



## THE FOUNDATION

The Ri.MED Foundation was set up by Decree of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers (DPCM) dated March 20, 2006 and its founding members include the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Presidency of the Region of Sicily, the Italian National Research Council (CNR), the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC (University of Pittsburgh Medical Center). The purpose of the Palermo-based Foundation is to promote, support and carry out, either directly or indirectly, research programs in the field of biotechnology favoring the expeditious transfer of research results in the field of biomedicine and clinical practice.

Ri.MED will pursue this goal by:

- Improving scientific culture in the field of biotechnologies for collective progress and well-being.
- Training scientific, technical and administrative staff with specific competences.
- Setting up and managing biotechnology research laboratories.

Through the creation of the BRBC, Ri.MED hopes to improve life expectancy and the quality of life for the citizens of Italy and the world, enhance Italy's position in the international scientific community, and strengthen the country's economy.

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UPMC



# Ri.MED Foundation

Research and development in the  
Mediterranean basin

Fondazione  
Ri.MED

## THE BRBC

The Biomedical Research and Biotechnology Center (BRBC) will be built in Carini, just a few kilometers away from Palermo Airport. The facility's goal is to become a center of reference for research in biotechnology, a fast-growing and rapidly developing sector.

The center is expected to open by 2014 and will include:

- A state-of-the-art, 25,000 gsm laboratory building with research laboratories, centralized core facilities, and state-of-the-art equipment.
- Research animal facilities, housing animals which serve as models for human biology and disease.

A staff of approximately 500 will include:

- Principal Investigators (up to 50, leading the various research teams).
- Staff scientists (employees of the companies within the Business Incubator which include small, start-up companies "spun-off" from the BRBC or attracted from elsewhere).
- Staff employees (technicians, students,

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Through the exchange and collaboration of researchers and principal investigators, and the extensive use of dual research teams on the same programs, the BRBC is expected to increase its research programs in order to attract additional research opportunities from Italy, Europe, and the rest of the world. The BRBC will collaborate closely with the University of Pittsburgh's research facilities, UPMC's clinical and research programs, and, in Italy, ISMETT and the National Research Council Laboratories, enhancing its international competitiveness, facilitating the establishment of collaborative agreements with interested countries and universities, and attracting public and private investment. UPMC and the University of Pittsburgh, international partners of the Foundation, have been remarkably successful in progressing from their research outcomes to leveraging their capabilities and intellectual capital to market products and create new businesses and will contribute to the know-how of the Foundation.



## RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The findings and breakthroughs of the BRBC research programs will lead to new discoveries and inventions, new intellectual property, and ultimately to marketable products and spin-off enterprises. The science that will be developed will ultimately help to prevent or cure diseases or assist with our ability to improve the quality of life and life expectancy. New devices and regenerative medicine strategies may one day make organ transplantation obsolete.

The main lines of research planned for the BRBC include:

- **New drugs and vaccines** to identify new leading compounds that may ultimately become important and widely used drugs and to combat new and emerging infections.
- **Biomedical devices** to be introduced in the human body, utilizing the new methods of nano-technology to both sense and therapeutically manipulate the body's physiology.
- **Tissue engineering and regenerative medicine** to restore the structure and function of defective tissues and organs.
- Treatments for **psychiatric and neurodegenerative disorders** to understand how the brain develops, how it can degenerate, and how its structure-function relationships give rise to behavior, action, mood, and affect.
- **Non invasive imaging techniques** to visualize actual gene expression in living subjects using magnetic imaging (MRI). This rapidly developing technology will provide the Center with the ability to monitor the status of therapeutic gene delivery in the brain and elsewhere.

These programs, and the focus on translational research, are expected to quickly transform the BRBC into a major economic attractor for biotech companies, pharmaceutical industries, and information technology and nanotechnology firms.

