We Are

ISGlobal

Barcelona Institute for Global Health
“In an interdependent world, health is a global issue that transcends geographical and political boundaries. Our commitment to improving the health of all people and ensuring greater equity is implemented through the generation, dissemination and translation of scientific knowledge.”

A team of over 500 people from 40 countries

Collaborations in more than 60 countries

600 scientific papers published every year

15 patents/software registrations

Over 700 professionals trained every year
ISGlobal’s mission is to promote health equity through excellence in research and the translation and application of knowledge. Our vision is a world in which all people, especially the most vulnerable, can enjoy good health.

The aim of ISGlobal’s value chain is to create a virtuous circle of knowledge, action and impact on health.
Research is the backbone of ISGlobal’s work. We do multidisciplinary and translational research in many fields—ranging from molecular biology to clinical research and public health.

ISGlobal is accredited as a Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence and is a member of CERCA, the Catalan Government’s network of research centres. Our scientific activity is based on a 3 x 3 approach in which our three strategic research areas, which encompass nine research programmes, are reinforced by three cross-disciplinary groups with a strong focus on cutting-edge methods and technologies.

MALARIA AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- **Malaria.** We generate scientific knowledge and evidence. Our work in malaria covers the whole spectrum from basic science to operational research on the implementation of interventions undertaken to reduce and, ultimately, eliminate malaria.

- **Chagas, Parasitic and Imported Diseases.** We are working to develop new drugs for the treatment of Chagas disease as well as biomarkers of therapeutic response. In the field of imported diseases, such as helminths, we undertake clinical research and epidemiological surveillance.

- **Viral and Bacterial Infections.** Our research is focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases (such as HIV, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis and other emerging viruses), understanding the causes of antibiotic resistance, and finding new treatments for these infections.
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- **Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health.** We study the infectious diseases that affect women and children in low-resource countries, including malaria in pregnancy and human papilloma virus as well as the impact of co-infection with HIV/AIDS. Other lines of work include the assessment of preventive measures, such as maternal immunisation, the identification of the main causes of death, and the study of inequities in maternal and reproductive health.

- **Childhood and Environment.** We assess the effects of environmental pollutants, nutrition, and lifestyle (pre- and post-natal) on children’s health and development, including neurobehavioural development, obesity and metabolism as well as respiratory and mental health.

URBAN HEALTH, CLIMATE AND NCDs

- **NCDs and Environment.** We aim to study the causes and mechanisms of the development and progression of cancers and respiratory and allergic diseases throughout the life course, both in high and low and middle-income countries. We focus on environmental, occupational and lifestyle determinants, and incorporate advanced epidemiological, bioinformatic and statistical methods.

- **Air Pollution and Urban Environment.** We analyse the health risks and benefits of the built environment and the exposures associated with urban living, including air pollution, noise, temperature and green spaces.

- **Climate and Health.** We investigate the effects that the environmental consequences of climate change (temperature, extreme precipitation events, heat waves, etc.) may have on human health, and we develop predictive computational models.

- **Radiation.** We investigate the effects on human health of different types of radiation: ionising radiation, including medical exposures and radiation from nuclear accidents; and non-ionising radiation, such as that emitted by mobile communications devices. The aim is to assess the impact of radiation on public health and to improve the population’s radiation protection.

INNOVATION

We are working to further the development of technological innovations and to stimulate social innovation and citizen participation. In collaboration with the Hospital Clinic and Parc de Salut Mar in Barcelona, we translate scientific and medical knowledge to the clinical setting to improve the efficacy, equity and efficiency of the health system.
We train the researchers and health professionals of the future. Our programmes foster an inter- and transdisciplinary approach to address the global health problems that affect our planet. Our portfolio includes postgraduate programmes (master and doctoral), specialised short courses, rotations for health professionals and researchers, and programmes designed to strengthen capacities in low and middle-income countries.

ISGlobal is a university research institute affiliated with the University of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra University.

