

2.017

Performance Report

Barcelona Biomedical Research Park

April 2018

performancereport.prbb.org

www.prbb.org



Web version: performancereport.prbb.org
informederesultats.prbb.org (Catalan)

PRBB

Doctor Aiguader, 88
08003 Barcelona

Spain

Tel.: +34 93 316 0000
Fax: +34 93 316 0019

comunicacio@prbb.org

www.prbb.org



Contents

The park	4
Highlights:	
Spanish government and embl sign agreement for EMBL outstation in Barcelona	5
Construction works	6
Organization of two “Animal Facility Alliance Forums”	7
Barcelona stands up for science at the PRBB	8
Advisory council formed to support Barcelona's bid to host the EMA	9
PRBB: the most ERC grants per square metre in the world	10
One hundred editions of <i>El-lipse</i>	11
The PRBB centres in YOMO-MWC Barcelona	12
10 years of the PRBB Open Day	13
The PRBB community in numbers	14
The PRBB in the press	15
Data and facts	16
Chronogram of actions of the PRBB Consortium departments	21

THE PARK

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

The PRBB Consortium manages and maintains the park and its facilities. It also manages the animal facility as a scientific service. 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.

www.prbb.org



SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND EMBL SIGN AGREEMENT FOR EMBL OUTSTATION IN BARCELONA

At a ceremony on April 10, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) and the Spanish government, represented by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), signed an agreement for a new EMBL satellite. “EMBL Barcelona” will be a new centre at the PRBB, and researchers at the site will explore how tissues and organs function and develop, and how preventing failures in those processes can lead to disease. Alongside cutting-edge research, the site will house imaging facilities that will be available to scientists across the globe.

The signing ceremony was chaired by Luis de Guindos, Spanish Minister of Economy and Competitiveness, accompanied by the Catalan Minister of Business and Knowledge, Jordi Baiget, the Spanish Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation, Carmen Vela, EMBL’s General Director and Chair, Iain Mattaj and Patrick Cramer, as well as the directors of the CRG and PRBB, Luis Serrano and Jordi Camí, and representatives from many other entities.

