

## IBUB – Bioinformatics Unit

Computational biology plays a strategically important role in the Institute. IBUB's bioinformatics unit was created in 2009 to boost activities in this broad field. At present it hosts two emerging groups, headed by Josep F. Abril and Xavier Barril, respectively.

### Computational Genomics – Josep F. Abril, PhD



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Josep F. Abril is a Lecturer and Research Assistant at Genetics Department of Universitat de Barcelona. He defended his PhD thesis in May 2005, at Universitat Pompeu Fabra. In 2006 he moved to the lab of Dr. Emili Saló as a Juan de la Cierva Post-Doctoral fellow; the same year he earned the Lecturer position at Genetics Department. His main research interests are: the computational analysis of the exonic structure of eukaryotic genes, including the study of the signals involved in the mechanism of splicing and gene prediction; the integration of high-throughput evidences from genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics; and the visualization of annotation features. He developed tools for genomic features annotations. He took part on the whole-genome analysis of some eukaryota, including human, fruit-fly, mosquito, mouse and rat. On this regard, he is currently collaborating on the analysis and annotation of planarian, a model organism for regeneration studies, sequences from different *omics* projects. He was also involved on several gene-finding accuracy assessments, such as GASP, EGASP, and more recently RGASP. He has co-authored more than 20 publications, including research papers, application notes and a couple of book chapters. He also has coordinated and taught several undergraduate and master subjects.

Further information available at the group's web page: <http://compgen.bio.ub.es/>

### Computational Biology & Drug Design – Xavier Barril, PhD



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Xavier Barril is an ICREA Research Professor at Barcelona University's School of Pharmacy. In 2001 he earned his Ph. D. from the University of Barcelona (Spain) for theoretical studies on the ligand-receptor molecular recognition process. He then joined the Applications Modelling team at Vernalis (Cambridge, UK). In his role as Molecular Modeller he was involved in a range of projects, mainly in the oncology area, including the discovery and optimization of Hsp90 inhibitors currently licensed to Novartis. In 2004 he was promoted to Senior Scientist. In October 2005 he was appointed ICREA Research Professor and moved back to academia. His main research interests are the chemical validation of new therapeutic targets, the integration of experimental and computational techniques for drug design, and methodological developments in the field of structure-based drug discovery. He has co-authored more than 40 publications, including research papers, reviews and book chapters, as well as a number of patents

Further information available at the group's web page: <http://www.ub.edu/cbdd/>