EVALUATION PROGRAM FOR IRBLleida RESEARCH GROUPS

Table of Contents

Preamble

Following the recommendations made by the 'Instituto de Salud Carlos III' as well as the External Scientific Advisory Board (ESAB), and as detailed in the IRBLleida 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, the Director of IRBLleida proposes an evaluation program for IRBLleida Research Groups. The overall evaluation plan was presented to the Internal Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) on November 20, 2020 and to the ESAB on October 27, 2020. Both committees made recommendations and approved its implementation.

Objectives of the Evaluation Program for IRBLleida Research Groups

The aim of this evaluation is to assess the scientific quality of the 37 Research Groups at IRBLleida, and obtain recommendations to improve the quality and impact of their research in the future. More specifically it is intended to:

a) Identify the weaknesses and strengths of each group in order to give them advice and support in possible areas of improvement.

b) Identify possible synergies that can be created between different Groups within the Research Area and across Areas.

c) To obtain a prioritization of the groups that provides a rational basis for future strategic decisions of IRBLleida.

Scope of the evaluation of the Research Groups at IRBLleida

The evaluation will focus on the research achievements over the past 5 years as well as on the plans for the next 3 or 6 years (see below, section 'Periodicity of Evaluations') to obtain recommendations for future research, research management and research policy. Specifically, the sections evaluated will be the following:

a) Relevance of the research topic and adaptation with the strategic lines of the IRBLleida.

b) Quality of the research (publications and projects) in relation to national and international standards.

d) Appropriateness of Group staff and technologies used.

e) Opportunities to exploit the research potential of the group.

f) Capacity to transfer the scientific results to healthcare practice and industry.

g) Potential to establish intra- and inter-institutional collaborations.

h) Potential to join national and international networks.

With the results of this evaluation, IRBLleida will be able to:

a) Identify institutional strategic lines.

b) Identify institutional weaknesses.

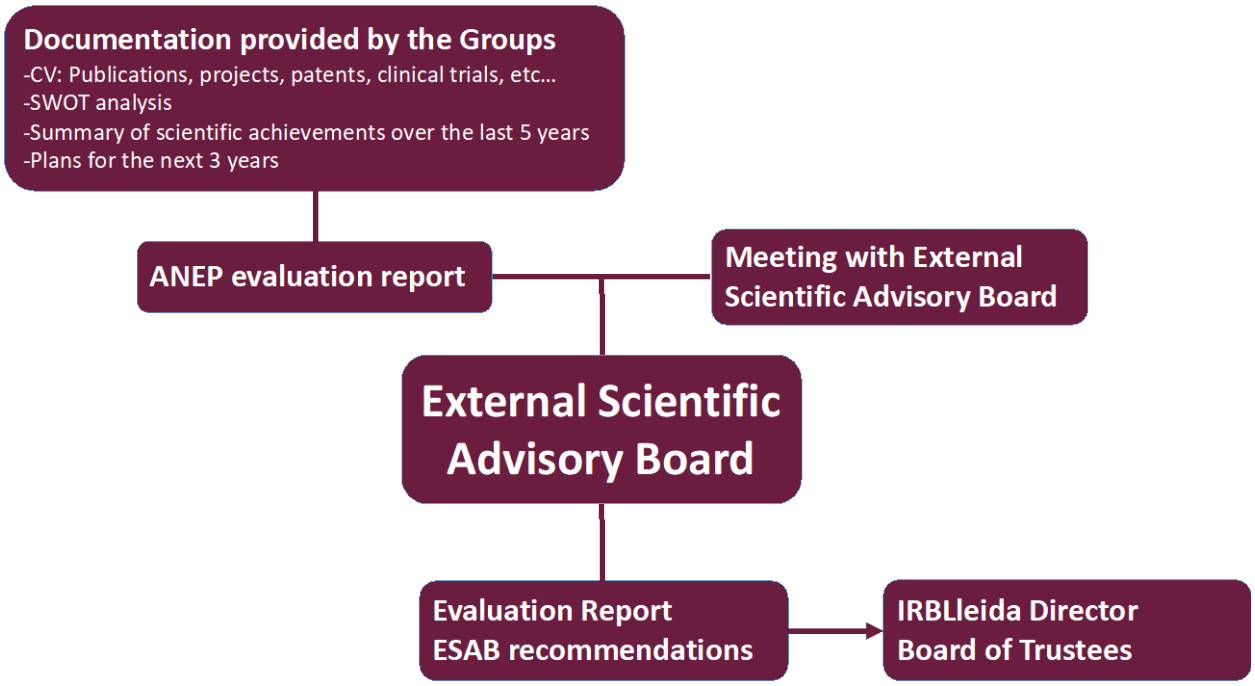
c) Identify institutional strengths.

c) Adapt the resources and structure of the Institute to the needs of the Research Groups.

