

BIOSPAIN 2026 OFFICIAL PRESS PROGRAMME

Bilbao, 29 September – 1 October

Tuesday 29 September 2026

Press room: Hall 2

8:30 am. Collection of press passes

Members of the press may collect their **accreditation at the registration desk** (please state that you are a member of the press) before the start of the conference.

9:00 – 9:30 am. Opening of BIOSPAIN 2026

Margarita Salas Auditorium

- **Cristina Nadal**, president of AseBio.
- **Jaione Ganzaraín**, Vice-minister of Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation Basque Government.
- **Ainara Basurko**, provincial councillor for Economic Development at the Provincial Council of Bizkaia.
- **Juan Cruz Cigudosa**, secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Universities, Ministry of Science, Innovation of Universities.

9:30 – 10:45 am. Institutional tour

Reserved **exclusively for still photographers** to facilitate the capture of images of the tour and key institutional moments.

10:15 – 11:00 am. BIOLOGICS AS STRATEGIC CAPABILITY: EUROPE'S PRODUCTION BASE IN A NEW SECURITY ERA

Margarita Salas Auditorium

A sesión focusing on the role of biologics as strategic assets for Europe's security and resilience, analysing the production capacities, infrastructure, and procurement and collaboration strategies required to respond to future crises and biological threats.

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Maria Christina Stavridou (UK Health Security Agency), **Carlota Gómez de la Hoz** (HIPRA) y **Ceri Morgan** (Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade UK).

11:30 am – 12:00 pm. PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES OF ADVANCED THERAPIES FOR RARE DISEASES

Dorotea Barnés Room

A sesión featuring **Juan A. Bueren**, an international authority on gene and cell therapy and director of the Biomedical Innovation Unit at CIEMAT, who will discuss the latest advances in advances therapies for rare and hereditary diseases, as well as the scientific, regulatory and Access challenges that still need to be overcome to ensure these therapies reach patients.

11:30 am – 12:15 pm. WHAT'S THE SECRET SAUCE BEHIND A SUCCESSFUL SPIN-OFF?

Raúl Martín Room

A sesión focusing on the key factors for creating and developing successful biotechnology spin-offs, from team building and scientific rigour to funding and execution, with particular attention to the initial decisions that help minimise risks and lay the foundations for growth.

Anna Bellmunt (Asabys Partners), **Agnes Arbat** (Oriva Therapeutics), **Gustavo Fuster** (Hoffmann Eitle), **Etienne Drouet** (IQVIA) y **Marcos Simón** (CIC biomaGUNE).

12:15 – 13:00 pm. EUROPE'S BIOTECH MOMENT: WHAT THE BIOTECH ACT MUST DELIVER

Margarita Salas Auditorium

A sesión focusing on the opportunities offered by the Biotech Act to strengthen the competitiveness of Spanish and European biotechnology, with particular emphasis on measures to boost investment and innovation, facilitate funding, strengthen the protection of innovation and accelerate clinical trials.

Laura Pellisé (Amgen), **Cristina Nadal** (AseBio/MSD), **Raquel Yotti** (Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades), **Javier Padilla Benáldes** (Ministerio de Sanidad) y **Thomas Van Cangh** (DG SANTE, Comisión Europea).

13:00 – 13:30 pm. I+MED PRESS CONFERENCE**Press room**

Manu Muñoz, CEO y co-founder of i+Med

**14:30 – 15:15 pm. JOINT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE UK AND SPAIN
THROUGH HORIZON EUROPE COLLABORATIONS****Margarita Salas Auditorium**

Session focusing on opportunities for collaboration between the UK and Spain through Horizon Europe to drive innovation, competitiveness and growth in biotechnology and the life sciences, with a particular focus on R&D, innovation in healthcare, industrial biotechnology and the creation of international consortia.

Ceri Morgan (Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade UK), **Simon Hawdon** (CPI Biologics), **Marcel De Matas** (Seda Pharma Development Services), **June Ereño-Orbea** (CIC bioGUNE) y **Anna Arias Bulbena** (IRIS Technology Solutions).

