



Universitat
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The new building for Biomedicine will receive 4 million Euros in funding and will be finished in 2010

The Commissioner for Universities and Research Blanca Palmada made this announcement during the inauguration of the animal house and the new anatomy room at the Faculty of Medicine. Palmada added that this investment "will help to complete the Biomedicine project at UdL."

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Carne Piñol, Joan Viñas i Blanca Palmada a
l'estabulari

The Commissioner for Universities and Research Blanca Palmada announced that the Generalitat government will contribute with 4 million Euros "to complete the Biomedicine project at UdL". The funding comes from ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) resources administered by the Catalan government, which will help to finish the Biomedicine research building that is being constructed next to Arnau de Vilanova University Hospital. UdL Rector Joan Viñas declared that this financial support will allow UdL "to finish construction works in 2010".

This announcement coincided with the confirmation that the degree in Biomedicine will be taught at UdL next academic year. In Palmada's words, this is "an ambitious and legitimate endeavour from the University of Lleida". The Commissioner opened the new anatomy room at the Faculty of Medicine and the second biggest animal room housing rodents in Catalonia, which is located in the annex module of the Teaching Unit at

the Faculty of Medicine.

The animal room will result in an improvement in both research and teaching in the Biomedicine area. It will be able to host over 60,000 animals, most of which will be genetically modified.

This high level equipment will allow research groups at UdL and the Lleida Biomedical Research Institute to advance in their research on several diseases (diabetes, cancer, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Alzheimer, Parkinson, etc.), experiment with stem cells, and test on drugs before they going out into the market. These facilities will also make it possible to carry out studies on nutrition and food technology in collaboration with the School of Agricultural Engineering (ETSEA).

The animal room has an area of 1,200 square metres, which are distributed in two floors. It includes normal housing zones, zones for pathogen-free animals, laboratories, a quarantine area, operating rooms, necropsy rooms, a cleaning area with a special air shower, warehouses and a technical control area. There will be high safety measures to avoid contamination from both rodents and research works.

The new animal room is part of the Science and Technology Services at UdL, but it is also open to research groups from other universities, to public or private institutions and to companies interested in using the human and technological potential that it offers. The University of Lleida expects to attract researchers from other universities as well as funding for its projects. The first step will be to open this offer to external users of the Agri-Food Science and Technology Park (PCiTAL), with the aim of the creation of spin-off companies for UdL and the city of Lleida.

■ New anatomy room

The Faculty of Medicine at UdL also inaugurated its new anatomy room, measuring almost 180 square metres, so that first- and second-year students can carry out their dissection practices. Each year some 250 students will benefit from the anatomy room, which is located in the basement and substitutes the one that was functioning since 1991. Over 400,000 Euros were invested in its construction, a fact that makes it one of the most modern anatomy rooms in Spain.

There will be especially improved systems for ventilation and preservation of bodies in refrigerated chambers. The room has laminar flow devices on dissection tables that propel formal vapours towards the extractor fans located under the counter. Besides the refrigerated and freezing chambers, they also include a crane to transport bodies, a propelled carrier, a peristaltic pump and a bone-cutting saw..

The new anatomy room at the Health Sciences campus is divided into two spaces: one for the preparation of bodies and another for student practices. The latter has four fixed tables and a rotating one. Medicine students will carry out their practices in six groups of 20 people each.

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