CALL FOR PROGRAMMES TO DRIVE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FOR 2018

Generating and disseminating knowledge in every sphere and using it for social or economic benefit are essential activities for progress in society. Research and innovation are especially important in the field of healthcare, as they provide solutions to the population's problems, and help to improve the sustainability of the system by creating a more efficient model and the profits arising from R&D.

In the Autonomous Region of Cantabria, this is particularly clear in public healthcare as a whole, and especially in the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, the leading highly complex healthcare centre in the region, and also a leading source of biomedical knowledge. This means clear opportunities for development and innovation, alongside the fields of Primary Care and Nursing, as sectors which understand patients' needs and are essential to the work of healthcare research and innovation projects with a comprehensive approach.

The Instituto de Investigación Marqués de Valdecilla Foundation (IDIVAL) is a private non-profit foundation working in the regional public sector, whose assets have long been allocated to the institution's work in the public interest. IDIVAL is an independent legal entity with full capacity to act, and can therefore perform all necessary actions to comply with the purpose for which it was created, subject to Spanish law and its own articles of association.

It should also be noted that IDIVAL originated as a collaboration between the Regional Health Department and the University of Cantabria, its co-founders. As a healthcare research institute accredited by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III in 2015, and in accordance with the objectives in its articles of association, IDIVAL promotes the generation of knowledge, innovation, and the transfer of its results to the healthcare system, the scientific world, and society in general.

As stated in Article 6 of its articles of association, IDIVAL is intended to: a) bring basic, clinical, and healthcare service research closer together; b) create a high-quality healthcare, teaching, and research environment for degree and graduate students, trainee specialists, and healthcare professionals; and c) become the ideal place for attracting talent and for the location of major scientific and technological facilities. These purposes are explicitly identified with those established by the Instituto de Salud Carlos III for healthcare research institutes. The mission and vision of IDIVAL, as shown in its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, are aligned with these guidelines.

In accordance with local needs and opportunities, and more specifically those of the Cantabrian Health Service and R&D, IDIVAL must also promote innovative solutions which respond to new challenges and the public's health problems, with a direct impact on people and on society as a whole, and with short-, mid- and long-term socioeconomic implications.

Aligned with the preview of the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research for 2017-2020 and the regional strategy iCan, IDIVAL has designed annual actions to stimulate and coordinate R&D in a wide range of high-value programmes, in light of the results obtained so far. For some of these actions it coordinates with the University of Cantabria in specific programmes, differentiated from those announced here, such as the call for predoctoral contracts.

This regional call for programmes to drive biomedical research is complementary to other national and international calls, and is not intended to replace them, but rather act in our regional sphere, in the niches which are not covered by external aid, especially the spheres in our Autonomous Region where opportunities or needs of special interest have been identified in biomedical R&D. Specifically, this call focuses on fostering and attracting talent, facilitating innovation, and internationalisation, while making an effort to include the new generations of clinical researchers, particularly in Primary Care and Nursing, and considering the necessary synergy between the knowledge-generating agents and companies of our region.

The programmes announced here are to execute IDIVAL's 2018 Budget and Action Plan, approved by the Foundation Board meeting of 14 December 2017, and aligned with the goals of IDIVAL's 2017-2021 Strategic Plan.

Therefore, we hereby approve the call for programmes to drive biomedical research for 2018.

HEADING I - COMMON TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1.- PROGRAMMES ANNOUNCED

The ten programmes to drive biomedical research announced in this ruling are structured along two lines of research:

Line 1.- Recruitment to stimulate research: a competitive call for applicants for different temporary employment contracts.

- Programme 1: “López Albo” Post-Residency Programme. Its goal is the recruitment of recently trained specialists through contracts for scientific or technical research projects.

- Programme 2: “Ges-Val” Training Programme for Research Managers. Its goal is to recruit research managers through training contracts for internships.

Line 2.- Research support actions: different programmes through which IDIVAL distributes its budget according to pre-established strategic goals. None of the allocated funding will be considered subsidies, as funds are not transferred to the recipients, but instead are managed by IDIVAL.

- Programme 3: “Support IDIVAL” Programme Its goal is to support the activities of the IDIVAL research groups.

- Programme 4: “Next-Val” Programme to Support New Researchers. Its goal is to support research projects led by new researchers.

- Programme 5: “Inn-Val” Innovation Support Programme. Its goal is to support projects on innovation in healthcare.

- Programme 6: Researcher Concentration Programme. Its goal is to enable researchers to concentrate on their activity by providing substitutes for part of their healthcare work.

- Programme 7: Mentoring Programme. Its goal is to provide mentoring for new residents with excellent profiles.

- Programme 8: “Inplant” Introduction Programme. Its goal is to create the conditions which will attract new Heads of Services and Section Heads.

- Programme 9: “Prim-Val” Primary Care Support Programme. Its goal is to stimulate research in the field of primary care.
- Programme 10: Predoctoral Mobility Programme. Its goal is to facilitate the mobility of predoctoral personnel recruited through the joint call by IDIVAL and the University of Cantabria

2.- PROGRAMME FUNDING

Funding for this call for programmes to drive biomedical research comes from IDIVAL’s budget.
Funding has been estimated for these programmes for 2018 and the following years, according to budget availability, as follows:

	PROGRAMME	2018	2019
Line 1	1.- “López Albo” programme:	€198,528	€198,528
	2.- “Ges-Val” programme	€44,693	€47,672
Line 2	3.- “Support IDIVAL” programme	€300,000	
	4.- “Next-Val” programme	€50,000	€50,000
	5.- “Inn-Val” programme	€50,000	€50,000
	6.- Concentration programme	€120,000	
	7.- Mentoring programme		€8,000
	8.- “Inplant” programme*	€20,000	€20,000
	9.- “Prim-Val” programme	€30,000	
	10.- Predoctoral mobility programme	€40,000	

*If granted, this means an additional sum of €20,000 for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Apart from the programmes announced here, the IDIVAL budget for 2018 supports the second and third years of multi-year projects awarded in previous years, as well as calls for predoctoral contracts in the field of biomedicine and for summer scholarships, which will have their own calls, organised jointly with the University of Cantabria.

Meanwhile, IDIVAL can call for other programmes with specific funding, especially if they are supported by ad hoc public-private partnership agreements.

The ten programmes to drive biomedical research announced in this ruling may be co-funded by ERDF funds.

3.- APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATES

Applications for the different programmes can be submitted during the following periods:

1.- “López Albo” Post-Residency Programme: 1 to 31 March 2018.