All groups must participate in the evaluation process to maintain the status of Research Group at IRBLleida.

Overview of the evaluation process

The ESAB (Annex I) will supervise the evaluation process and write the final evaluation reports and recommendations. For this, the ESAB will receive evaluation reports from ANEP and have personal interviews with the Head/s of each group. The overview of the evaluation process is summarized in the figure below.



The documentation submitted by the Head of the Groups (Annex I) and by IRBLleida Management Office (Annex IV) will be evaluated by at least 2 external ANEP evaluators. An effort will be made to have all groups in the same Area evaluated by the same external ANEP experts. Based on the two evaluations, ANEP will issue a single evaluation report for each Research Group.

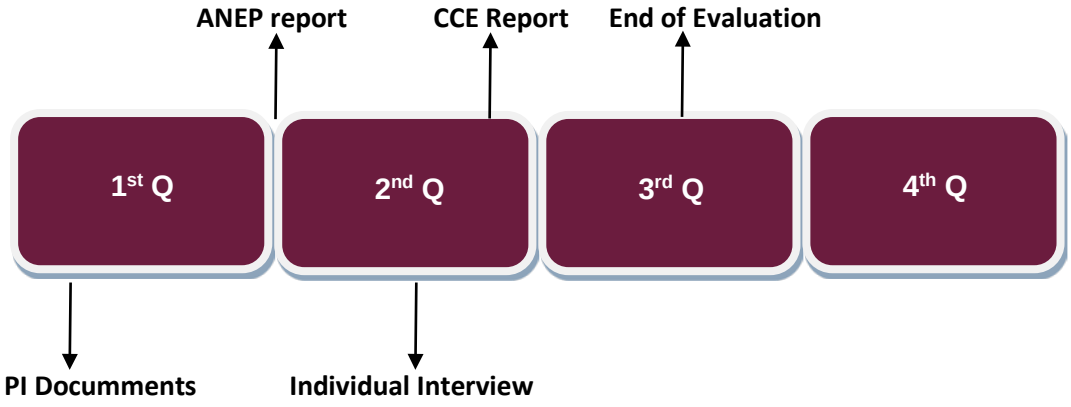
Based on ANEP's reports and personal interviews with the Head of the Research Groups, ESAB members will issue an evaluation report for each Research Group. In addition, ESAB will also write a report on the scientific quality and opportunities of each Research Area. Finally, ESAB will write a Global Report of the Institute, including institutional strategic recommendations for the Research Groups, Research Areas and IRBLleida, in order to help the Institute achieve its established mission and goals.

Reports will be sent to the Head of the Research groups, the IRBLleida Director and the Board of Trustees of the IRBLleida. The reports of the Research Areas and those of the Groups within each area will also be sent to the respective Area Coordinators.

Schedule

The evaluation program will begin on **January 15th, 2021** requesting the relevant documentation from the Groups (Annex II) which will then be sent to the ANEP before February 1st, 2021. In May, ANEP shall deliver the evaluation reports to the Director of the IRBLleida who will then send them to the members of the ESAB. Between June 15th and July 15th, the interviews of the Head of the Groups with the ESAB

panels will be conducted. During the month of August, the ESAB will issue evaluation reports and recommendations for the Research Groups, the Research Areas and the Institute as a whole. The reports will be sent to the Head of the Groups, Research Area Coordinators, IRBLleida Director and the Board of Trustees in **September 2021**.



Documentation to be provided by the groups.

