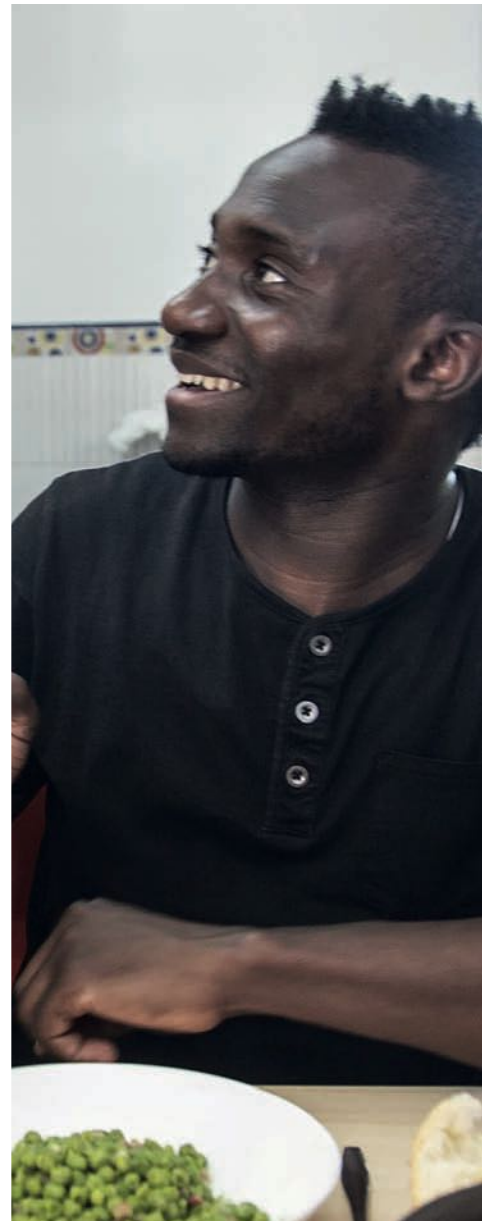


# 365 DAYS

PERSON BY PERSON



"la Caixa" Foundation

# 1st philanthropic research entity in Spain and Portugal

”la Caixa” Foundation promotes training excellence, research and knowledge, in addition to the transfer of scientific advances to society in its commitment to people’s welfare, social progress and ability to imagine a better future.





## IN THE KEY OF FOUR

**1**

Supporting research talent and training excellence through the "la Caixa" Foundation fellowship programme

**2**

Supporting leading centres and research projects with calls for proposals

**3**

Transferring laboratory research results to society through CaixaImpulse

**4**

Public debate generated by "la Caixa" Social Observatory and Palau Macaya

## FELLOWSHIPS



# “la Caixa” Foundation promotes research talent

The doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship programmes of “la Caixa” Foundation were also extended to Portugal this 2019.

In this sense, both the doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships are offered in two categories: *Incoming* and *Retaining*. The *Incoming* category is aimed at attracting talent to Spanish and Portuguese research centres accredited with excellence in the fields of life and health sciences, technology, physics, engineering and mathematics, while the *Retaining* category aims to retain the best researchers in all disciplines wishing to conduct their research at any Spanish or Portuguese university or research centre. These are three-year fellowships in both cases.

**M**ore research, more social progress. Since 1982, “la Caixa” Foundation has been offering fellowships for postgraduate studies abroad and for doctorates and postdoctorates in Spain and, for the first time in 2019, now also in Portugal.

This year also saw the Junior Leader postdoctoral fellowship programme obtain funding from the European Commission through its Horizon 2020 MSCA-COFUND programme for fellowship calls in 2020 and 2021. The amount of funding is 5.7 million euros and the aim of this programme, as well as that of our doctoral fellowships, is to attract and retain research talent in Spain and Portugal.

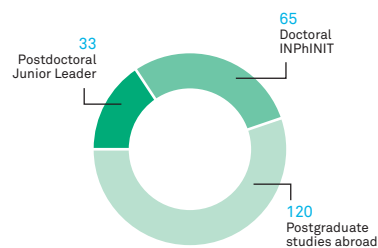


### ➔ FELLOWSHIPS (2019)

INVESTMENT  
**28.4 M€**

### DISTRIBUTION OF FELLOWSHIPS

**218**  
FELLOWSHIPS



## “la Caixa” Foundation has been committed to training excellence and research talent since 1982

Finally, mention must also be made of our most traditional programme: postgraduate fellowships abroad. This programme provides the finest Spanish students with access to the best universities in Europe, North America (USA and Canada) and the Asia-Pacific area (Australia, China, Singapore, Japan, India and South Korea). These fellowships have a maximum duration of two years. —



The aim of our fellowship programmes is to attract and retain research talent in Spain and Portugal.