2.- “Ges-Val” Training Programme for Research Managers: 26 February to 26 March 2018.
3.- “Support IDIVAL” programme: 26 February to 12 March 2018.
4.- “Next-Val” Programme to Support New Researchers: 15 April to 15 May 2018.
5.- “Inn-Val” Innovation Support Programme: 15 May to 15 June 2018.
6.- Researcher Concentration Programme: modality A, 15 March to 15 April 2018; modality B, the call will be permanently open.
7.- Mentoring Programme: within the first two months following joining the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital as a first-year resident.
8.- “Inplant” Introduction Programme: the call will be permanently open.
9.- “Prim-Val” Primary Care Support Programme: 15 May to 15 June 2018.
10.- Predoctoral Mobility Programme: 15 March to 30 April 2018.

4.- SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

All applications will be submitted via the IDIVAL online platform, accessed via its website: www.idival.org.

Applications must be submitted on specific forms which will be available on the platform.

5.- SELECTION AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEES

Members of the selection committees (for line 1 programmes) and the assessment committees (for line 2 programmes) will be appointed by IDIVAL’s Management Director.

Committee members will be subject to the abstention and recusal regulations set out in Law 40/2015, of 2 October, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

The make-up of the assessment committees will depend on the specifications on this matter in each programme. Assessment committees may be advised by widely recognised external researchers, including members of IDIVAL’s External Scientific Council, for assessing technical aspects, and executives of the Cantabrian Health Service for assessing strategic aspects.

6.- RESOLUTION OF CALLS

Calls will be decided by the Managing Director of IDIVAL, and their resolution will be published on the IDIVAL platform. Calls may be declared null.

Projects and candidates not selected may be classified according to the scores awarded by the Selection or Assessment Committee, and the resulting list may be used to replace any candidates who withdraw from the contract before or after its formalisation, or refuse the agreed funding before the project begins.

7.- GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF SELECTED PROJECT APPLICANTS

Participation in this call implies the acceptance of its terms and conditions, and consent to the use of personal data as necessary for its resolution and execution. Selected project applicants are also required to comply with the following conditions:

a) Executing the project as and when established, notifying IDIVAL of any incident which might affect this.

b) Complying with checks by IDIVAL, providing all required information.

c) Including a reference to IDIVAL as the funding body in all publications and communications funded by these programmes. The description of the author's associations in the publication must specify their membership of IDIVAL, where applicable.

d) Signing agreements to transfer industrial and intellectual property and a commitment to confidentiality where these are required by IDIVAL's protocols. Any patent or profit arising from projects will belong to IDIVAL and the other institutions whose researchers participate in the projects, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

e) Accepting the regulations of IDIVAL's research projects, and the regulations on the provision on personal data, both for inclusion in IDIVAL's files and for publication on its website.

f) Providing information to IDIVAL management on the progress of the project when required.

g) Attending all meetings and presentations of results called by IDIVAL management, even after the programme has ended.

8.- REQUIREMENTS

8.1.- General requirements

All applications submitted for the programmes referred to in these terms and conditions must comply with current legislation and specifically respect the Declaration of Helsinki, if applicable to their subject.

When research involves human subjects, the projects must include all reports and authorisations of the Clinical Research Ethics Committee and any other institutions responsible for ensuring compliance with existing research conventions and standards. Also, any clinical trials or post-authorisation studies will require the authorisation of the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices. Similarly, any experimentation on animals will require the relevant permits.

This documentation will be submitted after the project has been awarded.

When expressly provided for in each programme, if University of Cantabria personnel who do not belong to IDIVAL groups participate as collaborating researchers, this will require authorisation by the University of Cantabria's Vice Rector of Research.

8.2.- Specific requirements

The specific requirements of each programme in line 2 (actions to support research) refer to the date of publication in this call.

To be admitted to the selection tests, applicants to line 1 programmes (recruitment to foster research) must meet the following requirements from the end date of the application period to the formalisation of the corresponding employment contract:

a) They must be Spanish nationals, or nationals of another European Union member state, or of a state where international treaties by the European Union and approved by Spain permit the free movement of workers in the terms of Article 57 of the consolidated text of the Basic Statute of Public Employees, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 5/2015 of 30 October.

Participation is also open to persons of any nationality who are married to Spanish citizens or nationals of other European Union member states, and where the corresponding treaty allows, spouses of nationals of states where international treaties by the European Union and approved by Spain permit the free movement of workers, as long as they are not legally separated or divorced.

The same conditions apply to the children of such nationals or their spouses, aged under 21, or aged over 21 and financially dependent on them.

Also, foreigners who are legally resident in Spain can work as Public Administrations employees under the same conditions as Spaniards.

b) They must be aged 16 or over, and below the compulsory retirement age.

c) They must have the functional capacity to perform the required functions within the agreed time. For this reason they must not have any illness or physical or mental limitation which would be incompatible with performing their functions within the agreed time.

d) They must not have been removed from the service of any Public Administration or the official bodies of any Autonomous Region due to disciplinary proceedings, have been dismissed for disciplinary reasons from any company or foundation in the regional public sector, nor be disqualified by a court ruling from public sector employment as a civil servant, or from similar work to the job from which they were dismissed or disqualified in the case of other employees. In the case of nationals of another state, they must not be disqualified or in an equivalent situation, nor have been subject to a disciplinary penalty or equivalent, which would prevent them from accessing public sector employment in their state.

e) They must hold the academic qualification required for each programme.

9.- ITEMS WHICH CAN BE FUNDED

Funding allocated to research projects without specific expenditure defined in advance in the programme may be allocated to recruitment, the acquisition of consumables, the acquisition of permanent equipment, outsourcing services, and travel and transport costs. This will be applicable specifically to the programmes Support IDIVAL, Next-Val, Int-Val, Mentoring, Inplant, and Prim-Val.

If recruiting personnel with costs to be borne by the selected projects, the total annual gross pay, to be paid in 14 payments, will be as follows:

Title/Qualifications required	**Gross remuneration**
“PRIVAL A” (having completed Compulsory Secondary School or equivalent)	€10,884.94
“PRIVAL B” (Spanish baccalaureate, vocational training, or equivalent)	€12,581.38

“PRIVAL C” (specialist technical vocational training, or equivalent)	€15,830.47
“PRIVAL 1” (first cycle university qualification: bachelor’s degree or equivalent)	€18,919.34
“PRIVAL 2” (second cycle university qualification: master’s degree or equivalent)	€22,780.43
“PRIVAL 3” (third cycle university qualification: doctorate)	€27,027.63
“PRIVAL 4” (specialist qualification in health sciences)	€37,572.00

The above provisions are understood without prejudice to the applicability of basic state regulations on remuneration for 2018, according to the terms of those regulations.