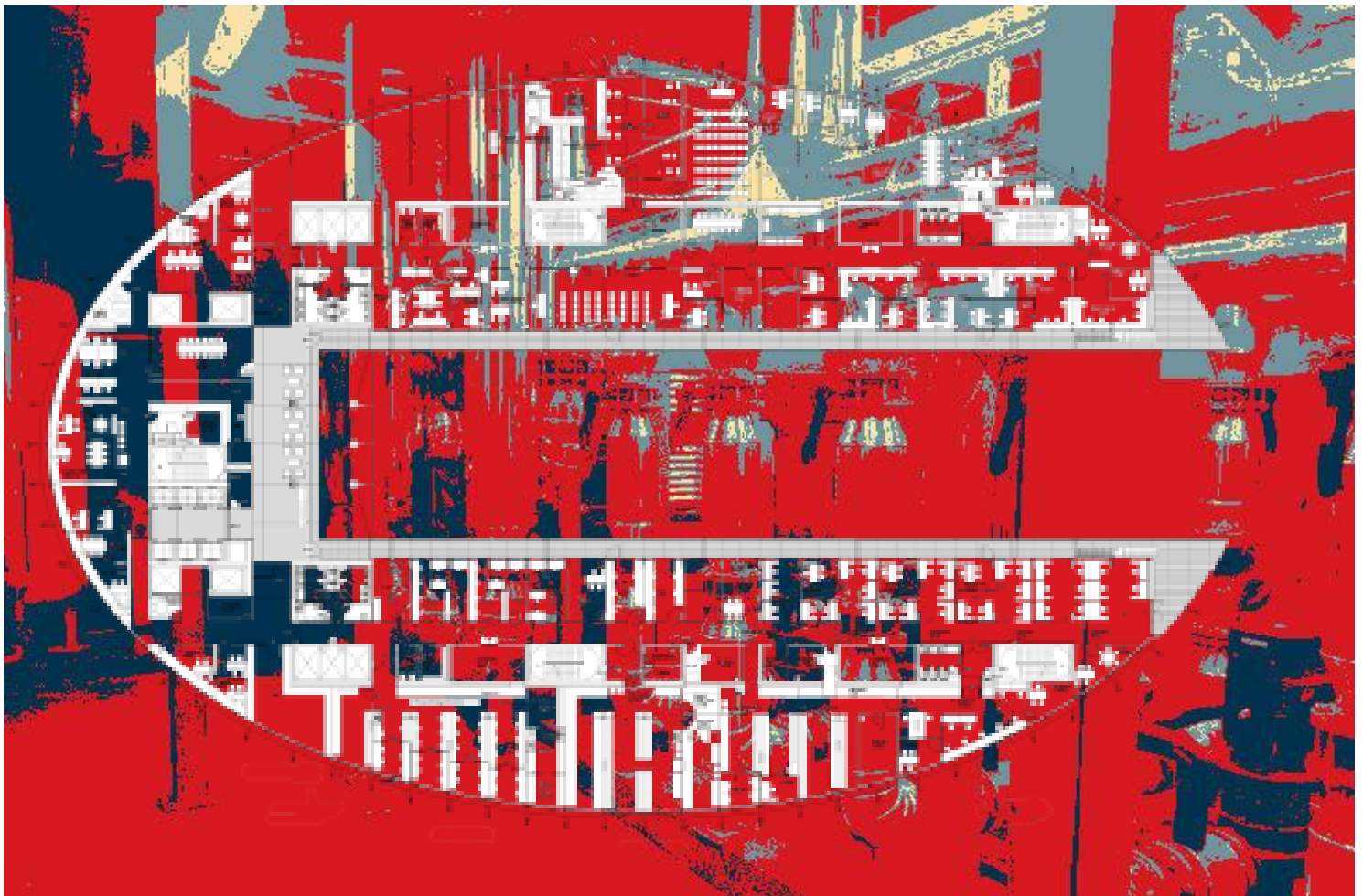


CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Since spring 2017, some major construction work has been going on at the PRBB Building. First, the floors 7-8 were adapted to house some research groups of the UPF and the first basement floor was prepared for the CRG microscopy unit as well as a new EMBL mesoscopy unit. Once the research groups and the genomics unit of the UPF moved to the floors 7-8, construction works continued on floor 4, hospital side, to adapt the space for the new EMBL Barcelona laboratories.

The works, which are finished now, had received a financial aid of 687,500€ of the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union under the ERDF Operational Program of Catalonia 2014-2020.

The system for the general heat production at the roof of the building has also been fully renewed and is now providing higher reliability and energy efficiency.



ORGANIZATION OF TWO “ANIMAL FACILITY ALLIANCE FORUMS”

With the aim of increasing the visibility of the PCB-PRBB Animal Facility Alliance and of transmitting scientific competence, two events have been organized, in forum form, in June and November of 2017.

The two days have been a success filling the maximum capacity of the venues and with an overflowing waiting list in both cases.

The first forum, entitled "Animal experimentation for human diseases" was held in the auditorium of the PRBB, with a capacity for 250 people, last June, 2017. It was inaugurated by Jordi Camí, general director of the PRBB and Juan Martín Caballero, director of the PCB-PRBB Animal Facility Alliance. Several relevant speakers such as Carlos López-Otín of the University of Oviedo, Mara Dierssen, of the CRG, and Emma Sánchez, of EARA (European Association for Animal Research) participated.

The second conference, entitled "Animal experimentation, a highly regulated need in biomedical research" was held in the auditorium Antoni Caparrós of the PCB, with a capacity for 150 people, last November, 2017. The presentations were given by Francesc Mitjans from Leitatz, Ignasi Sahún from ZeClinics, and Ignasi Rodríguez from the Catalan government.



BARCELONA STANDS UP FOR SCIENCE AT THE PRBB

On Saturday April 22 the March for Science Barcelona was held at the PRBB. In an act of protest, which brought together around 500 people, Barcelona added to the demonstration that started in Washington and continued in more than 600 cities around the world. Hundreds of thousands of researchers and citizens took to the streets to protest about antiscientific policies and the erosion of science's social image and to ask politicians to make their decisions based on scientific evidence.

Promoted and organized by the Scientists Dating Forum, the Barcelona March had a festive atmosphere and involved scientific outreach workshops, shows, and the presence of prominent members of the city's scientific and political worlds.