## Guide, train, connect

Our doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships in Spain and Portugal include workshops on technology transfer, professional development and transversal skills in order to enhance professional development and improve career opportunities for researchers. These sessions are taught by leading companies in these fields. The training is also complemented by networking activities to encourage collaboration between “la Caixa” Foundation fellowship holders.

## Agreement with MicroBank

The “la Caixa” Foundation fellowship programme has a collaboration agreement with MicroBank in order to create more opportunities for talented students. Candidates for postgraduate fellowships abroad who did not receive the fellowship even though they had obtained an outstanding score in the selection process are thus offered the possibility of obtaining a loan at very advantageous conditions to fund their postgraduate studies.



**Pedro Sousa-Victor**  
Junior Leader postdoctoral fellowship

Investigating whether aged organs can be rejuvenated with stem cells.

Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) João Lobo Antunes, Universidade de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal).

**Queralt Serra**  
INPhINIT doctoral fellowship

Conducting research on liver cancer.

VHIR - Vall d’Hebron Research Institute (Barcelona, Spain).

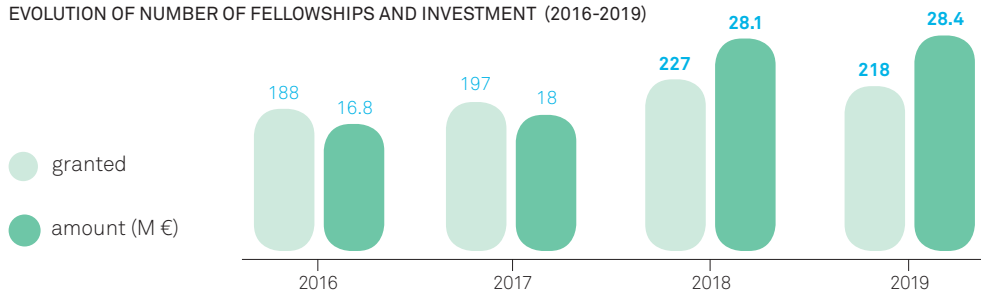


**Nerea Heras**  
Postgraduate fellowship abroad

Studying for a Master’s Degree in International Migration and Public Policy.

London School of Economics and Political Science (London, United Kingdom).

EVOLUTION OF NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS AND INVESTMENT (2016-2019)



RESEARCH



# Leading the way in health and biomedical research

”la Caixa” Foundation supports scientific progress and excellence in research as key elements in finding solutions for the main challenges in health.

25 initiatives of scientific excellence were selected in the Call for Health Research Grants in 2019.



This year, 23 initiatives of scientific excellence with great potential value and social impact were selected from the Call for Health Research Grants. The aim of this open, competitive call is to promote projects of excellence in the fight against diseases with the biggest world impact. The call therefore offers grants in 5 thematic areas: cardiovascular and associated metabolic diseases, neurosciences, infectious diseases, oncology and enabling technologies linked to some of the aforementioned areas. This last area is in fact new and was incorporated into the call this year. ”la Caixa” Foundation allocated more than 15 million euros to this call.

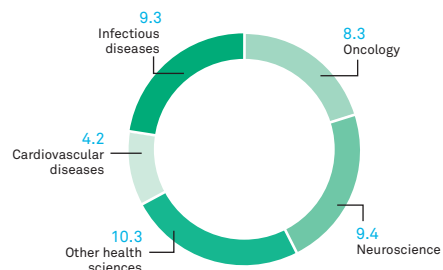
Finally, it should be noted that ”la Caixa” Foundation this year consolidated its collaboration with Portugal’s Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, as well as Luzón Foundation. Both institutions this year contributed more than one million euros to help finance 3 of the 23 projects selected. —

”la Caixa” Foundation consolidates its collaboration with Portugal’s Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

→ RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (2019)

TOTAL INVESTMENT  
**41.5M€**

DISTRIBUTION OF INVESTMENT (IN M€)



## Strategic alliances

Alongside the various programmes developed to promote research, "la Caixa" Foundation maintains strategic alliances with benchmark research centres that are leaders in their fields. These include the **Barcelona Beta Brain Research Centre**, which specialises in research on Alzheimer's disease; **IrsiCaixa**, a benchmark centre for research on HIV and other infectious diseases; **Is-Global**, which specialises in research linked to public health and infectious diseases such as malaria, and the **Vall d'Hebron Instituto de Oncología (VHIO)**, one of the leading centres in research and development of innovative treatments for cancer.

