



# 19th Scientific Meeting

**Thursday, December 4**  
Auditorium – VHIR Central Building

## 19th Scientific Day and 29th Annual Conference of Vall d’Hebron

Collaborative and challenge-driven research to generate  
transformative impact in health

09:00h	Institutional welcome
09:15h	<b>Opening lecture</b> <b>Laura Soucek</b> - Codirector of VHIO’s Preclinical and Translational Research Program, Group Leader of VHIO’s Models of Cancer Therapies Group
10:15h	<b>BLOCK 1. Research areas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chronic &amp; Prevalent Diseases: <b>Juan Manuel Pericàs</b> - Principal Investigator in Liver Diseases - «Obesity-related mechanisms and clinical presentation of portal hypertension in MASLD»</li><li>Brain, Mind &amp; Behaviour: <b>Àlex Rovira</b> - Head of group Neuroradiology - «Understanding the Brain: From Biological Mechanisms to Clinical Applications»</li><li>Cancer: <b>Miquel Segura</b> - Principal Investigator in Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders - «Oncology Area: Translating Knowledge into Hope for People with Cancer»</li><li>Infectious, Systemic and Acute Disorders: <b>Israel Molina</b> - Head of group of Infectious Diseases - «New Challenges in infectious disease research»</li><li>Diagnosis, Treatment &amp; Technology: <b>Simó Schwartz</b> - Principal Investigator in Clinical Biochemistry, Drug Delivery &amp; Therapy - «Diagnosis, Treatment &amp; Technology: Advancing technologies for better treatments and disease diagnostics»</li><li>Child &amp; Woman’s Health: <b>Pere Soler</b> - Head of group of Infection and immunity in pediatric patients - «State of the art of the pediatric research at VH Campus»</li></ul>
11:15h	Coffee break + Poster viewing
11:45h	<b>BLOCK 2. CORES - Challenge-Oriented Research/ Missions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Innovative &amp; Advanced Therapies: <b>Miguel Chillón</b> - Head of group of Gene Therapy at Nervous System - «Gene Therapy: Scientific expectations and positioning»</li><li>Transplant &amp; Immunomodulation: <b>Gonzalo Sapisochín</b> - Head of General Surgery - «New Insights into Organ Transplantation in 2025; from the bench to the bedside»</li><li>AI, Data, Imaging &amp; Digital Health: <b>Andrea Guala</b> - Principal Investigator of Cardiovascular Diseases - «The AI, data, Imaging &amp; Digital Health at the VH Campus»</li><li>Environmental &amp; Public Health: <b>M. Jesús Cruz</b> - Head of group of Pneumology - «Environmental and Public Health CORE: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Environmental and Public Health Challenges»</li><li>Rare Diseases: <b>Belén Pérez</b> - Head of group of Therapeutics and Innovations in Neuropediatrics and other paediatric rare diseases - «Small Numbers, Big Impact: A Pediatrician’s Journey Through Rare Disease Research»</li><li>Aging: <b>Aida Ribera</b> - Head of group of Research on Aging, Frailty and Transitions in Barcelona - «Research on aging and longevity. Challenges, opportunities and enablers»</li></ul>
13:00h	<b>BLOCK 3. Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gender &amp; Diversity Perspective in Health Research: <b>Nerea Maiz</b> - Head of group of Maternal and Fetal Medicine - «Towards Equity in Health Research: The Role of Gender and Diversity Perspectives»</li><li>Research in Simulation and Educational Tools: <b>David Virós</b> - Head of group of Head and Neck Cancer: Biomedical Research Cancer Stem cells - «Robotic Surgery: Bridging clinical practice and translational research at the Vall d’Hebron Research Institute»</li></ul>
13:30h	<b>BLOCK 4. Impact in research</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nursing: <b>Esperanza Zuriguel</b> - Head of group of Multidisciplinary Nursing Research Group - «Impact and future of nursing research»</li><li>Maternal and Fetal Medicine: <b>Manel Mendoza</b> - Head of group of Maternal and Fetal Medicine - «Impact in research: Maternal and Fetal Medicine»</li><li>Patient Engagement: <b>Lucas Moreno</b> - Head of group of Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders</li></ul>
14:00h	Lunch break
14:45h	<b>Round table</b> Advancing Research Assessment: Lessons from the CoARA Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Malcolm MacLeod</b> - Professor of Neurology and Translational Neuroscience; Co-Director, Edinburgh Neuroscience, University of Edinburgh</li><li><b>Esther Vizcaíno</b> - Research Manager and Institutional Coordinator for CoARA at AQuAS</li><li><b>Núria Benítez</b> - Strategy Area and Open Science Officer, CERCA Institution</li><li><b>Sara Mas</b> - Impact &amp; RRI Responsible at VHIR</li></ul>
15:30h	Collaborative activity: VHIR Kahoot
16:00h	<b>Conclusions and award ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Poster contest</li><li>Room naming contest</li></ul>
16:30h	Closing