10.- MONITORING

In the last 2 months of each year, counting from the start of the project, in the case of multi-year projects, and in the first 2 months after the end of the project, IDIVAL management must receive a written report on the progress of the research project, using specific forms created for this purpose. For projects over more than one year, the programme continuing to the second year will be contingent on the assessment of the annual report, presented on time and correctly documented.

At any time during a project, IDIVAL management may propose that the principal investigator should present its results. This presentation may be public, and will include a description of the scientific and technical activity, with appropriate demonstrations.

The final assessment of a project may be considered when assessing its principal investigator if they apply for subsequent programmes to drive biomedical research.

HEADING II.- SPECIFIC PROGRAMME TERMS AND CONDITIONS

11.- “LÓPEZ ALBO” POST-RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

11.1. Goal

The goal of the “López Albo” Post-Residency Programme is to recruit healthcare professionals with excellent profiles, who have finished their specialist training at any hospital of the National Health System, to the translational and innovative healthcare research of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital and its area of influence.

The overall goals of the programme are:

a) training the candidate, and fostering, retaining, and attracting talent.
b) internationalisation.
c) developing research and innovation projects, and introducing innovation in healthcare.

11.2. Contractual relationship

A temporary employment contract will be formalised with the selected applicants to a scientific or technical research project.

Contracted personnel will be subject to the incompatibility regulations of Law 53/1984, of 26 December, Incompatibilities of state employees

11.3. Duration, number, and financial conditions of the contracts

The project must start in the second half of 2018 or the first half of 2019, and may last 18 to 36 months in total. They will all include a minimum of 12 months and maximum of 18 months at internationally recognised centres.

The number of people contracted will be limited to the maximum which can be funded after the selection process, providing they are declared suitable and that the total duration of all the projects awarded in this call is not more than 72 months. Projects will only be funded as a whole, and cannot be altered, except as provided for the Assessment Committee.

11.4. Requirements

11.4.1. Applicant requirements

These contracts are open to holders of specialist qualifications in Health Sciences: MIR, FIR, QIR, PIR, RIR, BIR (hereinafter, specialists qualified by residencies in the National Health System) who finished their training in 2017 or will finish in 2018.

Each applicant may submit only one translational research or healthcare innovation project, and must have sufficient skills in the language of the country or countries where the project will be conducted.

Each applicant must be presented by a receiving service belonging to the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital or any other centre of the Cantabrian Health Service. Each Service or equivalent may present only one candidate, and may not have more than one active Valdecilla Post-Residency contract at the time this call for applicants closes.

11.4.2. Research or healthcare innovation project requirements

The project submitted by the applicant must be classified, both in content and duration, as of interest to the Cantabrian Health Service, and represent a contribution to healthcare and science. It must be explicitly supported by a Service or Unit of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital.

The project may be conducted at one or more leading international centre, or combine these centres with the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, or other centres of the Cantabrian Health Service, including primary care centres. In exceptional cases the leading international centre may be located in Spain.

11.5. Required documentation

The application must be accompanied by the following documentation. No further documentation may be added later, except for corrections relating to identification or official qualifications.

11.5.1. Documentation on the candidate:

The applicant's CV on the CVN FECYT (full) form, available at: https://cvn.fecyt.es/ and on the IDIVAL intranet.

11.5.2. On the centre and service of origin:

a) Report by the applicant specialist's previous medical training service, covering their healthcare activity during their training period.

b) Report by the head or tutor of the Service on the applicant's performance in relation to the activity described in the report, specifying the suitability of the applicant for the research or healthcare innovation project.

c) Report by the head of studies at the centre, on their progress as a Resident.

11.5.3. Documentation on the research or healthcare innovation project:

a) Comprehensive description of the proposed research or healthcare innovation project, including a report, background of the subject, methodology, viability, interest for the Cantabrian Health Service, and its potential contribution to healthcare and science.

b) Record of the research and healthcare history of the receiving Service belonging to the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital or Cantabrian Health Service centre, vouching for the applicant, detailing their publications over the last three years, their research projects, their active lines of research, and the healthcare innovation projects in which they are involved.

c) Document establishing a written commitment to tutoring, by the future tutor of the project, who must belong to a Service of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital; and if applicable a second tutor from the Cantabrian Health Service centre which will collaborate.

d) Acceptance report by the head of the Marqués University Hospital service who will act as tutor to the applicant, specifying their commitment to the research and innovation project and guaranteeing access to patients in aspects relating to the research project.

11.5.4. Documentation on the external centre:

a) Brief description of the external research centre and CV of its receiving service where the research will be conducted.

b) Letter of acceptance to the external centre. Submission of this document may be delayed until the project assessment, although documentation should be provided that at least shows the external stay has been requested at the time of application.

11.6. Selection Committee

A Selection Committee will be constituted, consisting of:

a) The Scientific Director of IDIVAL, or their delegate, who will act as chair.

b) The Management Director of IDIVAL, or their delegate.

c) The General Manager of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, or their delegate.

d) A member of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital proposed by its General Manager.

e) Two external researchers of recognised competence.

f) A member of IDIVAL's Central Support Unit, who will act as non-voting secretary.

11.7. Selection process and criteria

The projects undertaken during the Valdecilla Post-Residency contracts may be subject to public presentation before the Selection Committee. This presentation would take place in a public event announced on the website at least 10 days in advance. The applicant will present the project and their tutor in the receiving service will present the organisational plan for its development in our environment. They will also explain the implications and interest of the project for the service, for the centre, and for the Cantabrian Health Service.

The Selection Committee may propose changes in duration and, if applicable, distribution of the applicants' internal and external periods, and the applicants may express their agreement if they consider them appropriate. This presentation may also serve to test language skills.

After the presentation, the Selection Committee will assess candidates according to the following criteria:

a) Candidate's CV (up to 15 points): participation in research projects, documented doctoral thesis project, scientific publications and national and/or international communications, with special consideration for publications as the first or last author, and periods at recognised healthcare or research centres.

b) Quality and applicability of the research or healthcare innovation project (up to 20 points).

b) Strategic opportunity of the research or healthcare innovation project (up to 25 points). The project's collaboration with primary care will be valued positively.

d) Research and healthcare history of the receiving service supporting the project (up to 20 points).

e) The quality of the chosen foreign centre (up to 20 points).