## Personally speaking



### NEGLECTED DISEASES Health Research Grant 2019

Studying the mechanisms underlying vascular malformations in order to identify new therapies. **Mariona Graupera**, Bellvitge Institute for Biomedical Research (IDIBELL), Barcelona, Spain.

### UNIVERSAL IMMUNOTHERAPY Health Research Grant 2019

Producing a universal immunotherapy to fight cancer. **Bruno Silva-Santos**, Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM), Lisbon, Portugal.



### PANCREATIC CANCER Health Research Grant 2019

Curing and preventing the recurrence of pancreatic cancer. **María J. Vicent**, Príncipe Felipe Research Centre (CIPF), Valencia, Spain.

## Support to benchmark institutions

**Strategic alliance with Hospital Clínic in Barcelona:** As a result of a framework agreement signed in 2019, "la Caixa" Foundation will allocate a grant of 6 million euros to set up the "la Caixa" Cancer Immunotherapy Research Unit at Hospital Clínic, among other actions until 2022.

**Immunotherapy against cancer:** Thanks to the support of "la Caixa" Foundation, Hospital de Sant Pau in Barcelona this year presented a unique clinical trial of immunotherapy for lymphatic cancer.

**Pioneering project in endoscopy:** Thanks to a contribution from "la Caixa"

Foundation of more than 4 million euros until 2022, the Vall d'Hebron Hospital has acquired the world's first radiological robot to be used in an endoscopy service. The grant will also help the Vall d'Hebron Barcelona Digestive Endoscopy Service (Wider) to be expanded. This will mean attending 1,200 more patients a year.

**Migrain Adaptive Brain Centre:** This year, the Vall d'Hebron Hospital inaugurated the Migraine Adaptive Brain Centre, a pioneer in the research and treatment of migraine. The centre is led by Dr Patricia Pozo-Rosich, who in 2003 obtained a grant from "la Caixa" Foundation to conduct research on this pathology in the US.



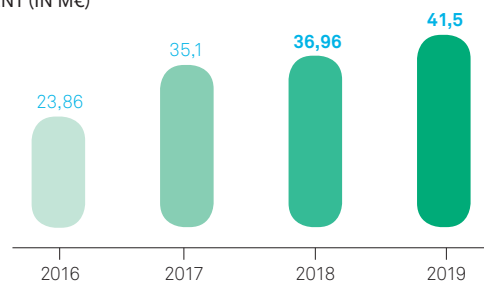
**Exoskeleton for the DACER Foundation in Madrid:** In 2019, "la Caixa" Foundation signed a collaboration agreement with the DACER Foundation in Madrid, helping it to acquire an exoskeleton for the rehabilitation of patients with acquired brain damage.

Isidro Fainé, Chairman of the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, and Dr Josep Maria Campistol, Director of Hospital Clínic, at the signing of the framework agreement.

### ➔ SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH CENTRES (2019)

265  
RESEARCHERS  
HIRED

### EVOLUTION OF INVESTMENT (IN M€)



## INNOVATION



# From the laboratory to designing products in the interest of health

The CaixaImpulse programme has promoted 102 initiatives since its launch, 32 of which have become spin-offs, providing solutions that benefit people's health.



The CaixaImpulse programme transforms the scientific knowledge arising in the laboratory into products of value for society.

CaixaImpulse launched a second category of calls in 2019 under the name Consolidate. These new grants are aimed at biomedical innovation projects in advanced stages of development, while its Validate grants, which were launched in 2015, are awarded to incipient projects that still need to define a valuation plan.

Although both categories are aimed at biomedical institutions, the latter (Consolidate) also accepts projects incorporated in spin-offs, provided that they are led by hospitals, universities or non-profit research centres. Grants are up to 300,000 euros.

"la Caixa" Foundation offers a personalised support programme for those receiving grants from both CaixaImpulse Validate and Consolidate. The aim is for the projects to acquire enough value to attract private investment to make the leap into the market.

In this way, the CaixaImpulse programme transforms scientific knowledge born in the laboratory into products capable of generating value for society. This is done by creating new companies or through technology transfer agreements, such as licences.

