



Horizon Europe Teaming for Excellence Project

RACE: RNA and Cell biology – from fundamental research to therapies



THE UNIVERSITY
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Funded by
the European Union

About the Project

RACE is a Horizon Europe Teaming for Excellence project aiming at developing the **International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology in Warsaw** into a Centre of Excellence in RNA and Cell Biology. Thanks to the support and expertise of two advanced partners, IIMCB improves its capacity to translate cutting-edge fundamental research into clinical applications and innovations.

Spanning **6 years** and supported by a budget of almost **EUR 15 million**, the RACE project is helping IIMCB reach a critical mass of **20 scientific groups** specialising in RNA and cell biology. With the RACE Project, IIMCB provides entrepreneurial training for the researchers; develops sustainable core facilities tailored for industry needs; establishes a professional technology transfer incubator; and finally, digitizes the administrative processes.



No. 1

in the ranking of
Teaming for
Excellence call 2022



Our Goals

- 01 Expanding IIMCB Research & Innovation (R&I) activities
- 02 Training the next generation of IIMCB world-class researchers for academia and industry
- 03 Enhancing IIMCB methodological capabilities through the development of modern core facilities - IN-MOL-CELL
- 04 Facilitating the implementation of IIMCB discoveries by launching the IIMCB's RACE Technology Incubator
- 05 Enhancing overall IIMCB science management and administration to fit new challenges

To achieve the project's goals, IIMCB teamed up with two outstanding European research centers in Belgium and Great Britain.



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Advanced
Partners:
VIB & University of
Edinburgh

VIB (Flanders Institute of Biotechnology), Belgium is an entrepreneurial research institute and one of the European leaders in translational research. VIB supports the IIMCB in creating a Technology Transfer Office and training researcher staff. It also helps the IIMCB in developing modern core facilities and science management and administration. The partnership between the IIMCB and VIB is boosted by the supportive culture of excellence within the EU-LIFE alliance.

Medical Research Council, Human Genetics Unit, University of Edinburgh (UEDIN), Great Britain combines scientific and clinical expertise to study human genetic disease and normal development. UEDIN supports the IIMCB in broadening its scientific scope by training its researchers. It also engages in enhancing the IIMCB methodological capabilities through the development of modern core facilities and upgrading IIMCB science management.

RACE Expected Outcomes

Project's clearly defined objectives regarding the creation of new research groups, infrastructure development, training, commercialization, and science management will turn into tangible outcomes:

Expanded Research Capacity

6 New Research Groups:

- RNA and cell biology
- Advanced bioinformatics/big data analysis
- AI/machine learning

Trainings

Training Programmes for PhD students & post-docs:

- research secondments
- courses in technology transfer, leadership, science management

Core Facilities

IN-MOL-CELL Infrastructure at IIMCB:

- 30+ professionally trained experts, technology and business management
- Advanced bioinformatics/big data analysis
- AI/machine learning

Commercialisation

RACE Incubator:

- Technology Transfer Unit
- Commercialization Advisory Council

Science Management

Efficient Digitalized administrative processes



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The RACE project will make the IIMCB a reference model in translational research countrywide.

It will elevate the Institute to the top tier of European research centres ready to engage in competitive EU and global biomedical research and innovation projects at the frontiers of science.

Marta Międzyńska, PhD, Professor
IIMCB Director & RACE Coordinator

Organizational Structure

RACE is coordinated by Marta Miączynska, IIMCB Director, who chairs the project Steering Committee. Additionally, the project is overseen and supported by two advisory bodies: the International Advisory Board (IAB) of IIMCB and the Commercialisation Advisory Committee (CAC). Daily activities are managed by seven leaders responsible for specific areas (Work Packages) of the project- scientific and institutional development, training, promotion, and administration.

Steering Committee



Marta Miączynska, Director of IIMCB



Wendy Bickmore, Director of the Institute of Genetics and Cancer, UEDIN



Christine Durinx, Managing Director of VIB

Advisory Bodies

- International Advisory Board (IAB) of IIMCB
- Commercialisation Advisory Committee (CAC)

Work Packages



WP 1: Establishment of New Research Groups

Leader: Gracjan Michlewski, IIMCB, Head of Laboratory of RNA-Protein

Objective: reach critical mass in RNA and cell biology research by establishment of **6** new groups



WP 2: Researcher Training

Leader: Javier Caceres, UEDIN, Head of Laboratory of RNA Processing and Gene Regulation

Objective: train IIMCB staff in conducting world-class biomedical research with translational potential



WP3: Development of IIMCB Core Facilities

Objective: build modern and highly efficient core facilities with services for internal and external users

Leaders:

- Andrzej Dziembowski, IIMCB, Head of the Laboratory of RNA Biology - ERA Chairs Group - until June 30, 2026
- Olga Gewartowska, IIMCB, Head of the Technology Development Unit - from July 1, 2026



