

PROJECT

# HIVACAR

## A functional cure for HIV with immunotherapy

The IDIBAPS and the Hospital Clinic of Barcelona lead a European project aimed at changing the current paradigm of HIV treatment by obtaining a functional cure. Although there are several prevention strategies that are effective, they are difficult to maintain in the long term. Achieving a functional cure would cause patients to become carriers of the virus at undetectable levels, and although prevention measures would still be necessary, the risk of transmission would be minimized. ZABALA participates in the coordination and management of this ambitious initiative.



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14

PARTNERS

€ 6.7 M

BUDGET

37

M PEOPLE SUFFER FROM HIV IN THE WORLD

2

M PEOPLE IS INFECTED WITH VIH EVERY YEAR



### IN ONE CLICK

Coordinator	Programme	Period
IDIBAPS Y HOSPITAL CLÍNIC	HORIZON 2020	2017-2021
Sector	Web	
HEALTH	<a href="#">HIVACAR project website</a>	

01

### The Challenge

The functional cure of HIV is one of **the main challenges** in the fight against it. Achieving a **functional cure** would cause patients to become carriers of the virus at undetectable levels, and although prevention measures would still be necessary, the risk of transmission would be minimized.

02

### Solutions

In order to achieve this functional cure, the **HIVACAR project proposes** the **administration** of a combination of immunotherapy that **includes** therapeutic vaccines (one of them customized for each patient to avoid the capability of the virus to escape from the vaccine), a **potent antibody** with the capacity to neutralize the site of binding of the virus with the cells that it infects and a latency reversing agent, that is, a molecule with the ability to unmask the virus.

03

### Impacts

It will be done within the framework of a Phase II clinical trial, to test the combination's safety and tolerability. **It will be determined** whether this combination is capable of **activating the immune system mechanisms** necessary to remove infected cells from the latent viral reservoir. The socioeconomic and psychosocial impact of this treatment will also be analyzed. The main goal is to control HIV replication over long periods of time or throughout life without antiretroviral treatment.