The CaixaImpulse programme is supported by Caixa Capital Risc and the European Institute of Technology (EIT Health). —

**The programme this year launched a new call for CaixaImpulse Consolidate grants**

CaixaImpulse also offers specific training to researchers.



## Personally speaking



### REGAINING NEAR VISION

CaixaImpulse Validate 2019

Revolutionising the treatment of presbyopia and cataracts by restoring the eye's accommodation power. **Susana Marcos**, Institute of Optics. Higher Council for Scientific Research (IO-CSIC). Madrid, Spain.

### BREAKING THROUGH THE BRAIN'S BARRIERS

CaixaImpulse Validate 2019

Improving the delivery of drugs to the brain. **Meritxell Teixidó**, Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona). Barcelona, Spain.



### MORE RECOMBINANT PROTEINS

CaixaImpulse Validate 2019

How we can use new molecular tools that will benefit the biotechnology industry. **Alexandra Moreira**, Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology (IBMC). Porto, Portugal.

## The training needed to introduce an asset into the market

A molecule can become a medicine, a new prototype can be transformed into a medical device, a software solution can be applied in precision medicine... But how? In addition to financing, CaixaImpulse provides specific training to researchers so that they are able to introduce their assets from the laboratory into the market. It also provides participants with a series of entrepreneurial mentors to guide them through the process with the aim of ensuring qualitative improvements in projects. Participants also have access to a network of experts in different areas of innovation advising them on business opportunities.

### ➔ CAIXAIMPULSE (2019)

BUDGET  
**2.8 M€**  
IN AID GRANTED

**137**  
SUBMITTED  
PROJECTS

**24**  
PROJECTS

## FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

- 1** How can we create functional eyes from stem cells in the laboratory?  
**María Almuedo Castillo**. Centro Andaluz de Biología del Desarrollo (CABD). Sevilla, Spain.
- 2** What can we learn about non-coding RNAs from a plant?  
**Nicolas Bologna**. Centre d'Investigació Agrigenòmica (CRAG). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.
- 3** How to go beyond approximations in physics?  
**Riccardo Borsato**. Instituto Galego de Fisica de Altas Enerxías (IGFAE). Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
- 4** How can traditional knowledge help to protect water?  
**Elodie Brisset**. Institut Català de Paleoecologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES). Tarragona, Spain.
- 5** Can we ensure security conditions for swarms of airborne robots?  
**Leonardo Colombo**. Instituto de Ciencias Matemáticas (ICMAT). Madrid, Spain.
- 6** What is the origin of life?  
**Ignacio Colomer Utrera**. Fundación Instituto Madrileño de Estudios Avanzados en Nanociencia (IMDEA Nanociencia). Madrid, Spain.
- 7** How can hybrid materials revolutionise current technology?  
**Rosa Córdoba Castillo**. Instituto de Ciencia Molecular (ICMol). Universitat de València (UV). Valencia, Spain.
- 8** Can we develop a new technology to decontaminate aquatic ecosystems?  
**Jesús Ferrando Soria**. Instituto de Ciencia Molecular (ICMol). Universitat de València (UV). València, Spain.
- 9** How do we view the universe?  
**Pierre Fleury**. Instituto de Física Teórica (IFT). Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). Madrid, Spain.
- 10** What kind of quantum computer will be the first to surpass classic computers?  
**Pol Forn Díaz**. Institut de Física d'Altes Energies (IFAE). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.
- 11** Can drugs be prepared in a clean, efficient manner?  
**Francisco García Cirujano**. Instituto de Ciencia Molecular (ICMol). Universitat de València (UV). Valencia, Spain.
- 12** Can we reduce environmental impact with intelligent materials?  
**Mónica Giménez Marqués**. Instituto de Ciencia Molecular (ICMol). Universitat de València (UV). Valencia, Spain.
- 13** Will new materials generate new technologies?  
**Marco Gobbi**. Asociación Centro de Investigación Cooperativa en Nanociencias (CIC nanoGUNE). San Sebastián, Spain.
- 14** Can bone mass be improved after cancer?  
**Luis Gracia Marco**. Universidad de Granada (UGR). Granada, Spain.
- 15** What changes will quantum physics bring about in information technology?  
**Tobias Grass**. Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (ICFO). Castelldefels, Spain.
- 16** Is junk DNA abundant for the development of blood cancer?  
**Biola María Javierre Martínez**. Institut de Recerca Germans Trias i Pujol (IGTP). Badalona, Spain.
- 17** What are the consequences of mixing species?  
**Martin Kuhlwillm**. Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (IBE). Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). Barcelona, Spain.
- 18** Can we detect and treat Parkinson's disease through the intestine?  
**Ariadna Laguna Tuset**. Fundació Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron - Institut de Recerca (VHIR). Barcelona, Spain.

