357	24%	400
Support, service and administrative staff	328	22%	231
Foreign scientists	258	31%	279
Foreign residents	369	24%	361
Men	663	44%	602
Women	849	56%	791

Personnel / Centres

	2015	2014
Total	1,512	1,393
IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute)	349	375
Department of Experimental and Health Sciences (CEXS-UPF)	296	265
Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG), including CNAG	522	432
Centre of Regenerative Medicine in Barcelona (CMRB)	35	36
Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (CREAL)	118	102
Institute of Evolutionary Biology (IBE: CSIC-UPF)	124	123
Pasqual Maragall Foundation (FPM)	32	24
PRBB Consortium	36	36
(MedSir S.L.)	0	10
(Acellera S.L.)	2	2

Outreach, visits and external relations

	2015	Yearly change	2014
PRBB Open Day			
Visitors	>3,500		>3,500
Evaluation "Very good"	80%		80%
Volunteers	283	+15%	245
Outreach			
Number of activities for high school students	26		33
Participants	1,949	+23%	1,581
Visitors during 48h BCN Open House	510	+2%	500
General visiting groups	556	+31%	423
External relations			
Delegations	30		30
Delegates	>500		528
Total visitors*	7,015	+16%	6,056
*without visits to the centres			

Websites and social networks

	2015	Yearly change	2014
Social networks			
Twitter @the_prbb	5,700	+43%	4,000
Fans in Facebook	2,436	+37%	1,782
Linkedin	3,321	+61%	2,065
Visits at the blog Redcedar	10,556	+95%	5,425
External website			
Visits	82,614	+6%	77,938
Users	47,169	+9%	43,377
PRBB Inside Portal			
Visits	37,085	+2%	36,199
Users	13,782	+11%	12,911

Data for consumption and maintenance

Concept	2015	Yearly change	2014
Electricity	13,969,971 kWh	+1.7%	13,741,731 kWh
Natural gas	6,340,442 kWh	-2.3%	6,393,609 kWh
Water	32,431 m ³	+0.6%	32,498 m ³
Liquid nitrogen	253,277 litres	+13%	231,510 litres
Nitrogen gas	82,719 litres	+44%	57,581 litres
Carbon dioxide	22,530 kg	-0.8%	22,713 kg
Residues/waste	248,635 kg	+0.7%	245,928 kg
Cleaning hours	1,075 h/week	0%	1,075 h/week

Auditorium and conference rooms

	2015	Yearly change	2014
Auditorium			
Occupied days	102		—
Events	84	-14%	98
Participants	10,000		10,000
External	29%		11%
Internal	71%		89%
Conference rooms			
Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Ramón y Cajal			
Hours of occupation	3,967	-6%	4,204
External	3%		7%
Internal	97%		93%

PRBB Intervals: Continued professional training

Courses: 36

Participants	2015	2014
Sci/Med PhD students	181 (43%)	179 (51%)
Sci/Med Postdocs	105 (25%)	102 (29%)
Sci/Med Senior researchers	25 (6%)	34 (10%)
Sci/Med Clinicians	9 (2%)	2 (1%)
Technical staff	32 (8%)	12 (4%)
Administration & services	16 (4%)	6 (2%)
Management	36 (9%)	9 (2%)
Others	19 (4%)	6 (2%)
TOTAL	423 (100%)	350 (100%)

Number of courses

Subject

Leadership and management skills	12
Business and career development	2
Writing skills	11
Oral presentation skills	7
Public understanding of science	2
Biomedicine, society and good scientific practice	2

Documents & Links

[PRBB Performance Report Summary 2015](#) (web)

PRBB Informe de Resultats 2015 en Català ([web](#)) ([PDF](#))

[Demography of the PRBB 2015](#)

[PRBB CRG Conferences 2015](#)

[PRBB Press clippings 2015](#)

[PRBB Intervals Report 2015](#)

Previous reports:

PRBB Informe de Resultats 2014 ([web](#)) ([PDF](#))

PRBB Informe de Resultats 2013 ([web](#)) ([PDF](#))

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