The Head of each group must provide the following documents, all in English:

a) CVA in FECYT format of the Head(s) of the Group and all PIs, of the last 5 years*.

b) List of the 5 most relevant publications in the last 5 years*.

c) SWOT analysis (weaknesses, threats, strengths and opportunities) of the Research Group.

d) Summary of the scientific activity of the last 5 years*: projects presented, projects funded, Doctoral theses directed, human resources obtained by the group, clinical trials in which it has participated and industry collaborations.

e) Technology transfer activities. Patents obtained, patents licensed, Spin-off created. Identification of technology that can be transferred. Published clinical guidelines.

f) Future plans for the group for the next 3 years.

See Annex III for more information.

*In order to comply with the equality and diversity criteria aimed at guaranteeing equal opportunities in our institution, the period of contributed merits may be extended in the situations listed in the annex III.

Functions of the ANEP

ANEP will receive the documentation of the Groups and will be in charge of:

a) Sign a confidentiality agreement and guarantee the confidentiality of all information received and the reports issued.

b) Select and provide appropriate external reviewers (at least 2) for all Research Groups to be evaluated.

c) Analyze the information provided by the Head of each group and IRBLleida Management Office.

d) Write a report (in English) on the evaluated Research Groups to be provided to the ESAB.

Functions of the ESAB

The ESAB will receive the reports from ANEP and will:

a) Study the ANEP reports before conducting the individual interviews.

b) Conduct individual interviews with the Head of the Groups.

c) Prepare an evaluation report and specific recommendations for each Research Group (in English) based on the evaluation received from the ANEP and the results of the individual interviews.

d) Prepare an evaluation report for each Research Area and the Institute as a whole.

e) Submit their reports to the IRBLleida Director.

Functions of IRBLleida Direction and IRBLleida management office

The management office of the IRBLleida will act as coordinator of the entire evaluation process, and is committed to:

a) Design and present the proposal of the Evaluation Program for IRBLleida Research Groups to the ESAB and the ISAB.

b) Inform IRBLleida Research Groups of the evaluation procedure and schedule.

c) Organizing and coordinating the collection and delivery of the documentation of the Research Groups to the ANEP.

d) Provide ANEP/ESAB with a structured file containing detailed information of each group, as described in Annex IV.

e) Receive the ANEP evaluation reports of the Research Groups and send them to the ESAB and the Head of the Groups.

f) Organize the meetings between the ESAB panels and the Head of the Research Groups.

g) Receive the reports of the ESAB and send them to the Board of Trustees, the PIs of the groups and the Coordinators of the Research Areas.

h) Make the appropriate decisions based on the evaluation reports received.

i) Cover the costs arising from the evaluation process.

Periodicity of evaluations.

For emerging groups, the evaluation process will be carried out every three years, while consolidated groups will be evaluated every 6 years, unless other timing is stablished by the ESAB. Consecutive evaluations (at 3, 6 or as stablished by ESAB) will be done according to this Evaluation Program, but considering also previous Final Report recommendations performed and the SWOT presented by the groups.

External Scientific Advisory Board reports

Research Group report: The reports for each Research Group will assess the scientific quality, the position of the group at national and international level, the leadership of the group, the adaptation of their lines of research to the strategic lines of research at IRBLleida, teaching capacity of the group, national and international projection, capacity to transfer knowledge to the health system and activities of dissemination and collaboration with society. Based on these points, ESAB will also include recommendations to improve the quality of the Research Group and an attempt will be made deliver specific indicators, so that the groups themselves can monitor compliance with the recommendations. The results of the evaluation should be summarized as a single term following the scale: excellent, very good, adequate or poor.

Report of Research Areas at IRBLleida: ESAB will also write a report for each of the Research Areas. The report will assess the level of integration within the Area and give specific recommendations on aspects that could be improved to increase the interaction and identify possible synergies between Research Groups in the Area.

Global Institutional Report: ESAB will be responsible for writing a Global Institutional Report based on the analysis of the reports of the Research Group and the Research Areas. The Global Institutional Report will be a consensus document of all ESAB members and will include conclusions and strategic recommendations. The Global Institutional Report will be sent to the Director of IRBLleida and to the Board Trustees. The Global Report seeks to evaluate aspects not assessed in the individual reports, in particular those relating to the institution as a whole, its relevance, scientific position in the national and international context, translational capability, training, internationalization, alliances, structure and distribution of Research Groups and services, quality of its facilities and infrastructures, resources made available to each Research Group, efficiency, the need for new lines or activities and future strategies.