## CALL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

- 34** How do tumor cells communicate with each other?  
**María Abad**. Fundació Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron - Institut de Recerca (VHIO). Barcelona, Spain.
- 35** Citizen science and mass data, the new vaccine against dengue?  
**Frederic Bartumeus**. Centre d'Estudis Avançats de Blanes. Consell Superior d'Investigacions Científiques (CEAB-CSIC). Blanes, Spain.
- 36** Can we stop metastasis by interfering with the tumour environment?  
**Eduard Batlle**. Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB Barcelona). Barcelona, Spain.
- 37** Is it possible to reverse the immortality of cancer cells?  
**Maria A. Blasco**. Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas (CNIO). Madrid, Spain.
- 38** Why do I find it difficult to read?  
**Manuel Carreiras**. Centro Vasco de Cognición, Cerebro y Lengua (BCBL). San Sebastián, Spain.
- 39** Does the brain modulate metabolism through intestinal bacteria?  
**Marc Claret**. Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS). Barcelona, Spain.
- 40** How does the transmission of malaria begin?  
**Alfred Cortés Closas**. Institut de Salut Global Barcelona. (ISGlobal). Barcelona, Spain.
- 41** Can TV series help to recover speech after suffering a stroke?  
**Blanca Fuentes Gimeno**. Hospital Universitario la Paz. Madrid, Spain.
- 42** Can we restore vision with nanotechnology?  
**José A. Garrido**. Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia (ICN2). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.
- 43** Can we stop Ebola?  
**Carmen Gil**. Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). Madrid, Spain.
- 44** Can we recover our sight with light-sensitive drugs?  
**Pau Gorostiza**. Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya (IBEC). Barcelona, Spain.
- 45** What personalised therapies will cure vascular malformations?  
**Mariona Graupera**. Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL). Barcelona, Spain.
- 46** Is the heart's electrical system the key to preventing sudden death of cardiac origin?  
**José Jalife**. Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC). Madrid, Spain.

## CAIXAIMPULSE

- 59** Can we predict the quality of life after a haemorrhage?  
**Marcin Wojciech Balcerzyk**. Universidad de Sevilla (US). Sevilla, Spain.
- 60** Can dementia be diagnosed with a simple blood test?  
**Katrin Bayer**. Institut de Recerca Germans Trias i Pujol (IGTP). Badalona, Spain.
- 61** Can renal fibrosis be non-invasively monitored?  
**Francisc E. Borrás**. Institut de Recerca Germans Trias i Pujol (IGTP). Badalona, Spain.
- 62** How can we improve the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease?  
**Juan Domingo Gispert**. BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC). Barcelona, Spain.
- 63** How can a social robot improve rehabilitation therapies?  
**Fernando Fernández Rebollo**. Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M). Madrid, Spain.
- 64** Will cancer be a chronic disease?  
**Angélica Figueroa Conde-Valvis**. Fundación Profesor Nóvoa Santos. La Coruña, Spain.
- 65** How can we improve the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis?  
**Josep M. Grinyó**. Fundació Bosch i Gimpera. Barcelona, Spain.
- 66** Can we act on human metabolism with a bacterium?  
**Isabel Huber Ruano**. Institut d'Investigació Sanitària Pere Virgili (IISPV). Reus, Spain.
- 67** How can we stop the resistance of tumour cells to treatments?  
**Gabriela Jiménez Valerio**. Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL). Barcelona, Spain.
- 68** Can elderly people recover their near vision?  
**Susana Marcos**. Instituto de Óptica. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (IO-CSIC). Madrid, Spain.
- 69** Who can satisfactorily respond to the endovascular treatment of stroke?  
**Alicia Martínez Piñeiro**. Institut de Recerca Germans Trias i Pujol (IGTP). Badalona, Spain.
- 70** Can infections be predicted and the unnecessary use of antibiotics avoided?  
**Jimmy Martins**. Universidade de Coimbra. Coimbra, Portugal.

