

Arnau Busquets Garcia, PhD

Arnau Busquets-Garcia is a Group Leader at the Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute within the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), where he heads the research group *Cellular Mechanisms in Physiological and Pathological Behavior*. He completed his PhD (2009–2013) as a predoctoral researcher in the Neuropharmacology Group at Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona). His doctoral thesis, focused on how cannabis and the endocannabinoid system modulate brain function and behavior, received the Award for Best PhD Thesis from the Royal Academy of Doctors of Spain, as well as prizes from Biogen-Idec and the Esteve Foundation. Following his PhD, Arnau spent six years as a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of Dr. Giovanni Marsicano at NeuroCentre Magendie (Bordeaux, France), where he continued investigating the effects of cannabis on brain function using animal models. Arnau has authored over 40 peer-reviewed publications, providing evidence for cell-type-specific mechanisms regulating behavior in mice. As an early-stage Group Leader, he was awarded an ERC Starting Grant and has received additional funding from IBRO, the BBVA Foundation, “la Caixa” Foundation, and the Spanish Research Agency. He is actively engaged in science outreach, regularly giving talks at schools and public libraries in Barcelona. He has also contributed to the organization of major scientific events, including the IBRO conference in Granada and the Neurobiology Symposium of the Societat Catalana de Biologia. In addition, he is a member of the Spanish Youth Academy, where he participates in mentoring and training activities for early-career researchers. His current research focuses on deciphering the neural circuits underlying physiological and pathological socio-cognitive behaviors.