



# Parkinson Disease and Movement Disorders

## Group leader

Kulisevsky Bojarski, Jaime (FGS)

## Researchers

Aracil Bolaños, Ignacio (FGS)  
 Campolongo Perillo, Antonia (FGS)  
 García Sánchez, Carmen (FGS)  
 Gironell Carrero, Alexandre (FGS)  
 Horta Barba, Andrea (IR)  
 Martínez Horta, Saül Indra (FGS)  
 Olmedo Saura, Gonzalo (IR)  
 Pagonabarraga Mora, Javier (FGS)  
 Pascual Sedano, Berta M (FGS)  
 Pérez Pérez, Jesús (FGS)  
 Ruiz Barrio, Iñigo (IR)  
 Sampedro Santaló, Frederic (FGS)  
 Vázquez Oliver, Anna (CIBER)

## Research technicians

Alonso del Olmo, Gloria (IR)  
 Berzosa González, Irene (IR)  
 Bojtos, Lídia (IR)  
 Bonavita, Sofía (IR)  
 Burgos Renedo, María (IR)  
 Fernández Vizuete, Cristina (IR)  
 Franch Martí, Carla (IR)  
 Pérez Carasol, Laura (IR)  
 Pla Sánchez, Mónica (IR)  
 Pons Pons, Gràcia (IR)  
 Puig Daví, Arnau (IR)  
 Rivas Asensio, Elisa María (IR)  
 Rodríguez Salgueiro, Sílvia (IR)  
 Rodríguez-Antigüedad Muñoz, Jon (IR)  
 Rubio Romera, Margarita (IR)  
 Salvat Rovira, Nil (IR)  
 Socarrás Arredondo, María Andrea (IR)  
 Soler Almendros, Judit (IR)



## DESCRIPTION

Led by Jaime Kulisevsky MD, PhD, and based at the Movement Disorders Unit of Sant Pau Hospital and the Biomedical Research Institute, the group focuses on Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, atypical parkinsonisms, tremor, and other movement disorders. Priority lines include the study of neuronal mechanisms underlying cognitive impairment and neuropsychiatric symptoms, the development of specific diagnostic tools, and the analysis of pharmacological responses using neuroimaging, neuropsychology, clinical assessment, brain stimulation, genetics, and fluid biomarkers, among others.

## MAIN LINES OF RESEARCH

- Research on cognitive impairment, behavioural dysfunctions, and other motor and non-motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease, using neurophysiological and neuroimaging techniques to identify biomarkers and to develop disease-specific tools for cognitive and functional assessment. (Kulisevsky Bojarski, Jaime; Pagonabarraga Mora, Javier; Pascual Sedano, Berta M).
- Investigation of clinical progression, cognitive phenotypes, and biomarkers in Huntington's disease, both in premanifest and manifest stages, through international cohort studies, multimodal neuroimaging, and the analysis of large-scale databases. (Martínez Horta, Saul Indra; Pérez Pérez, Jesús).



- Development of specific cognitive assessment tools for progressive supranuclear palsy and study of the neural correlates of clinical progression, cognitive decline, and behavioural alterations. (Pagonabarraga Mora, Javier).
- Clinical, neurophysiological, and neuroimaging characterisation of essential tremor, aimed at improving diagnostic accuracy and understanding disease mechanisms. (Gironell Carrero, Alexandre ).

## SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES

- 1. Parkinson's Disease (PD)

### General

COPPDIS: Cohort of Patients with Parkinson's Disease in Spain (national collaborative study).

- Intensification for Specialist Physicians of the "Strategic Research and Innovation Plan" (PERIS) Expedient Number: SLT008 / 18.

### Cognition

DuoCog: randomised, double blind and crossed study (immediate levodopa vs. intraduodenal in cognition and mood).

- Neuropsychiatric disorders.
- Prospective study: new method of music therapy in apathy and depression.
- Choral singing in patients with PD. Study on its effects on apathy and depression.
- Effects of Mindfulness on the Presence and Development of TCI.
- Natural history and neural correlates of psychotic symptoms in PD patients.

### Advanced PD

Nutritional analysis in patients with intraduodenal levodopa.

- Prospective study of cognitive, behavioural, sleep and quality of life in patients with deep brain stimulation (DBS) and intraduodenal levodopa.
- Prospective study of patient satisfaction after DBS.