## 79 research projects in Spain and Portugal received funding from "la Caixa" Foundation for a total value of 29 million euros to develop their scientific proposals in the coming years.

- 19 How can design proteins revolutionise biology?**  
**Enrique Marcos Benteo.** Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB Barcelona). Barcelona, Spain.
- 20 Do we owe the existence of matter to the neutrino?**  
**Justo Martín-Albo Simón.** Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC). Universitat de València (UV). Valencia, Spain.
- 21 Can Einstein's general theory of relativity explain our observed evolution of the universe?**  
**Matteo Martinelli.** Instituto de Física Teórica (IFT). Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM). Madrid, Spain.
- 22 Can multiple sclerosis be halted?**  
**Ana Luisa Mendanha Falcao.** Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS). Universidade do Minho. Braga, Portugal.
- 23 Can we cure sick neurons before they die?**  
**Miguel Ángel Mompeán García.** Instituto de Química Física Rocasolano (IQFR). Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). Madrid, Spain.
- 24 Why are we made of matter and not antimatter?**  
**María Moreno Llácer.** Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC). Universitat de València (UV). Valencia, Spain.
- 25 Will autonomous microchips be the medicine of the future?**  
**Gonzalo Murillo Rodríguez.** Institut de Microelectrònica de Barcelona – Centre Nacional de Microelectrònica (IMB-CNM-CSIC). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.
- 26 What was the demographic impact of barbarian migrations?**  
**Iñigo Olalde Marquinez.** Departament de Ciències Experimentals i de la Salut, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (DCEXS – UPF). Barcelona, Spain.
- 27 How can crops be improved to cope with climate change?**  
**Julia Qüesta.** Centre de Recerca Agrigenòmica (CRAG). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.
- 28 What are the key microorganisms in oceans?**  
**Daniel Richter.** Departament de Ciències Experimentals i de la Salut, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (DCEXS – UPF).
- 29 Why don't benign tumours become malignant?**  
**Bàrbara Rivera Polo.** Institut d'Investigació Biomèdica de Bellvitge (IDIBELL). Barcelona, Spain.
- 30 What genetic mutations are responsible for the specialisations of the human brain?**  
**Gabriel Santpere Baró.** Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques (IMIM). Barcelona, Spain.
- 31 Can stem cells be used to rejuvenate ageing organs?**  
**Pedro Sousa-Victor.** Instituto de Medicina Molecular (IMM) João Lobo Antunes. Universidade de Lisboa. Lisboa, Portugal.
- 32 Why do insects migrate?**  
**Gerard Talavera Mor.** Institut de Biologia Evolutiva (IBE). Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). Barcelona, Spain.
- 33 How can we design chemical catalysts of the future?**  
**Michael Tayler.** Institut de Ciències Fotòniques (ICFO). Castelldefels, Spain.
- 47 Can obesity be cured from the brain?**  
**Miguel López.** Centro de Investigación en Medicina Molecular y Enfermedades Crónicas (CIMUS). Santiago de Compostela, Spain.
- 48 Can we prevent liver cancer by regulating liver inflammation?**  
**Raúl Méndez.** Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB Barcelona). Barcelona, Spain.
- 49 Is it possible to overcome the challenge of curing aortic dissection?**  
**Juan Miguel Redondo.** Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC). Madrid, Spain.
- 50 Can we win the war against tauopathies such as Alzheimer's?**  
**José Antonio del Río Fernández.** Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya (IBEC). Barcelona, Spain.
- 51 Can we use lung bacteria to cure lung diseases?**  
**Luis Serrano Pubul.** Fundació Centre de Regulació Genòmica (CRG). Barcelona, Spain.
- 52 Can we generate a universal immunotherapy to fight cancer?**  
**Bruno Silva-Santos.** Instituto de Medicina Molecular (IMM). Lisboa, Portugal.
- 53 How can we strengthen our immune system?**  
**Marc Veldhoen.** Instituto de Medicina Molecular (IMM). Lisboa, Portugal.
- 54 Can we cure pancreatic cancer and prevent its recurrence?**  
**Maria J. Vicent.** Centro de Investigación Príncipe Felipe (CIPF). Valencia, Spain.
- 55 How does a woman's brain adapt to being a mother?**  
**Óscar Vilarroya.** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
- 56 Does metabolism hide the solution for treating ALS?**  
**Carmen María Fernández-Martos.** Fundación Hospital Nacional de Paraplégicos. Toledo, Spain.
- 57 Can sepsis be cured by influencing metabolic responses?**  
**Miguel Che Parreira Soares.** Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian-Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência. Lisboa, Portugal.
- 58 Can a spinal cord injury be regenerated?**  
**Leonor Saúde.** Instituto de Medicina Molecular (IMM). Lisboa, Portugal.
- 71 How can microscopes help to develop better medicine?**  
**Mario Montes Usategui.** Fundació Bosch i Gimpera. Barcelona, Spain.
- 72 How can new molecular tools be used to benefit the biotechnology industry?**  
**Alexandra Moreira.** Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular (IBMC). Porto, Portugal.
- 73 Will the modulation of QPSK be a key for curing ALS?**  
**Valle Palomo.** Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC). Madrid, Spain.
- 74 Is it possible to treat agitated patients through a reliable procedure?**  
**Xavier Pérez Acebo.** Institut d'Investigació i Innovació Parc Taulí (I3PT). Sabadell, Spain.
- 75 Can we treat mitochondrial disease?**  
**Albert Quintana.** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.
- 76 How can we reach a definitive cure for type 1 diabetes?**  
**María Salazar-Roa.** Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Oncológicas (CNIO). Madrid, Spain.
- 77 How can we improve the quality of life of bladder cancer patients?**  
**Samuel Sánchez Ordóñez.** Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya (IBEC). Barcelona, Spain.
- 78 How can we improve the arrival of drugs to the brain?**  
**Meritxell Teixidó.** Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB Barcelona). Barcelona, Spain.
- 79 Can we use innovative neuroelectronic implants to treat brain diseases?**  
**Damià Viana.** Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia (ICN2). Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain.

