PRESS RELEASE

12 November 2026

The PCB-UB public ecosystem sets a new research investment record of €85.2 million in 2025

- **Funding obtained by the public research centres, units and groups at the University of Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB) reached €85.2 million in 2025, the highest in the historical series, surpassing 2024 (€84.6 million) by 0.7%, in a year in which the PCB-UB ecosystem has continued to grow with the arrival of new biomedical research entities.**

- **Of the two types of funding raised, the amount obtained through national and European public grants totalled €68.3 million, with an additional €16.8 million in private funding (approximately 20% of the total). The institutions have strengthened their scientific capacity with new technological equipment, 62 devices, to be exact.**

- **Technology transfer gained clear momentum in 2025, with 11 technologies licensed and 22 new patent applications, a demonstration of the potential of the PCB-UB public-private partnership model for transferring research knowledge to the market.**

- **These data consolidate the good moment the sector is experiencing and reinforce the PCB-UB's role as a leading research and innovation hub in Europe. If you add the €229.7 million raised by the companies, the PCB-UB ecosystem as a whole reached €315 million in investment in 2025.**

Barcelona, 12 November 2026. Public research at the centres, units and groups of the University of Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB) recorded €85.2 million in 2025, a record figure that consolidates the previous year's investment levels (€84.6 million). Public funding from national and European funds and grants remains the main support for scientific research, amounting to €68.3 million (80% of the total), while funds from private initiatives remain stable and account for around 20% of the total investment, at €16.8 million, 1.5% more than in 2024 (€16.6 million).

Overall, the funding secured by the entire PCB-UB community (public research centres and private companies) grew by 50.5% in 2025, rising from €209.3 million in 2024 to €315 million this year, thanks to the record investment raised by the companies (€229.7 million).

"The strength of the PCB-UB lies in its ability to create an environment where public research and private enterprise coexist, collaborate and mutually reinforce one another. The addition of new centres and the growth of those already part of our community consolidate this model and expand opportunities for collaboration and knowledge transfer. Reaching a new funding record, with private contributions already accounting for almost 20% of the total, demonstrates the ability of public research to attract resources and generate value for society," said **Maria Terrades**, director of the PCB-UB.

"We universities are a strategic infrastructure for the country. We not only produce science, but also innovation, citizenship, critical thinking and hope. Scientific networks and infrastructures are drivers of the future. The 21st century is defined by knowledge and, in this context, universities neither want to nor can remain passive observers. The University of Barcelona, as one of Europe's leading intellectual powerhouses, must not only generate knowledge of excellence: it must also be capable of transforming that knowledge into progress. And to achieve this, cross-cutting structures such as PCB-UB play an essential role", explains **Joan Guàrdia**, rector of the University of Barcelona (UB).

Public support drives research, with stable private funding

The Barcelona Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona) led in funding, with **€41.1 million** (nearly half of the total), of which €32.8 million are public and €8.3 million private. In turn, the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) raised **€19.3 million**, including **public** (€16.4 M) and **private** (€2.9 M) **funds.**

The National Centre for Genomic Analysis (CNAG) added another **€14.1 million**, of which €9.97 million comes from public funds and €4.12 million from private capital. The **Molecular Biology Institute of Barcelona** (IBMB-CSIC) received **€5.04 million** (93% from private capital). For its part, the five new groups at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), which recently joined the PCB-UB, brought **€1 million** to the table, of which €750,000 came from public funds and €260,000 from private sources.

These institutes are joined by the University of Barcelona units and groups that conduct their research in various fields of knowledge. Firstly, Creatio UB – the Production and Validation Center of Advanced Therapies – received a total of **€1.6 million**, of which €890,000 is public and €720,000, private.

The Technology Unit of the Institute of Cosmos Sciences (ICCUB-Tech) obtained **€160,000** in private funding, while the **Institute of Biomedicine of the University of Barcelona** (IBUB) secured **€262,500**, entirely public funding. The UB BioNMR Group, specialising in nuclear magnetic resonance, raised €85,000 (82% of which is public funding).