The main event consisted of a panel discussion on the need for science to play an important role in policy decisions. The participants were Joan Subirats, a lecturer at the UAB; the science disseminator Pere Estupinyà; Mara Dierssen, a researcher at the CRG; Carme Valls, an endocrinologist at the Center for Analysis and Health Programs, and Pere Puigdomènech a researcher at the Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics.



ADVISORY COUNCIL FORMED TO SUPPORT BARCELONA'S BID TO HOST THE EMA

On June 12th, the PRBB was the location of the meeting to form the advisory council to support Barcelona's candidature to be the headquarters of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The meeting was presided over by the Healthcare Minister, Dolors Montserrat; the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau; and the Minister of Health, Antoni Comín.

The council comprises 80 figures with outstanding careers in various areas including healthcare, research, the media, and the pharmaceutical industry, as well as representatives from universities, international organisations, and patient associations, among others. All of them will act as "ambassadors" for Barcelona's candidature.



PRBB: THE MOST ERC GRANTS PER SQUARE METRE IN THE WORLD

2017 has seen the 10th anniversary of the European Research Council (ERC) and scientists in the PRBB centres celebrated with them, as they have been highly successful in attracting ERC funding.

Over the past 10 years a total of 22 projects have been financed with approximately 50 M€, making the PRBB the building with most ERC grant-holders per square metre. In 2008, Ben Lehner from the CRG received the first of the park's 9 Starting Grants (1-1.5M€), of which 6 are still active. There are also 9 Advanced Grants (2-2.5M€) held at the CRG, IMIM, UPF, IBE and ISGlobal, representing 9% of all those grants received in Spain (104). The CRG and UPF-IBE received two Consolidator Grants (2M€) and the CRG was additionally awarded 1 Proof-of-concept (150,000€). In 2014, a Synergy Grant, which with 12M€ is by far the largest project funded, was granted to Thomas Graf, Miguel Beato, Marc Martí and Guillaume Filion at the CRG.

The European Commission established the ERC in 2007 with the mission to encourage excellent frontier research in Europe through competitive funding, supporting top researchers across all fields and of any nationality. In its ten years, it has funded almost 7,000 scientists.



ONE HUNDRED EDITIONS OF *EL.LIPSE*

In June 2007, a year after the inauguration of the PRBB, the 1st issue of *El·lipse* was published. One hundred editions later, it has become a benchmark of scientific outreach in Catalonia. *El·lipse* was born with a double goal. Indoors, to build a community, to help the great diversity of PRBB scientists – about 900 – to get to know each other better, encouraging collaboration and cross-fertilization. Outwards, to be a window to the world, to let people know who we are and the science we do. Both objectives have been reached successfully, as evidenced by the comments and letters from both internal and external readers.

This has been possible thanks to the complicity and the fluent cooperation between the communication departments of the centres, all of them members of the *El·lipse*'s editorial committee, which meets every month to make this common publication possible.

#EllipseViatgera: Instagram's contest

During the campaign “*El·lipse* takes your research around the world”, more than 80 participants have taken copies of *El·lipse* to 28 countries, including Cuba, Uzbekistan, Kenya, The Netherlands and China. Each month a winner has enjoyed a dinner or lunch thanks to the support of the Grup Arenal restaurants.



THE PRBB CENTRES IN YOMO-MWC BARCELONA

From February 28 to March 2nd the PRBB centres offered workshops and activities to students attending YoMo: The Youth Mobile Festival. YoMo, part of the GSMA Mobile World Congress, offers the 20,000+ young people attending the festival the opportunity to have fun learning about science and technology.

In the PRBB space called BioJunior the participants transformed their Smartphones into microscopes, learned how the hearts of zebra fish regenerate, and discovered the secrets of biodiversity and evolution. They were also able to explore urban planning, air pollution and radiation projects, and see how chicken and fish embryos are used in biomedical research. About thirty researchers and support staff interacted with the young people showing them that science could be their future.



10 YEARS OF THE PRBB OPEN DAY

On October 7th, for the tenth year in a row, the PRBB threw open its doors to let the public find out more about the research that takes place in the park's centres. The day was possible thanks to the 262 volunteers who generously dedicated their first Saturday in October to raising people's awareness of science.

Around 2000 people visited the 20 labs that were open, where researchers explained their work. They were also able to listen to the latest news on neuroscience, ageing and contamination in the ten scientific talks that were given. Workshops and experiments in the inner square offered specific activities on cardiovascular health, biological diversity, and the possibility of collaborating on a real project about cognitive improvement in children with Down's syndrome.