”LA CAIXA” SOCIAL OBSERVATORY



# A leading centre in diagnosing social reality

Access to housing for the most vulnerable groups is the focus of the ”la Caixa” Social Observatory’s new dossier.

The ”la Caixa” Social Observatory published the *Housing: right or commodity?* dossier this 2019. It also completed a series of reports on Social Needs in Spain and published a report on basic income.

The dossier dedicated to housing focuses on the residential insecurity of the most vulnerable groups and the access of young people to a home of their own. The monograph presents two articles: Juan Antonio Módenes addresses residential insecurity, which has become as a major concern, and then Aitana Alguacil analyses the problems faced by the young population when it comes to accessing housing and how issues such as the forming of households and the fertility of the population can have an impact. The interview is dedicated to Sorcha Edwards, Secretary General of Housing Europe, helping us to understand how the situation in Spain fits into the European framework.

At the same time, the ”la Caixa” Social Observatory completed a series of reports on Social Needs in Spain. The aim of this research project was to identify which social needs of the Spanish population are those that most condition individual welfare.

Finally, the report entitled *Strengthening Social Welfare: From Minimum Income to Basic Income*, published by the ”la Caixa” Social Observatory, includes the analysis of a dozen experts on the social situation in Spain and the capacity of current aid and subsidies to guarantee a minimum income for all citizens in order to reduce poverty and inequality. —

Covers of a dossier and two reports published by the ”la Caixa” Social Observatory.



The ”la Caixa” Social Observatory completes its series of reports on Social Needs in Spain

## Promoting research in the social sciences

A new competition call was launched in 2019 to finance research projects that are outstanding for their excellence, innovative nature and social orientation. The proposals are based on quantitative methodologies and aim to produce new knowledge to help understand today's most relevant social challenges.

A new line of funding instruments was likewise launched for research proposals that are characterised by their agility and flexibility.

Isidro Fainé, Chairman of the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, and Daniel Traça, Director of the Nova School of Business & Economics (SBE), during the signing of the collaboration agreement.



## Initiative for Social Equity

"la Caixa" Foundation, BPI and the School of Business and Economics (SBE) at NOVA University in Lisbon launched the Social Equity Initiative in 2019. The goal is to stimulate the social sector in Portugal. The collaboration amounts to 2.2 million euros over 3 years. Among the projects to be developed are:

- 1. Launch of the Social State of the Country annual report:** Socioeconomic portrait of Portuguese families with special attention to situations of exclusion and access to current social aid and resources in the country.
- 2. Creation of a public database of the social sector in Portugal:** Unifying currently scattered information about social sector organisations in the country.
- 3. Two new training programmes:** The first is aimed at managers of social entities. The second consists of a pioneering initiative to diagnose and accompany social sector entities in various areas, involving the NOVA SBE community (students, alumni, teachers and partners).
- 4. Data Science for Social Good:** Applying this programme created at the University of Chicago in 2013 in Portugal. The aim is to analyse social problems through Data Science. NOVA SBE, in collaboration with "la Caixa" Foundation, will each year choose the social problems to be studied. A competition aimed at social entities in 2019 led to the decision to analyse the *Features of the diabetic population at risk of nephropathy*, as proposed by the Portuguese Association for the Protection of Diabetics.