**15:15 – 16:00 pm. AI AND QUANTUM COMPUTING IN DRUG DISCOVERY:
TRANSFORMING MOLECULAR DESIGN AND THERAPEUTIC
DEVELOPMENT****Margarita Salas Auditorium**

A sesión focusing on the potential of quantum computing and artificial intelligence to transform drug Discovery and biomedicine, addressing applications in molecular design, precision medicine, diagnostics and imaging, as well opportunities for industrial collaboration and their integration into the biotechnology sector.

Aitor Bergara (Universidad del País Vasco – UPV/EHU), **David Hallett** (Recursion), **Ibai Díez Palacio** (IIS Biobizkaia/Harvard Medical School), **María Elena Cheng** (Multiverse Computing) y **Ainara González** (Basque Quantum – Euskampus Fundazioa).

16:00 – 16:30 pm. ABIOINNOVA PRESS CONFERENCE**Press room**

A press conference focusing on how to accelerate the transfer of scientific knowledge to the Market and encourage the creation of new biotechnology start-ups, addressing the role of specialised incubators in reducing risks, facilitating funding and connecting science, industry

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and investment. Abioinnova will also announce the launch of an ongoing call for proposals to identify and support research projects with high transfer potential.

César Luis Gómez-Barthe, councillor of Economic Development at Salamanca City Council.

Wednesday 30 September 2026

**9:30 – 10:15 am. BIOTECH ACT: ACCELERATING BIOTECH SCALE-UP
AND BUILDING COMPETITIVE VALUE CHAINS IN EUROPE.**

Margarita Salas Auditorium

Session focusing on the opportunities presented by the forthcoming Biotech Act II to boost biomanufacturing, scale up biotechnological innovation and create competitive value chains in Europe, whilst also addressing the regulatory, financial and industrial barriers that hinder the sector's growth.

Ion Arocena (AseBio), **Ana María Bravo** (IFF/EuropaBio), **Miguel Gómez-Pavón López** (Ministerio de Industria y Turismo) y **Kristin Schreiber** (Comisión Europea).

**9:30 – 10:15 am. THE CLINICAL FUTURE OF BIOPRINTING: FROM
BIOFABRICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO NEXT-GENERATION
REGENERATIVE THERAPIES**

Dorotea Barnés Room

A sesión focusing on the potential of bioprinting to transform regenerative medicine and move from research towards clinical application, addressing biofabrication technologies, robotics industrial scaling, regulation, hospital integration and the development of next-generation regenerative therapies.

Beatriz Olalde y Anthony Remazeilles (TECNALIA), **Begoña Ferrari** (COLFEED4PRINT), **Juan A. Sánchez Margallo** (Centro de Cirugía de Mínima Invasión Jesús Usón), **Jesús María Izco Zaratiegui** (VISCOFAN) y **Luc Milbergue** (POIETIS Biosistemas).

11:00 – 11:30am. RUEDA DE PRENSA SOKAI**Press room**

A press conference focusing on one of the main challenges to the growth of life sciences companies in Spain: the availability of specialised infrastructure enabling the integration of research, scaling-up and production under GMP standards. SOKAI HUB Spain will be presented as a case study of this new infrastructure model and, in particular, the Gipuzkoa Project, which is set to involve an investment of around 80 million euros.

Javier García Cogorro, founder and president of Columbus Venture Partners y president de Viralgen; y **Gabriel Oriol Allende**, partner and managing of Quercus Investments.

11:30 – 12:15 am. THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ECOSYSTEMS IN DRIVING THE BIOTECH SECTOR**Margarita Salas Auditorium**

A session focusing on the role of bioregions and clusters in driving growth and competitiveness in biotechnology, by fostering collaboration, knowledge transfer and links between regional ecosystems. The discussion will also address the Biotech Act's proposal to promote networks of biotechnology clusters at European level.

Carlota Gómez de la Hoz (HIPRA), **Daniel Álvarez** (Bioga), **Zara Pons Vila** (BIOIB), **Idoia Muñoz Lizán** (Basque Health Cluster), **Robert Fabregat** (Biocat) y **Jesús Agüero González** (BIOVAL).