Annex I: ESAB members

Member	Charge
Dr. Mariano Rodriguez Portillo	ESAB President
Dr. Ángeles Almeida Parra	Member
Dr. Ernest Arenas	Member
Dr. Cristina Casals Carro	Member
Dr. Antonio Guasch-Vallverdú	Member
Dr. Teresa Moreno Casbas	Member
Dr. Josep Rodés-Cabau	Member
Dr. Carlos Rodriguez-Galindo	Member
Dr. Ana Lluch Hernández	Member

Annex II: IRBLleida groups

Group	PI
Applied epidemiology	Pere Godoy Garcia
Biological foundations of mental disorders	Maria Mur Lain/ Josep Pifarré Paredero
Calcium cellular signalling	Carles Cantí Nicolás/Judit Herreros Danés
Cell cycle	Eloi Garí Marsol/Jordi Torres Rosell
Cell signalling and apoptosis group	Daniel Sanchis Morales/Marta Llovera Tomas
Cell Signalling in Yeast	Mª Ángeles De La Torre Ruíz
Clinical and experimental research in digestive and hematological pathology	Josep Maria Reñé Espinet
Clinical neurosciences	Francisco Purroy García
Drosophila Models of Disease	Andreu Casali Taberner
Evolutionary and Developmental Neurobiology	Loreta Medina Hernández/Ester Desfilis Barceló
Experimental Neuromuscular Pathology	Jordi Calderó Pardo
Experimental surgery	Jorge J. Olsina Kissler
Genetics of complex diseases	Joan Fibla Palazón
Indicators and specifications of the quality in the Clinical Laboratory	Maria Mercedes Ibarz Escuer
Intensive Medicine	Jose Javier Trujillano Cabello/Jesús Caballero López
Metabolic physiopathology	Reinald Pamplona Gras
Molecular and developmental neurobiology	Joaquim Egea Navarro
Molecular biology of yeast	Gemma Bellí Martinez
Molecular Oncology	Diego Arango Del Corro
Neurocognition, psychobiology of the personality and behavioral genetics	Anton Aluja Fabregat
Neuroimmunology	Luis Brieva Ruiz
Neuronal Signalling Unit	Rosa Maria Soler Tatché
Nutrition, Metabolism and Microbiota in patients with heart failure (NUTRIMMIC)	Jose Luis Morales Rull/Amalia Zapata Rojas
Oncogenic signalling and development	Mario Encinas Martin
Oncological pathology	Xavier Matias-Guiu Guia
Oxidative stress biochemistry	Joaquim Ros Salvador
Pharmacoepidemiology	Juan Antonio Schoenenberger Arnaiz
Pharmacology unit	Jacint Boix Torras/Judit Ribas Fortuny
Precision Medicine in Chronic Diseases Group	Manuel Sánchez De La Torre
Research Group in Immunology and Metabolism (GRIM)	Juan Verdaguer Autonell/Concepción Mora Giral/Albert Lecube Torelló
Research group of Cancer Biomarkers (GReBiC)	Jose Manuel Porcel Pérez/Antonia Salud Salvia/Maria Alba Sorolla Bardají
Research group of health care (GRECS)	Joan Blanco Blanco/Esther Rubinat Arnaldo
Systems biology and statistical methods for biomedical research	Rui Carlos Vaqueiro De Castro Alves/Montserrat Rué Monné/Albert Sorribas Tello
Translational Research Group on Infectious Diseases of Lleida	Eva González De La Fuente
Translational research in respiratory medicine group	Ferran Barbé Illa

Urgency and Emergency Multi-disciplinary Research Group	Oriol Yuguero Torres
Vascular and renal translational research group	Jose Manuel Valdivielso Revilla

Annex III: Guidelines for the information to be provided by the Research Groups

1. Current research description: that will just occupy 2 pages.

- Relevance and originality of the research
- Main goals
- Translational Capacity
- Expected impacts in public health

2. SWOT Analysis of the Research Group of the last 5 years: This document will occupy 1 page. The questions to be answered in a SWOT-analysis are focused in four dimensions, two internal (strengths and weaknesses) and two external (opportunities and threats) assessing project management decisions:

Strengths:

- What advantages do you have compared to other research groups in your national and/or international environment?
- What do other people see as your strong points?
- What relevant resources do you have access to?