Moving from evidence to action. Within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and based on scientific knowledge and the analysis of health and development strategies, we promote new models of action and changes in the global agenda in order to achieve more effective, equitable, and sustainable interventions.
Local and Global Presence

With two campuses in Barcelona—Mar and Clinic—and offices in Madrid, the scope of our work is both global and local. In addition to cooperating with organisations in the surrounding community, we have also forged alliances with the countries where we participate in research projects and built long-standing strategic partnerships in Africa and Latin America.

- **United Kingdom** University of London, Imperial College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- **France** Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche (INSERM), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Université de Montpellier
- **Mozambique** Centro de Investigação em Saúde de Manhiça (CISM)
- **USA** Harvard University, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, University of Washington
- **The Netherlands** Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- **Sweden** Karolinska Institutet
- **Switzerland** World Health Organization, Universität Basel, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
- **Australia** University of Melbourne
- **Portugal** Universidade do Porto
- **Finland** University of Helsinki
Marruecos

For more than a decade, we have worked with the Ministry of Health, academic institutions and health care centres in Morocco to support operational research and work undertaken to develop effective health care policies and to strengthen national capacities.

Bolivia – Paraguay

The Platform for the Comprehensive Care of Patients with Chagas Disease is an innovative health care model that, since 2009, has combined research and training for health personnel with the direct provision of patient care. In 2020, this collaboration model started to be implemented in Paraguay, with the aim of advancing in the fight against Chagas disease in that country.

Mozambique

The Manhiça Health Research Centre (CISM) is one of the leading health research centres in Africa. The long-standing collaboration between CISM and ISGlobal, which stretches back more than 25 years, ensures the transfer of knowledge, the development of capacities, and a research portfolio that focusses on some of the most serious threats to health in sub-Saharan Africa.
Each one of our initiatives focuses on an area in which ISGlobal is at the forefront of international research efforts and explores how scientific knowledge can be applied to achieve an effective impact on global health.

**Malaria Elimination Initiative**

ISGlobal is known for its long history and achievements in the field of malaria. Our aim with this initiative is to promote strategies specifically designed to increase the number of malaria-free territories around the world.

ISGlobal is a World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Malaria Control, Elimination and Eradication. We provide support to the WHO on policy-making and guidance on malaria elimination.
Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health Initiative

One of ISGlobal’s priorities is to improve the health of the world’s most vulnerable populations: women and children in developing countries. To achieve this goal, we are investigating new and better tools for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease as well as providing training and implementing effective interventions in priority areas. These include malaria in pregnancy, the causes of infant and maternal mortality, maternal immunisation, human papillomavirus, emerging diseases such as the Zika virus, and disparities in health equity.

Urban Planning, Environment and Health Initiative

To improve and protect the health of people living in urban environments, we have launched an initiative that focusses on the relationship between urban planning, transportation, and health. We offer evidence-based tools and strategies for meeting the challenges posed by urbanisation: air pollution, noise pollution, the lack of green spaces, the effects of urban heat islands, and sedentary lifestyles.

Chagas Initiative

Chagas disease is a forgotten and neglected disease. While millions of people worldwide are infected with the parasite, most of them are unaware that they have the disease and do not receive the medical care they need. At ISGlobal, we work to strengthen prevention measures, to improve patient access to diagnosis and treatment, and to contribute to the development of new tools to fight Chagas disease.
Antimicrobial resistance to drugs is a growing problem. It threatens our ability to treat infections, increases the cost of health care, and jeopardises the medical advances achieved in recent decades. To combat the problem, we are contributing to the understanding of the causes and factors involved in antimicrobial resistance, working to support the development of new drugs and promoting the rational use of all antimicrobials.

Our Distinctiveness

We integrate research, innovation, knowledge translation and training to improve health and equity worldwide.

We have close ties to two hospitals and two leading universities.

We have an extensive research agenda.

We have a solid and plural public-private governance model.

Our team is multidisciplinary.

The scope of our work is global and local.

We foster an international, creative and talent-focused environment.