PRBB Intervals Course Proposal

Course Title

Project management in research

Proposed dates:

- Day 1: Thursday 11th February 2027
- Day 2: Friday 12th February 2027
- Day 3: Friday 26th February 2027
- Day 4: Thursday 4th March 2027

Course Language: English

Course Leader(s) and very brief summary of relevant qualifications and experience

- **Joaquim Calbó** holds a PhD in Biochemistry and has extensive training and experience both as researcher (University of Barcelona, Temple University – Philadelphia, and The Netherlands Cancer Institute) and as research manager (IRB Barcelona, CRG, and currently at VHIR). He is the Director of the Competitive Research Area at the Vall d'Hebron Institute of Research (VHIR), managing all pre- and post-award activities for national and international grants.
- **Alexandros Nikolaou** holds a PhD in Bio-engineering from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium. Since 2015, he worked as a Pre-award Grants Specialist and Scientific Project Manager at CRG, IDIAP Jordi Gol and Flomics Biotech. Alex participated in specialized trainings such as Agile Project Management and Coordination of European research projects.
- **Silvia Tognetti** holds a PhD in Clinical Medicine Research from Imperial College London and worked as a biomedical researcher at the University of Padua, University College London, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and IRB Barcelona. She transitioned to research management at ICFO in 2020 before joining CRG as Scientific Project Manager, where she became Coordinator of the Research Quality Area in 2023. Silvia is dedicated to fostering impactful research through equity, transparency, and sustainability while managing multidisciplinary and collaborative projects.

Rationale for course (why is this course of interest for the PRBB staff?)

Enable scientists to apply project management techniques in order to better define objectives of a research project, make a realistic plan, and implement it effectively.

Course aim – general

To discover the real value of project management in research and learn how to apply it to your projects. This course does not cover time management nor leadership techniques.

Specific learning outcomes

After this workshop you will be able to:

- Define clear objectives and key success factors
- Identify and manage relations with stakeholders
- Plan a project according to objectives and available resources
- Identify and control risks

- Monitor progress and report
- Evaluate outcome of your project
- Apply the concepts and methodologies of project management to any kind of project

Course contents (outline of topics to be covered)

- What is a Project?
- Fundamentals of Project Management
- Project initiation and its life cycle
- Work plan: from mission to deliverables
- Budget planning and financial monitoring
- Project implementation, monitoring, and closing
- Collaborative Projects

Training methods

- Interactive sessions in-person
- Moodle platform
- Case studies
- Interactive group work (incl. peer-to-peer evaluation)
- Invited talks from experts

Target group in PRBB

Postdocs, staff scientists and technicians with managing responsibilities.

Number of participants (maximum)

16

Total course hours

Note: only the direct training hours will be included in the post-course certificate.

- Number of hours of class time: 16h
- Number of hours of self-study: 10h
- Total number of course hours: 26h

Distribution of course

4 half days (mornings), 9:30 – 13:30

Pre-course preparation and/or between sessions?

- Short pre-course survey
- As preparation for sessions 3 and 4 participants are expected to do some individual study (about 10h). Course instructors will be available for one-to-one consultation.

Material participants need to bring

Material to take notes.

Relevant background reading/ audiovisual/websites or other materials

The course material will be shared on a Moodle platform.