WP 4: Implementation of a RACE Incubator at IIMCB

Leader: Erwin Sablon, VIB, Head of Business Development/Expert Scientist Diagnostics & Biomarkers

Objective: establish comprehensive TT support to successfully commercialize the IIMCB discoveries



WP 5: IIMCB Science Management Upscale

Leader: Alexia Danyłow, IIMCB, Chief Specialist at the Grants Office

Objective: to develop HR activities to attract and retain the best talent, as well as digitalise science management and administrative processes; professionalise the administration for the upscaled IIMCB



WP 6: Dissemination and Communication

Leader: Jan Piechna, IIMCB, Head of Communications Office

Objective: Proper dissemination of the project's results and communication about RACE and IIMCB



WP7: Project Management

Leader: Dorota Libiszowska, IIMCB, Heads of Grants Office/Project Co-Manager

Objective: to coordinate and manage the project

Official inauguration of the projekt, January 10, 2024, IIMCB, Warsaw.





Snapshots from RACE

Poster session during RACE
Researcher Training Workshop;
June 2025



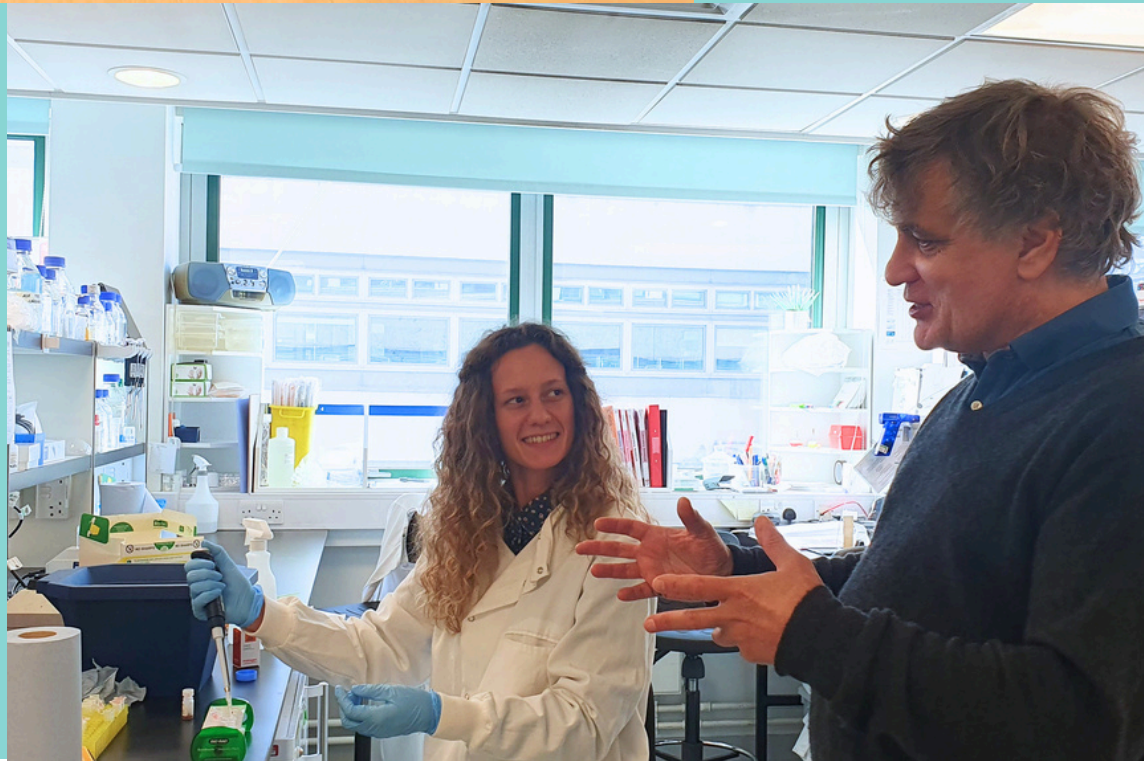
IIMCB Administrative Units'
employees visit at VIB;
May 2024



Science Communications Training
at IIMCB led by Matheus Lourenço,
PhD - science communication
expert and trainer from VIB;
May 2026



Sharing knowledge and expertise on developing Microscopy Facility - RACE Seminar led by Dr. Saskia Lippens, Deputy Director of VIB Technologies and Dr. Jose Rino, Head of the Bioimaging Facility at the Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine in Lisbon; March 2026



Javier Caceres, UEDIN and one of the IIMCB's employees during the research visit in Edinburgh



IIMCB's IN-MOL-CELL Team (Olga Gewartowska & Vanessa Linke) at a promotional stand during 10th Central European Congress of Life Sciences EUROBIOTECH; July, 2026



Inauguration of the RACE Project, January 2024, IIMCB.



PhD RACE student Nathalie Idlin talking about her research visit to the Andrew Wood Lab at the Institute of Genetics and Cancer at the University of Edinburgh; March 2026

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Find out more on the Project's website:



<https://race.iimcb.gov.pl/>

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