The chair of the Selection Committee can call the members together to discuss the assessment and deliberation before formalising the final assessment and drafting the final proposal.

12. "GES-VAL" TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH MANAGERS

12.1. Goal

This programme is intended to promote the professional practice and training of technicians in aspects relating to research management and support, by learning about aspects of the management, monitoring and evaluation of IDIVAL's research promotion activities, and about internationalisation and innovation in the field of health sciences and technology.

It calls for applicants for two temporary on-the-job training employment contracts in the field of research and innovation management in health sciences and technologies, to be taken at IDIVAL.

12.2. Contractual relationship

An on-the-job training employment contract will be formalised with the selected applicants, according to Article 11.1 of the Workers' Statute, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2015, of 23 October, approving the consolidated text of the Workers' Statute Law, and related regulations.

Contracted personnel will be subject to the incompatibility regulations of Law 53/1984, of 26 December, on Incompatibilities of state employees.

The salary of the selected candidates in their first year will be 75% of the salary shown in the funding section for workers with second-cycle university qualifications, and 80% in their second year.

The on-the-job training contract will initially be for 12 months from the start date, and can be extended for another 12 months, subject to assessment of the employee's activity.

The trial period will be two months.

The selected candidate will draft a tutored training schedule, with regular assessments and presentation of an annual report (in the last month of each year), with a report from their tutor, which must be positive to earn continued funding.

12.3. Candidate requirements

The Ges-Val programme is open to second-cycle university graduates (master's or bachelor's degree). These qualifications must be official Spanish university degrees. Qualifications obtained abroad must be officially approved by the end of the application period, in accordance with applicable regulations.

The contract can be agreed with holders of the required university qualification as long as, at the date of publication of this call, no more than five years have passed since completing their studies, or seven years in the case of workers with disabilities.

12.4. Required documentation

Applicants must submit the following documentation with their application form:

a) CV in CVN format (full FECYT version), available at: https://cvn.fecyt.es/ and on the IDIVAL intranet.

b) Report on the candidate's proposed activities. This must cover the activities the candidate will perform and include general references to IDIVAL's different areas of support, with a more detailed description of those which best fit the candidate's profile and interests: projects; training and methodology support; clinical trials; technological services; innovation; and general services. For the purposes of the assessment process, the only information considered will be the corresponding CV and reports at the date of application. These must be presented in the required period. Failure to do so will disqualify the application at the admission stage.

c) Copy of the DNI (Spanish ID). Copy of a valid passport only in the case of foreign citizens who are not resident in Spain.

d) Official academic certification of studies, with details of subjects and marks, and copy of the academic qualification if applicable. Certificates issued by foreign centres should also show the maximum and maximum marks in the corresponding assessment system and the minimum pass rate. Academic certificates issued in a language other than Spanish must be accompanied by a sworn translation.

e) Documentary accreditation of the CV information (employment history certificate, candidate credentials, course certificates stating duration of the course, etc.), without which it will not be taken into account.

12.5. Selection Committee

A Selection Committee will be constituted, consisting of:

a) IDIVAL Management Director, acting as chair.

b) IDIVAL Scientific Director.

c) IDIVAL Management Coordinator.

d) Technological Services Coordinator.

d) A researcher designated by the Management Director of IDIVAL.

e) Human Resources and Clinical Research Coordinator, acting as non-voting secretary.

12.6. Selection process and criteria

The following criteria will form part of the assessment:

a) Evaluation of the candidate: up to 50 points.

a.1) Academic record: the average mark of the academic record will be obtained by adding the credits, multiplied by the qualification value of each one, dividing the result by the total number of credits, and applying the following scale: Aprobado (pass) = 1, Notable (good) = 2, Sobresaliente (outstanding) = 3, and Matrícula de Honor (honours) = 4. Only the first two decimals will be counted.

15 points will be assigned to the maximum average mark of the accepted candidates, with the remaining points distributed proportionally.

a.2) CV items (courses over 20 hours, scholarships, contracts, etc.) which should be correctly accredited to be considered: up to 20 points.

a.3) Suitability of the candidate for the proposal: up to 15 points.

b.- Evaluation of the candidate's proposed activities: up to 50 points.

b.1) Quality: up to 10 points.

b.2) Relevance and interest: up to 20 points.

b.3) Viability and opportunity: up to 20 points.

If section b) scores less than 50% of the maximum possible, the application will score a total of zero points and will be rejected.

The Selection Committee may call a maximum of ten of the top-scoring candidates for an interview. The interview will add a maximum of 30 points.

The Selection Committee will establish a short list, ordering favourable applications by score, and will propose the top-scoring candidate. Ties will be decided by the score of the proposal (section b), and if still tied, by alphabetical order of the applicants' names, starting with a letter drawn at random, in accordance with the General Regulations on Government Personnel Hiring.

The Committee may include a list of runners-up by decreasing order of assessment scores. The selection proposal will be reported by IDIVAL's Internal Council before its publication on the IDIVAL website.

13. "SUPPORT IDIVAL" PROGRAMME

13.1. Goal

IDIVAL research groups are the core of biomedical research in Cantabrian healthcare. These groups centralise scientific output and obtain funding through competitive public grants and private funding through contracts, agreements and donations allocated to research projects. The main measurable outputs of their activity are the research funds obtained, publications, and patents.

Group activity outputs must be recognised and supported by IDIVAL. The purpose of this action is to recognise the activity of each research group by awarding funding linked to output, and enhancing this output with additional financial resources, which complement other aid and cover general running costs, among other purposes.

13.2. Applicant research group requirements

This programme is open to research groups which, according to the articles of association and regulations on the organisation and functioning of IDIVAL, form part of IDIVAL in any of the defined categories.

13.3. Required documentation

Groups must submit the annual report on their activity by the established dates. These reports will be the basis for calculating the group's funding. The timely submission of the report is essential for awarding funding. The information which must be provided is indicated in each section of the form available on the IDIVAL platform. Information on scientific output (articles, projects, and doctoral theses) must only include information not shown accurately on the IDIVAL website at the start of the application period.