## Personally speaking



### Miranda Jessica Lubbers

Investigating the mechanisms behind social cohesion and how this affects political preferences and the democratic quality of society.

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Barcelona, Spain.

### Joan Josep Vallbé

Why do some courts issue more restraining orders than others? Understanding the keys to this judicial inequality and its tendency.

Universitat de Barcelona. Barcelona, Spain.



### Alberto Ardèvol

Investigating why false news is spread and the behaviour and motivations of its broadcasters.

University of La Laguna. Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.

## ➔ "LA CAIXA" SOCIAL OBSERVATORY

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PALAU MACAYA



# The challenges of society for dialogue and reflection

The Palau Macaya in Barcelona is the space set up by "la Caixa" Foundation to stimulate knowledge and social transformation.

A unique Art Nouveau space, the Palau Macaya aims to analyse and understand the current challenges of our society. It therefore identifies new trends and presents specific proposals that create a real impact and visible improvement for people and their environment.

The Palau Macaya acts in the form of knowledge brokering, in other words, an intermediary (and enabler) of knowledge among various social agents and experts. Its function is to promote dialogue, reflection and the exchange of ideas through activities divided into two large blocks: social innovation and dissemination.

**SOCIAL INNOVATION:** This block comprises a number of talks and seminars on the *Reflections* and *Calls* programmes.



Audience members at one of the talks held at Palau Macaya.

➔ PALAU MACAYA (2019)

850  
ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

+ 67,200  
ANNUAL PARTICIPANTS

(2012-2019)

8 years

of experience as a leading centre in generating knowledge and social progress.

## The Observatory's headquarters for the Sustainable Development Goals, European School of Humanities and Club of Rome

Their methodology is based on a forward-looking approach and they have a global perspective by bringing together actors from various professional and knowledge fields. They are participatory formats defending humanist, democratic values, comprising results-oriented projects, such as the challenges revolving around women and technology, the value of the humanities in the 21st century or the fact that a more diverse society is (or is not) less charitable. The fifth call for reflection projects was also launched, as was the second call in the Community of Madrid.

**SOCIAL DISSEMINATION:** This block presents spaces for debate in the field of thought and the humanities in the form of talks, screenings, debates, courses and meetings. It brings together activities from the *Cineforum*, *Dialogues* and *Club of Rome* programmes, aimed at addressing economic, environmental and social challenges in our world, as well as from the European *School of Humanities*, with series such as *After the Wall: A World of Change and Lessons in Contemporary History*.

Some of the experts who have passed through the centre this 2019 include: Esther Barbé, Danilo Martuccelli, Victòria Camps, Pedro Olalla, Mária Martínez Bascuñán, Víctor Sampeiro, Adrian Parr, Eva Fabry, Rafael Argullol, Rebecca Richmonds, Branko Milanovic, Susanna Heim and Robert Fishman, among others. —

## Personally speaking

### Christopher Clark

Professor of History at Cambridge University.

**“End-time scenarios are in vogue. From the end of the Left to the end of the Right, the end of politics, of liberal democracy or of liberalism itself.”**

### Eva Fabry

Director of the European Centre for Women and Technology (ECWT).

**“Although we think it is a closed world, technology is based on humanity.”**

### Enzo Traverso

Professor at Cornell University.

**“Is Europe returning to the interwar years? Is Europe returning to fascism? These are pertinent questions.”**



## Gardens of Cap Roig

The world's first festival to have obtained the Biosphere seal, the Cap Roig Festival has offset its greenhouse gas emissions for the second year running. Artists of the stature of Maluma, Sting and Liam Gallagher took to its stage this year. Ainhoa Arteta closed the festival with a charity recital for the benefit of the AcompanyArt association, conducted by Andrés Salado.

The special urban plan for the Gardens of Cap Roig was approved this year. This meant the commencement of work on building an underground auditorium that is environmentally friendly. The new space will be dedicated to reflection and dialogue on the challenges faced by society.

The 19th edition of the Cap Roig Festival was held in 2019.