Overall, in 2025, the centres and units incorporated **62 new pieces of scientific equipment** into their facilities at the PCB-UB. Also worth mentioning is the **UB Scientific and Technical Centre** (CitecUB), which received **€2.5 million in public funding** to renovate and expand its scientific and technical facilities, the base from which the other groups work, with seven new pieces of equipment. Among the new scientific infrastructures incorporated in 2025 is its new state-of-the-

art electron microscopy facility, a Singular Scientific and Technical Infrastructure (ICTS) inaugurated in early 2025 by the President of the Generalitat, Salvador Illa and financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the ERDF Operational Programme for Catalonia.

Strengthening the research ecosystem with new biomedical research organisations

The year 2025 also marked the arrival of the **Barcelona Institute for Global Health** (ISGlobal) and the incorporation of the **Fraunhofer Center for Applied Theragnostics** (Fraunhofer CAT) at the PCB-UB facilities.

By the end of 2025, **ISGlobal** had moved some of its laboratories to the PCB-UB, where **five research groups from the Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases programme are working.** The institution's arrival was the result of the collaboration agreement signed in 2024 to host various units from the research centres affiliated with the Hospital Clínic de Barcelona at the PCB-UB. Among these is the **August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute** (IDIBAPS), which completed its move in early 2026.

For its part, **Fraunhofer CAT**, linked to Fraunhofer Spain Research (a state-run applied research foundation affiliated with Germany's Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft), joined the PCB-UB in 2025 through the IBEC and already has more than 50 professionals.

Technological transfer, increasingly present in research activity

Public centres in the PCB-UB licensed 11 new technologies in 2025, over 10 for the first time, making technology transfer one of the most visible milestones of the year. **ICCUB-Tech** led the count with 4 licences, followed by the **IBEC** with 3, and the **ISGlobal** groups with 2. **IRB Barcelona** and **IBMB-CSIC** had one each.

Technological transfer was also strengthened by the protection of research results, with **22 new patent applications**, highlighting 7 from **ISGlobal**, 6 from the **IBEC**, and 4 from **ICCUB-Tech**.

In addition, the creation of **PulSensing Technologies, a new spin-off driven by ICCUB-Tech, stands out.** The company has developed ASIC chip technology that aims to improve imaging diagnostics in techniques such as PET, and to facilitate the early detection of cancer.

This momentum is taking place in an environment of sustained scientific output, with **577 publications** and participation in **651 national and European collaborative projects**, in an ecosystem where public research coexists with industry.

- *About the University of Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB):*

The University of Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB) is one of Europe's leading ecosystems for scientific, technological and business innovation in life sciences and health. Established by the University of Barcelona in 1997, it was the first science park in Spain. Covering an area of 100,000 m², the PCB-UB is home to a highly dynamic community, comprising 111 public and private bodies and more than 3,600 researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals (57% of whom are women), whose work is mainly in emerging areas in life sciences (biomedicine, biotechnology, medical devices, eHealth, cosmetics and nutrition). A distinctive feature of the PCB-UB is its wide range of scientific and technological services to facilitate RDI, which it offers both to its resident organisations and to external companies and research groups, both national and international. These services are complemented by a programme to stimulate the PCB-UB community, which seeks to develop interaction among its members and with the innovation ecosystem. Among its strategic lines, PCB-UB organises science outreach activities to bring research closer to the public, foster dialogue between the public and researchers, and encourage scientific careers among young people. It currently organises more than 100 annual activities as part of its RESSÒ (Recerca en Societat) programme, in which 7,500 people participate. More information: www.pcb.ub.edu.

Images

1. Aerial view of the University of Barcelona Science Park (PCB-UB).
2. ISGlobal laboratories at the PCB-UB.
3. Fraunhofer CAT laboratories at the PCB-UB.

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