13.4. Calculating funding

Funding will be calculated based on the output of each group throughout 2017, taking into account aspects such as scientific output, funding obtained by the group and managed by the Institute, and its transference activity, prioritising training and attracting talent, and internationalisation. Calculating funding will require the submission of the group's annual report within the established period. If a group does not submit its report, its share of funding will be distributed among the remaining groups, according to the established criteria.
The amounts assigned to each group will be calculated according to the following criteria:

€100 x (no. D1x20 + no. Q1x7 + no. Q2x3 + no. Q3)* (no. = number of publications with first or last author or the corresponding author in the group, already published in 2017, with volume and page numbers). This includes works in which the position of first, last, or corresponding author is shared. Collaborations will not be calculated.
+

€20 x (no. D1x20 + no. Q1x7 + no. Q2x3 + no. Q3)* (no. = number of publications with first or last author not belonging to the group, already published in 2017, with volume and page numbers). Collaborations will not be calculated.
+
€0.05 x (funding granted in the year managed through IDIVAL. Calculated based on the total amount of competitive projects, including multi-year projects, awarded in 2017). In the case of funding by REDES ISCIII, only the funding granted for each year will be considered, given that it is approved per year. In the case of contracts and agreements, yearly income will be used for the calculation.
+
€500 x (no. doctoral theses by or directed by group members)
+
€1,000 x (membership of RETICS or CIBER, or official international scientific networks)
+
€2,000 x each group researcher who for the first time has a project in the National Plan as principal investigator or co-principal investigator in 2017
+
€2,000 x (number of new applications for patents in 2017, excluding PCTs arising from Spanish applications)
+
€4,000 x Europe-wide project awarded, managed by IDIVAL
+
€2,000 set per group

*D1: journals in the top decile by impact factor; Q1: journals in the top quartile by impact factor excluding those in the top decile; Q2: journals in the second quartile by impact factor; Q3: journals in the third quartile by impact factor.
The final value will be corrected (excluding the set amount per group) by a coefficient to ensure the final total is in line with the programme budget.

13.5. Execution of funding

Once funding has been awarded, a funding pool will be created, to be executed according to the guidelines of the lead researcher of each research group and in accordance with the instructions of IDIVAL's project management. The amount must be executed before 31 December 2019.

14. "NEXT-VAL" PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT NEW RESEARCHERS

14.1. Goal

The specific priority goal of this call for NEXT-VAL research projects is to promote translational research projects in the Cantabrian biomedical

environment, led by new principal investigators who have never led a group receiving a competitive grant.

14.2. Requirements

14.2.1. *Principal investigator requirements*

Participation requires a principal investigator with an employment, civil service, or statutory connection to the Cantabrian Health Service, to the University of Cantabria as an affiliated lecturer working in healthcare, or if not, a member of an IDIVAL research group.

According to the criteria for new researchers of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III Strategic Healthcare Action group, principal investigators must be 45 or under and have never before accessed funding as principal investigator in a project awarded via a national or international call for competitive grants, nor in IDIVAL's Next-Val or Inn-Val calls. Trainee specialists are excluded.

The researcher or researchers responsible for the scientific and technical execution of the project, or the principal investigator, must have a formalised employment, civil service, or statutory connection to the institution where they will be working throughout the period of the project submitted in this call. If this affiliation should disappear during the course of the project, the researcher will have to leave the project and IDIVAL management will have to propose and accept a replacement researcher, or if not, the early closure of the project.

14.2.2. Research team requirements

The research team will consist of at least three people. During the course of the project, apart from the local research team, collaborators employed by other national or international public or private institutions can be included. These people will also have to provide a CV and authorisation from the head of the institution in order to participate in the project. At least half the research team must belong to IDIVAL, the Cantabrian Health Service, or the University of Cantabria.

14.2.3. Other requirements

Principal investigators may participate in only one research project application in this call.

Collaborating researchers cannot participate in more than three active projects in NEXT-VAL programmes from different years.

Projects will not be accepted if they have been funded in IDIVAL calls for the Next-Val or Inn-Val programmes.

Participation in this project is not incompatible with other calls by IDIVAL, except those mentioned above.

14.3. Duration and execution of the projects

NEXT-VAL research projects will have a minimum duration of one year and a maximum of two. The maximum amount to be awarded per project is €25,000. The awarded funding may fund all or part of the project for which the grant is requested. A maximum of €3,000 may be allocated to travel in the execution of each project.

14.4. Required documentation

Applications will be on standardised forms available on the grants platform, accessed through the IDIVAL website. The application must be accompanied by the following documents:

a) CV of each member of the research team, in FECYT format (full version), available from: https://cvn.fecyt.es/ and on the IDIVAL intranet.

b) Research project report including: a structured summary, background and current state of the subject, bibliography, goals, hypothesis, methodology and work plan, resources available for the project, applicability and utility of the expected results, experience of the research personnel in the subject area, and a detailed breakdown of the requested funding and budget.

c) If there is support for the project in an IDIVAL group, this must be explicitly mentioned in the project, with a document included in the report vouched for by the head of the IDIVAL group or a researcher in the group, with a minimum of 2 competitive projects approved in the National R&D Plan.

14.5. Assessment Committee

An Assessment Committee will be constituted, consisting of:

a) IDIVAL Scientific Director, acting as chair.

b) IDIVAL Management Director.

c) Four researchers.

e) Human Resources and Clinical Research Coordinator, acting as non-voting secretary.

14.6. Project assessment

The following aspects will be considered specifically in evaluation:

a) *Evaluation of the research team.*

Scores up to a maximum of 30 points for: scientific and technical record, previous results obtained in the proposed subject area, and complementarity of the team. Higher scores will be given if the principal investigator belongs to Primary Care, Nursing, or other areas which are under-represented in IDIVAL research, if they have a doctoral thesis.

b) Evaluation of the project.

Scores up to a maximum of 70 points for: quality, viability, relevance, translational interest, applicability of the project, and capacity of the project to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment of disease, and patient safety. Alignment with the needs and interests of the Cantabrian Health Service and potential socioeconomic impact of the project. Higher scores will be given for patient studies.

15. "INN-VAL" INNOVATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

15.1. Goal

This programme is intended to encourage innovation in the IDIVAL environment through the partial or total funding of innovation projects facilitating collaboration between the healthcare sector, universities and companies.

15.2. Requirements

15.2.1. Project requirements.

In general, newly developed projects will be considered, which show potential for transfer to the National Health System. Projects may also be partly conducted in the university and in companies. The subject area includes the fields of biomedicine, medical equipment, pharmaceutical technologies, healthcare technologies and sciences, biotechnology, chemical technology and materials applied to human health, and information and communication technologies applied to healthcare.

Innovation projects must be mainly conducted in the Cantabrian public healthcare environment, and must focus on innovation and development in healthcare.

15.2.2. Principal investigator requirements.

Participation requires a principal investigator with an employment, civil service, or statutory connection to IDIVAL, the Cantabrian Health Service, or the University of Cantabria as an affiliated lecturer working in healthcare, or if not, a member of an IDIVAL research group. Trainee specialists are excluded.