This year, following on from the success of the last two years, children aged 3 to 8 once again had their own little space where they could do age-appropriate experiments and crafts. New this year, and run in collaboration with the Hospital del Mar Cardiology Service, was a space where slightly older children, from 9 to 12, could explore how their bodies react to exercise. Once again the day was a huge success, thanks to everyone!

[Storify of the PRBB Open Day 2017](#)

PDF: [Report of the PRBB Open Day 2017](#) (in Catalan)



THE PRBB COMMUNITY IN NUMBERS

Overall, the numbers of the PRBB community have remained stable, according to demographic data from October 2017. The increased percentage of women heading up research groups, which has risen from 31% in 2013 to 41% in 2017, is the best news. The total census is 1,366 people that are physically located in the PRBB building, 7% less than the previous year. This slight decline is in part explained by the changes that occurred last year in the building, specifically the leaving of the CMRB and the arrival of the EMBL. Not included are staff from related centres (395), nor collaborators or staff from contracted companies like Charles River or Clece, amongst others.

The 330 foreign researchers (31%) come from 48 different countries, with the Italians taking first place (81), followed by the Germans (38), and the French (34). The UK, with 16 residents, takes the fourth place in the country rankings.

Please find more information here: prbbdemography.weebly.com



THE PRBB IN THE PRESS

12 selected news from the year 2017 (in the language of the original)

Parc de Recerca Biomèdica capta 50 milions para investigación de Consejo Europa

Press release to mark the anniversary of the ERC, **La Vanguardia**, March 17, 2017

EMBL opens new lab for tissue biology and disease modeling in Barcelona

Signing ceremony of EMBL Barcelona with the MinEco, **Science Magazine**, April 11, 2017

Cinco ciudades españolas se suman a la Marcha por la Ciencia

The PRBB hosts the March of Science Barcelona, **El Periódico de Cataluña**, April 15, 2017

Els científics surten al carrer per reiventar-se

Interview with Jordi Camí about the March for Science, **Ara**, April 21, 2017

Identidades mutantes: me llamo Kina y estoy transintando de humano a planta

Residency of bioartists Quimera Rosa in the PRBB within the framework of the Prototyp_ome project, jointly coordinated with Hangar, **Broadly**, online feminist publication, April 24, 2017

El Parc de Recerca Biomèdica aposta per convertir la Ciutadella en un parc científic

Interview with Jordi Camí, **Betevé Radio**, La Tarda de Barcelona. May 16, 2017

La sociedad civil, “embajadora” de Barcelona para lograr la Agencia Europea del Medicamento

Act of support for the candidacy of Barcelona as the new headquarters of the EME, **La Vanguardia**, June 12, 2017

Jornada de Portes Obertes 2017

Press release on the occasion of the Open Day, **Telenotícies** Migdia de TV3, October 7, 2017

Un premio Nobel de Medicina anima estudiantes catalanes a cogerle el relevo

Lunch with young researchers from the PRBB and lecture at the Auditorium, **La Vanguardia**, November, 2017

Barcelona intenta aprofitar l'impuls de la candidatura a l'EMA

Meeting with the mayor at the PRBB for the promotion of innovation and research in Barcelona, **La Vanguardia**, November, 2017



DATA AND FACTS 2017

Scientific publications from researchers at the park

	2017	2016*
Total	1,216	1,212
<i>Nature</i>	6	11
<i>Science</i>	6	4
<i>The Lancet</i>	4	0
<i>The New Engl J Med</i>	2	0
Other Nature group journals	40	30
Other Lancet group journals	4	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 2016.

Scientific conferences

	2017	Yearly change	2016
Total	322	+20%	268
Internal conferences	116 (36%)		86
External conferences* ¹	206 (64%)		182
“PRBB CRG Conferences”** ²	54		55

(*1) Most representative locations of the research centres of the speakers: USA (50), Spain (43), UK (30), France (13), Germany (19), Italy (6). 12 speakers came from Harvard.

(*2) In 2017, 11 of the speakers of the PRBB CRG Conferences were women (20%). In 2016 there were 19 (35%).