12:15 – 13:00 pm. CAN COOPERATIVE MODELS TRANSFORM THE FUTURE OF PHARMA AND HEALTHCARE?**Margarita Salas Auditorium**

A session focusing on the potential of cooperative models to transform the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries, analysing their ability to attract investment, grow sustainably and contribute to more resilient, inclusive and patient-centred innovation systems.

Raúl Pérez (I+Med) y **Manuel Sánchez-Lagarejo** (Bexen Medical & Bexen Bioservices).

14:30 – 15:15 pm. UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES IN PRECISION FERMENTATION FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY**Nicolás Achúcarro Room**

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A session focusing on the opportunities offered by precision fermentation to transform the food industry, enabling the production of new ingredients and proteins using microorganisms. The discussion will also address the main challenges to bringing these innovations to market, ranging from regulations and scaling up to production cost and consumer acceptance.

José Luis Moreno Carboneros (COCOON), **Laura Pedrós Manzanares** (Levprot Bioscience), **Guadalupe Monserrat Alvarado Jasso** (Basque Culinary Center/GOE Tech Center) y **Ana Torrejón Cabello** (AINIA).

16:00 – 17:30 pm. BLUE MEETS GREEN: INNOVATIONS FOR THE CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY FROM EU-FUNDED RESEARCH ON MARINE MICROBIOMES

Nicolás Achúcarro Room

A session focusing on the potential of marine microbiomes to develop new sustainable products, processes and services for the circular bioeconomy, based on the progress made by the European projects Ble Tools and BlueRemediomics. The main results and opportunities for industrial application, collaboration, validation and technology transfer will be presented.

Nerea Felices (Scienseed), **Aurelio Hidalgo** (Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa, CBM) y **Laureen Bascou** (Erinn Innovation).

16:00 – 16:30 pm. PRESS CONFERENCE, XUNTA DE GALICIA

Press room

A press conference focusing on Galicia as a bioregion and on its model of cooperation between science, business, institutions and productive sectors, within the framework of new Galicia Biotechnology Strategy 2026-2030, with a Budget of 805 million euros. The press conference will address Galicia's capacity to transform knowledge into industry, attract investment and talent, and foster the growth, scaling up and internationalisation of biotechnology companies and projects.

José Manuel López Vilariño, representing BIOGA (Galician Life Sciences Technology and Business Cluster), and **Josefa de León**, representing VIRATEC (Galician Cluster for Environmental Solutions and the Circular Economy).

Thursday 1 October 2026

09:30 – 10:15 am. FROM LAB COATS TO SUITS: ESSENTIAL ROLES IN THE BIOTECH JOURNEY

Margarita Salas Auditorium

A session focusing on the various career opportunities offered by biotechnology beyond academic research, highlighting how scientists can develop their careers in strategic, operational, industrial and commercial areas across the sector's entire value chain.

Tomás Alarcón (3P BIOVIAN/AseBio), **Eva Peña** (VIVEbiotech), **Jorge Villaverde** (Viralgen) y **David Álvarez Ordás** (Roche).

10:15 – 11:00 am. MAGNETIZE & MAINTAIN: SPEEDING UP ATTRACTION, SECURING LONG-TERM RETENTION

Margarita Salas Auditorium

A session focusing on the challenges of attracting and retaining specialist talent in the life sciences sector, addressing the transition from university to industry, the training of STEM professionals, and the various strategies for recruiting and retaining professionals in start-ups and large companies.

María Haro García (San Pablo CEU University) y **Carmen Méndez de Castro** (Bizkaia Talent).

12:15 – 13:00 pm. HANDING THE BATON TO BARCELONA 2027

AseBio stand

- Spanish wine will be served and few words will be spoken to announce Barcelona as the host city for BIOSPAIN 2027.
- Participants:
 - **Ion Arocena**, director general of AseBio.
 - **Teresa Riesgo Alcaide**, secretary general for Innovation, Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities of Government of Spain.
 - **Jaione Ganzarain**, Vice-minister of Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation Basque Government.
 - **Robert Fabregat**, director general of Biocat.

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BERBÈS – Press Office BIOSPAIN 2026

María González / Lorena Ormazábal

+ 34 677 456 806 / + 34 637 79 81 84

mariagonzalez@berbes.com / lorenaormazabal@berbes.com