The principal investigator must maintain their connection to the above institutions throughout the duration of the project. If this affiliation should disappear during the course of the project, the researcher will have to leave the project and IDIVAL management will have to propose and accept a replacement researcher, or if not, the early closure of the project. Each principal investigator may have a maximum of one active Inn-Val project.

15.2.3. Research team requirements.

The research team will consist of at least three people. People from other national or international institutions may participate. If there is a co-principal investigator, this figure does not need to meet the requirements listed above for the principal investigator. Principal investigators may participate in only one application in this call. Collaborating researchers cannot participate in more than two active projects in Inn-Val programmes from different years.

During the course of the project, apart from the local research team, collaborators from other national or international public or private institutions can be included, and will also have to provide a CV. At least half the research team must belong to IDIVAL, the Cantabrian Health Service, or the University of Cantabria.

15.3. Duration and execution of the projects

Project duration will be 1 to 2 years. The maximum amount to be awarded per project is €25,000. The awarded funding may fund all or part of the project for which the grant is requested.

Subcontracting cannot exceed 40% of the budget of each project. The cost of subcontracting to participating companies cannot be included in the budget. A maximum of €3,000 per project may be allocated to travel.

15.4. Project modalities

All projects submitted must opt for one of the following modalities:

15.4.1. Modality A.

Development of innovative technology in healthcare. Includes development of healthcare products, services, diagnostic tools, medical and/or management software, and new therapies, including medication. Projects relating to ergonomics, usability, and human factors are considered to be of special interest.

15.4.2. Modality B.

Innovation in healthcare. Clinical and/or technological healthcare technology trials, and development, implementation and testing in a clinical environment of new healthcare processes or techniques. For these purposes, healthcare technology is understood to be the set of medical or surgical devices and procedures used in healthcare, including organisational and support systems, especially those used in the treatment of chronic illness and to empower patients for self-care.

15.5. Required documentation

The following documentation is required for this call:

a) Research project report.

This must be submitted on the standard forms available on the IDIVAL website. The report must include a structured summary, background and current state of the subject, bibliography, goals, hypothesis, methodology, timeline and work plan, resources available for the project, applicability and utility of the expected

results, experience of the research personnel in the subject area, feasibility of protecting the results and bringing them to the market, and a detailed breakdown of the requested funding (budget). In the case of collaboration and affiliation with companies or other public or private bodies, the report should also include their interest in the project's development and results, a description of their expertise and experience, and a definition of their role and contribution.

b). Standard CV.

To be provided on the CVN FECYT (full version) form, available at: https://cvn.fecyt.es/ and on the IDIVAL intranet, for the members of the research team

c) Participation by companies.

In the case of participation by companies, a written statement signed by a company representative explaining their knowledge of the project and interest in participating.

Statements of interest by companies, scientific institutions or societies, or patient associations not participating in the project, will also be accepted.

15.6. Assessment procedure

15.6.1. Evaluation of the research team.

Scores up to a maximum of 30 points for: scientific and technical record, previous results obtained in the proposed subject area, and complementarity of the team. Positive scores will be given to co-direction of the project or the simultaneous participation of researchers from the healthcare sector and/or IDIVAL with technological researchers from the University of Cantabria, and the participation of companies, scientific institutions or societies, or patient associations.
Positive scores will also be given to new principal investigators who, in accordance with the new researcher criteria of the Instituto de Salud Carlos III Strategic Healthcare Action group, must be aged 45 or under at the date of publication of this call; or if the project is led by personnel from nursing and/or primary care, and other under-represented areas in IDIVAL research.

15.6.2. Evaluation of the project.

Scores up to a maximum of 70 points for: quality; viability; relevance; interest; capacity of the project to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment of disease, and patient safety; alignment with the needs and interests of the Cantabrian Health Service; and potential socioeconomic impact. Priority will be given to new projects with no previous funding. Projects in the technology development modality (point 15.4.1 of the call) will score higher for project applicability and transferability (existence or potential development of patents).

15.7. ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

An Assessment Committee will be constituted, consisting of:

a) IDIVAL Scientific Director, acting as chair.

b) IDIVAL Management Director.

e) Four innovation experts.

e) Human Resources and Clinical Research Coordinator, acting as non-voting secretary.

16. RESEARCHER CONCENTRATION PROGRAMME

16.1. Goal

The goal of this programme is to release working doctors and nurses with heavy research and/or innovation workloads from their other duties by part-time or full-time substitution. The activity covered by this substitution includes developing research projects or launching healthcare innovation programmes, such as new diagnostic or therapeutic techniques, launching technological platforms (computer programmes, new infrastructure), new procedures, technology imports, new training techniques, development of spin-off companies linked to research, etc., which require intensive dedication and are incompatible with full-time work.

16.2. Modalities

Modality A. Competitive concentration. Funded by this programme.

Modality B. Self-directed concentration. Funded by private funds provided by the researchers.

16.3. Beneficiaries

Applicants to this programme must be healthcare professionals, doctors or nurses from the Cantabrian Health Service, who do not have simultaneous concentration schemes active in other programmes, including primary care and hospital care.

The heads of services or equivalents can only opt for concentration in modality A if a report is provided from the management of their centre stating they have a healthcare workload equivalent to at least 3 days a week.

Modality A of this programme will be funded from the specific programme budget for 2018, with an estimated sum of €120,000 for funding this programme.

16.4. Financial resources and research periods

16.4.1. Modality A.

A maximum financial input of €60,000 per specialist doctor and €30,000 per nurse switching to concentrated research is available for work replacement, corresponding to an approximate 1-year contract for a replacement specialist doctor or nurse.
The concentration period must begin in 2018 or the first half of 2019. Concentration periods can be requested in two consecutive calls but cannot be extended further.

16.4.2. Modality B.

In this modality, the cost of replacement will be borne by the private funds of researchers at the institute, which must be fully available at the time of application, via a monthly amount corresponding to the replacement contract for the requested healthcare personnel. Concentration periods range from 1 month to 1 year, which can be extended.

This programme is compatible with continuing to draw a salary, working evening shifts, or receiving other grants. It is not compatible with a simultaneous concentration grant. The researcher's healthcare activity will be totally or partly substituted by a professional recruited for this purpose.

The funds will be transferred to a specific "concentration" item in section I of the Cantabrian Health Service budget, to be used for substituting personnel concentrating on research.