The demography of the residents

	2017	% of the total	2016
Residents	1,351		1,468
Senior researchers	196	15%	230
Postdocs	282	21%	333
PhD students	265	20%	282
Research technicians	326	24%	335
Support, service and administrative staff	282	21%	288
Foreign scientists	232	31%	264
Foreign residents	316	24%	365
Men	551	41%	644
Women	800	59%	835

Web: [Demography of the residents of the PRBB](#)

Personnel / Centres

	2017	2016
Total	1,366	1,468
IMIM (Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute)	370	372
UPF (CEXS + IBE)	371	413
Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG)	423	447
CMRB	-	50
ISGlobal (Mar Campus)	134	136
PRBB Consortium	35	34
IRAB	7	10
Acellera S.L.	8	6

Personnel / Associated centres

	2017	2016
Total	395	443
CRG-CNAG	79	74
Pasqual Maragall Foundation	63	49
IBE-CSIC	62	58
ISGlobal (Clínica Campus)	191	262
+ Building	1,366	1,468
Total personnel of PRBB family	1,761	1,911

Outreach, visits and external relations

	2017	2016
PRBB Open Day		
Visitors	>1,500	>3,500
Evaluation "Very good"	85%	88%
Volunteers	256	290
Outreach		
Activities for high school students	35	30
Participants	2,472	2,256
Visitors 48h BCN Open House	280	489
General visiting groups	272	269
External relations		
Delegations	44	27
Delegates	668	601
Total visitors*	5,192	7,115
*without visits to the centres		

Websites and social networks

	2017	Canvi anual	2016
Social networks			
Twitter @the_prbb	9,145	+19%	7,692
Fans in Facebook	3,277	+6%	3,085
Linkedin	4,870	-5%	5,151
External website			
Visits	81,861	0%	82,067
Users	49,897	+5%	47,479
Portal PRBB Inside			
Visits	37,658	-4%	39,403
Users	13,792	0%	13,672

Data for consumption and maintenance

	2017	Canvi anual	2016
Electricity	13,248,720kWh	-2,37%	13,570,698 kWh
Natural gas	4,865,371 kWh	6,97%	4,548,500 kWh
Water	28,342 m ³	-7,72%	30,713 m ³
Liquid nitrogen	257,580 litres	-3,82%	267,810 litres
Nitrogen gas	108,182 litres	18,66%	91,171 litres
Carbon dioxide	20,653 kg	-27,04%	28,308 kg
Residues/waste	261,065 kg	0,91%	258,700 kg
Cleaning hours	1,075 h/week	0%	1,075 h/week

Auditorium and conference rooms

	2017	Canvi anual	2016
Auditorium			
Occupied days	149	+60%	93
Events	127	+63%	78
External	9%		13%
Internal	91%		87%
Rooms Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Ramón y Cajal			
Hours of occupation	4,225	+6.5%	3,967

PRBB Intervals: Continued professional training

Courses: **36**

Participants	2017	2016
Sci/Med PhD students	181 (41%)	159 (35%)
Sci/Med Postdocs	117 (26%)	151 (33%)
Sci/Med Senior researchers	31 (7%)	34 (8%)
Sci/Med Clinicians	14 (3%)	6 (1%)
Technical staff	27 (6%)	42 (9%)
Administration & services	16 (4%)	17 (4%)
Management	30 (7%)	26 (6%)
Others	27 (6%)	17 (4%)
TOTAL	443 (100%)	452 (100%)

Subject / Number of courses

Topic	Nombre
Leadership and career development	12
Oral and writing presentation skills	19
Citizen science skills	1
Good science, Honest science	4
Total	36

PDF: [Annual Report PRBB Intervals](#)

General budget

	2017	2016
Total budget	>15M€	>13M€
Income		
Rent	62.8%	57.5%
Animal facility	11.2%	11.3%
General services	10.4%	9.2%
Others	15.6%	22%

CHRONOGRAM OF ACTIONS OF THE PRBB CONSORTIUM DEPARTMENTS

January to February 2017

- Ellipse celebrates 100 editions with chocolate and the exhibition #ellipseviatgera
- New bicycle parking
- Edit-a-thon on Women and Science
- The PRBB participates in the 1st edition of the YOMO 2017 (MWC)
- Internal crisis communication workshop



March to April 2017

- Reportage "Animals under the magnifying glass" on the PRBB animal facility in the TVE program Repor
- Anniversary of the European Research Council (ERC)
- Energy rating of the PRBB building
- Signature act EMBL-MEC
- Organization of the March for Science at the PRBB
- Start of the construction works for UPF and EMBL
- Oriol Junqueras visits the PRBB

Award ceremony of the XII PRBB Prize and II Edition BioJunior Festival

Act of support for the candidature of BCN for the EMA

Remodeling of the cafeteria



May to June 2017

First edition of the PRBB Health Week

Smoke free spaces in the inner courtyard and the outer perimeter of the PRBB.

