

1 Foreword and CNIC Mission

The *Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares Carlos III (CNIC)* is a leading biomedical research center supported through a pioneering public-private partnership between the Spanish Government and the Pro CNIC Foundation, which comprises eleven Spanish companies outside the biomedical sector. Recognized as a Severo Ochoa Center of Excellence by Spain's Ministry of Science and Innovation since 2011, the CNIC also benefits from the strategic oversight of its international Scientific Advisory Board, which provides guidance on research priorities and recruitment and regularly evaluates institutional and program performance.

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of mortality worldwide, and the growing economic and social costs of reactive care continue to place a heavy burden on patients, families, and healthcare systems. To address this challenge, the CNIC pursues three overarching goals: advancing knowledge of cardiovascular health and disease mechanisms, strengthening prevention and health promotion, and accelerating the development of innovative therapies for the most prevalent forms of CVD.

Delivering on these goals requires an integrated research model that combines fundamental and mechanistic studies with translational and clinical research to transform scientific discoveries into more effective strategies for prevention, diagnosis, and patient care. To maximize impact and accelerate knowledge transfer, the CNIC works through strategic collaborations with leading hospitals, universities, and national and international research institutions.

The CNIC's activity is built on four core pillars: excellence in basic and clinical research, advanced technological capabilities, collaborative networks, and educating and training young researchers in the early stages of their careers. Research is organized across two interconnected departments—Basic Research and Clinical Research—and seven integrated programs that cover the full translational continuum from discovery to large-scale clinical studies, while also leveraging the CNIC's strengths in cutting-edge technologies, advanced imaging, preclinical models, and data science.

A major institutional achievement in 2025 was the center's success in securing competitive funding from national and international sources. Among the international awards obtained were three European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grants and two Innovative Health Initiative projects, reinforcing the CNIC's contribution to major international scientific initiatives. At the national level, CNIC researchers secured several highly competitive awards, including coordinator roles on two "la Caixa" Health Research projects.

Publications last year by CNIC researchers in leading international journals provided important mechanistic insights into cardiovascular physiopathology, further consolidating the center's position at the forefront of basic cardiovascular research, including significant contributions to the field of rare diseases featuring cardiovascular involvement. The year also delivered significant translational impact. One of the most notable milestones was the publication of the main results of two CNIC-coordinated trial, REBOOT-CNIC and DPATAVI, in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and one in *The Lancet*. The REBOOT-CNIC trial challenged a clinical practice that had remained largely unchanged for more than four decades in the management of myocardial infarction. The study achieved broad international visibility, generating media coverage across 31 countries and 11 languages and reaching an estimated audience close to one billion people.

The CNIC also played a prominent role at the ESC Congress 2025, held in Madrid from 29 August to 1 September. One of the world's leading meetings in cardiovascular medicine, the congress convened researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals to discuss the latest advances in cardiovascular science and clinical practice. CNIC researchers contributed extensively through invited lectures, guideline and consensus sessions, presentations of clinical findings, and participation in high-level scientific discussions. This strong scientific presence reinforced the CNIC's position as a leading international center and underscored its commitment to generating knowledge that advances prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through the integration of basic, translational, and clinical research. The CNIC also led the publication of the first guideline document on mental health and cardiovascular disease.

Further achievements from 2025 are detailed throughout this report. As we look ahead, the CNIC remains committed to excellence, innovation, and collaboration across disciplines. By integrating basic and clinical research, the center will continue to generate high-impact discoveries and train the next generation of scientists to reduce the global burden of cardiovascular disease.

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