16.5. Required documentation

Applications will be made via the IDIVAL platform using the standard form available on the website. The following documents are required:

16.5.1. CV of the applicant.

On the CVN FECYT form (full version, available at: https://cvn.fecyt.es/.) detailing scientific publications and research projects funded in competitive calls, patents and innovation projects in which they have participated.

16.5.2. Report on the activity to be conducted during the concentration period.

Detailing its duration, the work to be done, including research or innovation tasks, and the healthcare work justifying the switch to concentration, indicating whether the plan is to perform them simultaneously. Description of coordination in the working environment, potential collaborators, and available resources. Timeline including proposed start and end dates, and the expected results and impact on patients, the service, the institution, and society. A concentration period of 6 months to 1 year must be specified.

16.5.3. Favourable reports.

From the head or coordinator of the Service/Unit, the medical manager or director, and nursing management when the request is for nursing personal, specifying the interest of the concentration for the Cantabrian Health Service and the suitability of the applicant. In the case of affiliated university lecturers, a favourable report will be required from their department director at the University.

16.5.4. Funding availability report.

In the case of modality B (self-directed concentration), the research activity report (point 16.5.2.) must indicate the origin of the funds, the amount expected for the programme, and written authorisation of the use of these funds by their manager, if this is not the same person requesting the concentration.

Applications to extend the concentration period in modality B must include the documents in points 16.5.2, 16.5.3, and 16.5.4.

16.6. Assessment of applications

Applications submitted to modality A of the programme will be assessed externally, taking into account at least the following aspects:

16.6.1. Research trajectory.

Active research and innovation projects, and especially international projects (with special consideration for output and projects obtained in the last four years). Maximum 30 points.

16.6.2. Quality of the future project.

An appropriate description of the state of the art, coordination in the working environment, potential collaborators, timeline, expected results and impact on the institution and on society. Maximum 40 points.

16.6.3. Strategic interest in concentration.

To be assessed through a report by the managing director of the Centre, the evaluation of the Service head/coordinator, and a report by IDIVAL's Internal Scientific Council. Belonging to an IDIVAL group will be considered a guarantee of the correct execution of the concentration programme. Maximum 30 points.

Priority will be given to candidates who have not previously benefited from IDIVAL's concentration programmes.

Applications submitted to modality B (self-directed concentration) will be assessed by IDIVAL's Internal Scientific Council.

16.7. Follow-up

A follow-up report must be submitted within the first two months after the period ends, and may be considered for any new applications.

In modality B, the concentration period may be extended if requested in writing at least 1 month before the scheduled end date.

17. MENTORING PROGRAMME

17.1. Goal

The mentoring programme for resident doctors is intended to attract new clinical professionals in training, ambitious young people striving for excellence, and as a channel for high quality, personalised specialist healthcare training which prioritises research.

17.2. Candidate requirements

Candidates in 2018 must choose the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital as their specialist training centre in the National Health System - MIR, FIR, QIR, PIR, RIR or BIR, this year, and have an order number in the top 5% of the selected places in each of the programmes offered (MIR, FIR, QIR, PIR, RIR, and BIR). The corresponding Service head must accept the resident's participation in this programme.

17.3. Funding

From the second year, candidates will have a pool of €8,000 for research activities, to be managed according to IDIVAL's project management regulations.

17.4. Characteristics of the programme

The mentoring programme will begin in the second year and will include the following elements:

17.4.1. *Mentor*

The candidate will have a mentor proposed by IDIVAL's scientific management, as agreed with the head of the specialist Service, who will monitor the progress of the residency with special attention to research.

17.4.2. Training schedule

Starting in the second year, IDIVAL management, together with the Training Coordinator of the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital and as agreed with the head of the specialist Service, will propose specific research training, which may include specific rotations inside and outside the Hospital. This includes attending research seminars, the doctorate programme, etc.

17.4.3. Institutional presence

The candidate will be invited regularly to the meetings of the Teaching Committee and the Internal Scientific Council in order to monitor their training.

17.4.4. Doctoral Thesis

The resident must make progress on their doctoral thesis during the residency.

17.4.5. Access to other programmes

The candidate will have access to other IDIVAL programmes, such as the NEXT-VAL and Post-Residency programmes, which will be compatible with the mentoring programme.

17.5. Required documentation

The candidate must submit the following documentation via the IDIVAL platform:

a) Written statement indicating their interest in joining the mentoring programme and explaining their reasons.
b) Written statement by the head of the Service vouching for the candidate joining the programme.
c) CV in any format.

17.6. Assessment

The application will be assessed by the Internal Scientific Council, which will check that the candidate meets all requirements.

18. "INPLANT" INTRODUCTION PROGRAMME

18.1. Goal

The Inplant programme, which introduces new specialists with recognised research trajectories into our Hospital, is designed as a way to capture new clinical practitioners coming from other centres, with a recognised research and healthcare trajectory, who join the management of a Service or Section, in order to significantly increase the high quality research and care workforce at the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital.

18.2. Requirements

Researchers joining the programme must have a notable healthcare trajectory of at least 5 years as specialists and researchers.

At the time of application the candidate must have already taken their post at the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital, having come from another centre, and have accepted a place as head of Service or Section at the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital in the last 3 months.

18.3. Funding

IDIVAL offers the researcher a fund for research projects of at least €100,000, and may match the amount of research funds that the researcher contributes to IDIVAL at the time of signing the contract (without exceeding €300,000 in all cases), for use in, at most, the first five years of their contract with the Hospital.

18.4. Required documentation

Within the first three months of the new specialist joining the Marqués de Valdecilla University Hospital as head of Service or Section, the candidate must submit the following documentation via the IDIVAL platform:

a) Written statement explaining the candidate's interest in joining the INPLANT programme.
b) CV of the candidate.
c) Proposed scientific programme to be developed over the next 5 years.

18.5. Assessment

The candidate will be assessed for inclusion in the programme by IDIVAL's Internal Scientific Council, which will consider the candidate's healthcare, teaching, research and management experience, and the project to be developed over their first 5 years.

They will consider aspects such as clinical experience, research experience, and high quality innovation, according to the standards of each medical and surgical specialist area. Expertise in clinical research and transference will also be considered very positively.

18.6. Characteristics of the programme

Entrance to the programme gives automatic access to the resources indicated in this call, which will be available from January 2019.

Entrance to the programme also involves the following aspects:

18.6.1. Directing an IDIVAL Research Group.

The candidate and the members of the research group being considered will have preferential access to assessment by IDIVAL's External Scientific Council in order to create a research group, if necessary.