New contracts and annexes agreed with the centers

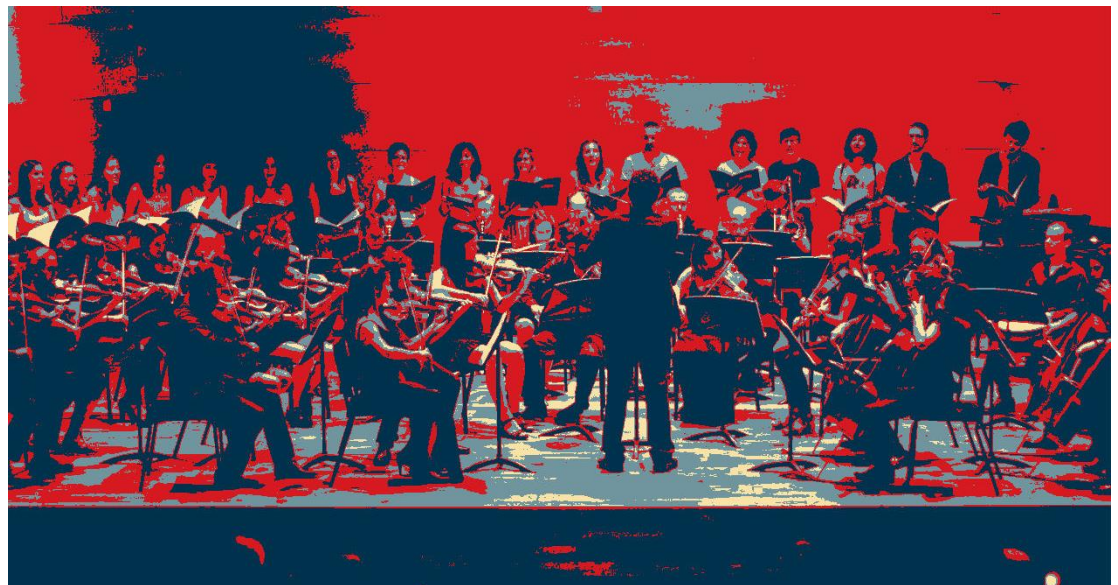
Adaptation of the data centre and first servers of the EMBL

Forum "Animal experimentation for human diseases" at the PRBB



July to September 2017

Concert "Bizet meets the Lion King" in Santa Coloma
BBC Arabic filming (ZeClinics, Proteomics and UPF)
Specific assessment of psychosocial risks
Delivery of the new spaces on floor -1 to EMBL and CRG
Publishing of the tutorial "Manipulating the Xenopus"
The PCB-PRBB Alliance participates in a publication in *Cell*
New website of the Choir and the Orchestra music.prbb.org
Finals of the PRBB Beach Volleyball Championship and summer party
World Café on integrity in publishing science by the PRBB
Good Scientific Practice group



October to November 2017

First contract as a service provider of the animal facility (IRB)
New heat production central
New access control system
Forum: "Animal experimentation, a highly regulated need ..." at the PCB
Talk and lunch with young researchers with the Nobel laureate Jules Hoffmann
Delivery of the floors 7 and 8 to the UPF

10th edition of the PRBB OpenDay

48H OpenHouse

2nd edition of “Young Scientists” at the PRBB and at schools



December 2017

Workshop of self-knowledge and team building for the animal facility

Christmas concert with the choir and the orchestra of the PRBB

Renewal of credit lines

Web version: performancereport.prbb.org

informederesultats.prbb.org (in Catalan)

Contact:

PRBB

Doctor Aiguader, 88
08003 Barcelona

Tel.: +34 93 316 0000

Fax: +34 93 316 0019

comunicacio@prbb.org

www.prbb.org