Weaknesses:

- Which aspects of your work do you see as sub-standard?
- Which aspects of your activities could be improved?
- What kind of activities should you avoid?

Opportunities:

- What are the interesting trends that you are aware of?
- Where or what are the good opportunities facing you?

Useful opportunities can come from changes in technology and markets on both a broad and narrow scale; changes in government policy related to your field; changes in social patterns, population profiles, life style changes; local events, etc.

Threats:

- What is the 'competition' in your area doing better?
- Are there significant changes in the requirements for the work in your field?
- Do you have a bad financial situation?
- Do you have problems finding, keeping and replacing qualified personnel?

3. Strategy and Future Perspectives of the Research Group: concise picture of the research group's work, ambitions, output and resources for the following 3 years for emerging groups and 6 years for consolidated groups. This part should not be longer than 2 pages. The main points to be addressed are: research strategy, funding strategy, clinical Impact.

At the intersections of these four dimensions in the SWOT analysis, four main strategic questions arise, as represented in the following matrix:

Strategic questions	Strengths	Weaknesses
Opportunities	Which opportunities can be exploited through the strengths of the Research Group?	Which opportunities may help overcome weaknesses?
Threats	How can the Research Group use its strengths to reduce its vulnerabilities?	To which threats, is the Research Group particularly vulnerable and how can the it overcome these weaknesses?

Based on this analysis, the Research Group can identify the elements of strategy, organization and/or research activities which are to be adjusted in order to meet the external opportunities and threats, reflecting the conclusions of the SWOT-analysis.

4. CV of all PIs: The Head of each Research Group will provide the actualized CV of all PIs. The h-index should be included. Use the Normalized format of CVA (https://cvn.fecyt.es/editor/#HOME).

5. Publications and funding: Copy of the 5 most representative and best articles published in the last 5 years (2016-2020). List of the 5 most representative competitive research projects funded in the last 5 years (2016-2020).

6. Extension of merits: The period of presentation of merits for the Head of the Groups can be extended in the following cases:

a) Maternity, paternity, adoption or foster care leaves in accordance with the General Social Security Scheme. The extension in weeks will be four times the number of weeks of leave enjoyed by each child.

b) Temporary disability due to serious illness or accident of the head of the group, with medical leave equal to or greater than three months. The extension applied will be one-year.

c) Temporary disability during pregnancy due to related-causes. The extension in weeks will be four times the number of weeks of leave. This extension could be accumulated to the extension included in section a).

d) Attention to people in a situation of dependency, in accordance with the provisions of Law 39/2006, of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Attention to people in a situation of dependency. The extension in weeks will be four times the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional caregiver.

All these periods of career interruption should be properly indicated and accredited at the time of submitting the documentation required for the evaluation program.

Annex IV: information to be provided by IRBLleida

The IRBLleida Management Office will generate a structured file with the following information that, after validation by the Research Groups, will be sent to ANEP and ESAB:

Research Lines: list of research lines active in the Research Group.

Personnel: current list of group members.

Publications of the group in the last 5 years:
· Number of Peer-reviewed publications with impact factor (articles, reviews and editorials)
· Number Citations during the last years (ISI web)
· Number publication describing Results of Clinical Trials
· Number publication describing Clinical Practice Guidelines (GCPs)

Presented Doctoral Thesis: number of Doctoral theses defended and ongoing that are supervised by members of the group.

Patents issued: List of Patents and Utility models: Inventors, Title, Application Number, Priority country; Priority Date; Entity holder; Countries to which has extended, company/s that are exploiting.

Clinical trials conducted:
· Number of clinical trials in the last 5 years and active clinical trials
· Clinical phases
· International-national-local
· classified by industry- and investigator-initiated trials (extra- or intra-mural)

Active Competitive projects:
· Number of competitive projects: in the last 5 years and active/newly funded projects
· Total € awarded/year

Active Networks and credited Groups.

Contracts with external institutions:
· Type of external institution
· Type of Contracts

Current space allocation at IRBLleida.