18.6.2. Spaces provided.

The candidate will have laboratory space and a study area, if required, and immediate access to IDIVAL's technological services.

18.6.3. Institutional presence

The candidate will be invited regularly to the meetings of the Internal Scientific Council.

18.7. Monitoring and finalisation of the programme

The INPLANT programme will have a maximum of 5 years to dispose of the available funds. If the beneficiary leaves the centre, the remaining funds will be withdrawn.

The selected researcher must submit an annual report in the last two months of each year. If they reach a position of responsibility within the group, the group's annual report will be enough for monitoring grants.

19. "PRIM-VAL" PRIMARY CARE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

19.1. Goal

This programme is intended to encourage research and innovation in primary care at IDIVAL, by partial or total funding of projects in this sphere.

19.2. Requirements

19.2.1. Project requirements

In general, research and innovation projects will be considered, with subjects relating to the field of primary care, preferably patient care, chronic disease, and highly prevalent diseases.

Projects must be mainly conducted in the Cantabrian public healthcare environment, and must focus on research, innovation and development in healthcare.

19.2.2. Principal investigator requirements

The project's principal investigator will be a healthcare professional (doctor, nurse, or another kind) working in Primary Care within the Cantabrian Health Service. Trainee specialists are excluded.

The principal investigator must maintain their employment relationship throughout the duration of the project. If this affiliation should disappear during the course of the project, the researcher will have to leave the project and IDIVAL management will have to propose and accept a replacement researcher, or if not, the early closure of the project.

19.2.3. Research team requirements

People from other national or international institutions may participate in the research team. If there is a co-principal investigator, this figure does not need to meet the requirements listed above for the principal investigator. Principal investigators may participate in only one application in this call.

During the course of the project, apart from the local research team, collaborators from other national or international public or private institutions can be included, and will also have to provide a CV. At least half the research team must belong to IDIVAL, the Cantabrian Health Service, or the University of Cantabria.

19.3. Funding and duration

This programme is funded from the IDIVAL budget. The estimated amount to fund the programme in this call is €30,000. Project duration will be 1 year and may be extended. The maximum amount to be awarded per project is €15,000. The awarded funding may fund all or part of the project for which the grant is requested.

Subcontracting cannot exceed 40% of the budget of each project. The cost of subcontracting to participating companies cannot be included in the budget.

A maximum of €2,000 per project may be allocated to travel.

19.4. Required documentation

The following documentation is required for this call:

19.4.1. *Research project report*

The report must include a structured summary, background and current state of the subject, bibliography, goals, hypothesis, methodology, timeline and work plan, resources available for the project, applicability and utility of the expected results, experience of the research personnel in the subject area, feasibility of protecting the results and bringing them to the market, and a detailed breakdown of the requested funding (budget). This must be submitted on the standard forms available for this purpose. In the case of collaboration and affiliation with companies or other public or private bodies, the report should also include their interest in the project's development and results, a description of their expertise and experience, and a definition of their role and contribution.

19.4.2. Standard CV

On the CVN FECYT form (full version available at: https://cvn.fecyt.es/) for research team members.

Statements of interest by companies, scientific institutions or societies, or patient associations not participating in the project, will also be accepted as part of the documentation.

19.5. Assessment

19.5.1. Evaluation of the research team

Scores up to a maximum of 30 points for: scientific and technical record, previous results obtained in the proposed subject area, and complementarity of the team. Higher scores will also be awarded for young principal investigators (aged under 40 at the close of the call).

19.5.2. Evaluation of the project

Scores up to a maximum of 30 points for: quality; viability; relevance; interest; capacity of the project to improve prevention, diagnosis, treatment of disease, and patient safety; alignment with the needs and interests of the Cantabrian Health Service; and potential socioeconomic impact. Priority will be given to new projects with no previous funding.

The assessment will be performed by a specific Committee appointed as proposed by the IDIVAL Internal Scientific Council.

20. PREDOCTORAL MOBILITY PROGRAMME

20.1. Goal

This programme is designed to encourage mobility among personnel with pre-doctoral contracts in a joint call by IDIVAL-University of Cantabria, by funding travel and short stays at other centres.

20.2. Requirements

20.1.1. Beneficiary requirements

The beneficiary must have an active pre-doctoral contract at the time of application and at the time of travel or stay, obtained through the IDIVAL-University of Cantabria joint call, and must have completed a period of nine months or more as a beneficiary of the contract at the time the stay begins.

20.1.2. Stay requirements.

Activities during the stay, whether in research laboratories, consulting diverse bibliographic and documentary holdings, learning new instrumental techniques and other fieldwork, must be considered significant and beneficial for the purposes of the grants awarded, and should not delay the finalisation of their doctorate. Ordinary activities required by the graduate training programme and normal work on the thesis are specifically excluded.

20.3. Conditions of the programme

20.3.1. Duration and dates

The trip or stay cannot be for more than 12 weeks. Requested stays must begin before June 2019 and must always be taken within the grant validity period. Stays not begun before that date will be cancelled.

20.3.2. Number of grants per contracted person

A maximum of three short stays can be taken over the 48-month period, for a combined maximum total of 9 months. They cannot be taken in the last 6 months of the maximum 48-month period of the grant, unless the thesis has already been presented.

20.4. Documents to be submitted:

a) Detailed report: The report must contain the purpose of the stay, work plan, information on the receiving centre relating to the purpose of the stay, and the expected budget.

b) Report by the director of the doctoral thesis: This must provide reasons for the desirability of the stay.

b) Accreditation of acceptance by the receiving centre.

20.5. Funding and duration

This programme is funded from the IDIVAL budget. The estimated amount to fund the programme in this call is €40,000.

Grants are intended to subsidise the costs of registration, travel, accommodation and living expenses arising exclusively from the activity to be undertaken during the stay. Registrations, travel, and accommodation will be managed by IDIVAL, according to its internal research project management regulations.

The maximum amount to be awarded per stay is €3,000.

20.6. Assessment

20.6.1. Evaluation of the programme of activities

Points will be awarded for utility of the stay for the beneficiary's training and the development of their doctoral thesis, as well as any synergies with the lines of research of the thesis director. Up to a maximum of 60 points.

20.6.2. Quality of the centre

The prestige of the centre and the receiving team will be evaluated. Up to a maximum of 40 points.

20.7. Follow-up

Within the first two months after the end of the stay, the beneficiary must submit a descriptive report of their activity, approved by the thesis director.

Santander, 5 February 2018

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Signed - Francisco Galo Peralta Fernández