- Subthalamic DBS study in PD: Functional reorganisation of brain networks and repercussions on postsurgical complications.
- Monitoring the mobility using a sensor in fluctuating PD for therapeutic purposes. Multicenter Clinical Trial (INV-PROC-A118).
- 2. Huntington's Disease (HD).
  - Coordination of the "Cognitive Phenotype Working Group" (European Huntington's Disease Network).
  - Spanish Coordination of Enroll-HD: A Prospective Registry Study in a Global Huntington's Disease Cohort (PI in Spain: J. Kulisevsky)
  - Validation of cognitive (HD-CRS) and functionality (HD-CFRS) scales.
  - Development and validation of new tools for cognitive and functional assessment of cognitive impairment in HD.
- 3. Tremor
  - Development of a tremor diagnostic system using a mobile app and software. Joint project with the Mediktor company.
    - Perampanel in essential tremor. "Real life" study.
- 4. Other neurodegenerative diseases
  - Neural correlates of hypofrontality in different subtypes of progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP).
    - Neuropsychiatric and behavioural symptoms in PSP subtypes.
    - FXTAS: collaborative research with Genetics from Hospital Clínic (Barcelona) and Associació Catalana X Fràgil (ACXF).
    - Collaboration with GEMT-CAT (Movement Disorders Group Catalan Neurology Society) in the Consensus Document on Genetics in Movement Disorders.
- 5. Neuroimaging and data engineering
  - Dynamic connectivity models in cognitive impairment in PD. In collaboration with Center for Brain and Cognition, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona.



- Neuroimaging and neurophysiology of hallucinations in PD: Project: "Unravelling dysfunctional brain networks in patients with Parkinson's disease suffering from hallucinations", in collaboration with Prof. Blanke, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland.
- Effects of dopaminergic treatment of PD on neurocognitive networks. Collaborative study with Hospital del Mar, Barcelona.
- Functional and structural brain correlates in HD: cognition, apathy, depression, irritability, biomarkers, oxytocin levels. Collaborative study with Hospital de Burgos (HUBU).
- Analysis of collaborative databases ("big-data"): ENROLL (EH), PPMI (EP), COPPADIS (EP).
- Analysis of local databases: PSP, EH, EP.
- 6. Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders' laboratory
- Processing, biobanking and biomarker analyses of human liquid biological samples (plasma, serum, CSF and urine) from different movement disorders.
  - Development and optimisation of methods for extracellular vesicle isolation from different biofluids in movement disorders.
  - Identification of molecular signatures in brain, plasma, CSF and urine extracellular vesicles in Huntington's disease to improve disease prognosis and stratification of patients in clinical trials.
  - To explore the clinical utility of the determination of tau and phosphorylated alpha-synuclein in skin tissue, for the early and differential diagnosis of Atypical Parkinsonian Syndromes.
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- Kulisevsky Bojarski, Jaime. Investigación y desarrollo de una nueva terapia para el tratamiento de la enfermedad de Huntington. CPP2022-009575. Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MICIIN). Duration: 2023-2026. 312.446,20 €
- Kulisevsky Bojarski, Jaime. Contratos para la intensificación de la actividad investigadora en el Sistema Nacional de Salud 2023. INT23/00090. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII). Duration: 2023-2024. 30.000,00 €
- Olmedo Saura, Gonzalo. Contratos Río Hortega 2024. CM24/00023. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII). Duration: 2025-2027. 65.000,00 €
- Ruiz Barrio, Iñigo. Contratos Río Hortega 2022. CM22/00072. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII). Duration: 2023-2024. 65.000,00 €

## ACTIVE & AWARDED GRANTS

- Aracil Bolanos, Ignacio. Contratos Juan Rodés 2022. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (ISCIII). Duration: 2023-2026. 180.000,00 €
- García Sánchez, Carmen. Dramatitzant la salut: el paper del teatre per al benestar emocional,

## DOCTORAL THESES DEFENDED

- Campolongo Perillo, Antonia. Infusión intestinal continua de levodopa/carbidopa en la enfermedad de Parkinson: factores concomitantes digestivos que influyen en su eficacia y seguridad. 16/10/2024.



- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.  
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- España Irla, María Goretti. Relationship between cardiorespiratory fitness, cognition, structural and functional brain health in middle-aged adults. 21/02/2024. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Supervisors: Morris, Timothy P.; Albu, Sergiu; Kulisevsky Bojarski, Jaime. <https://hdl.handle.net/10803/691592>
  - Horta Barba, Andrea. Desarrollo y validación de nuevas herramientas para la evaluación cognitiva en la enfermedad de Huntington. 20/02/2024. Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Supervisors: Kulisevsky Bojarski, Jaime; Pagonabarraga Mora, Javier. <https://hdl.handle.net/10803/691596>.

## SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

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