OPENING OF A CENTRE FOR VISION DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT BASED ON COMPUTER GAMES

On 16 October, Davalor Salud opened the Davalor Research Center, a research and development centre for optics and vision, where leading technology is developed for eye tests using 3D computer games. This technology can be used to measure up to 75 parameters of sight objectively and automatically. Traditional methods measure many fewer parameters of sight, and generally do this in a subjective way that requires the patient’s involvement.

Situated in the Gaia Building, the new centre is directed by Dr. Jaume Pujol, a researcher at the Centre for Sensors, Instruments and Systems Development (CD6 UPC). CD6 UPC has collaborated with Davalor Salud from the outset, in the development of the technology, in starting up the centre, and in coordinating the Clinical Board, which is comprised of scientific experts and optometrists in the area of visual function.

Davalor Research Center has several strategic agreements for scientific research with the UPC at the Terrassa Campus. Partners include Jofemar, Microsoft, IBM, HP, Cisco Systems and Telefónica.

TWO UPC CENTRES THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE CIT RECEIVE TECNIO SPRING GRANTS

In the third call for applications in the TECNIO SPRING programme, ACCIÓ has awarded Marie Curie grants to CREB and CIEFMA UPC to finance the mobility of researchers associated with TECNIO centres for two years, in order to promote technology transfer.

The Biomedical Signals and Systems area of the Biomedical Engineering Research Centre (CREB UPC) has taken on a researcher to collaborate on the development of a
non-invasive sensor and an analytical method for obtaining information from electromyography (EMG) signals to assess neuromuscular function in the upper limb, for rehabilitation or diagnosis purposes.

At the Structural Integrity and Materials Reliability Centre (CIEFMA UPC), a researcher will collaborate on the development of technology based on additive manufacturing, which is cheaper and faster for dental crowns made with zirconia-based ceramics.

"SMART INVERTER TESTING AND INTEROPERABILITY" SYMPOSIUM
On 27–28 October, the “Smart Inverter testing and Interoperability” symposium was held in Bilbao. The event was organized by the Renewable Electrical Energy Systems (SEER UPC) centre and the NRG.LAB, and was attended by over 50 representatives from 32 companies and research centres. During the symposium, the constant development and variety of grid codes at global level was described, which leads to new challenges for the validation and certification of inverters. The symposium focused on the analysis of new technology solutions developed for trials, internal pre-certification procedures for products, validation of control systems, integration of simulation systems in real time, and compliance with the requirements of network operators. In addition, the latest technological advances were presented, which enable the automation of tests of compliance with grid codes, and processes of certification of future smart inverters.

CREB UPC – TELSTAR COLLABORATION SYMPOSIUM
On 15 October, the Biomedical Engineering Research Centre (CREB UPC) and Telstar organized a symposium entitled “Introduction to software as a healthcare product” at the UPC. At the session, which focused on medical technologies, existing regulations were analysed as well as opportunities to protect software. Speakers included Carlos Fernàndez and Pablo Rodríguez from Telstar, and Manel González from the CREB. This was the second symposium held with Telstar to resolve doubts about marketing and transferring medical technologies developed at the university, when they are launched on the market.
SYMPOSIUM “CHALLENGES IN URBAN MOBILITY”

On 16 November, the symposium “CHALLENGES IN URBAN MOBILITY” will be organized by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) and the Technische Universität de Brauchweig, as part of the CARNET project. CARNET is a strategic project promoted by the UPC, Volkswagen and SEAT to foster collaboration on the future of urban mobility. The symposium, which is sponsored by CARNET and the NFF, will involve the participation of international experts on urban planning, and on connectivity, concepts and mobility services, who will present proposals addressing the global challenge of improving mobility in our cities. Attendance is free. For more information and registration, click here.

CIT UPC PARTICIPATES IN THE INFO DAY ON ICT

CIT UPC took part in the ICT 2015 meeting held recently in Lisbon and organized by the European Commission and the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia. The event included parallel activities such as a conference where new policies and initiatives of the Commission were presented in Research and Innovation in ICT (Horizon 2020), an interactive exhibition to demonstrate the impact and results of research and innovation, and various networking activities to foster potential collaborations and funding opportunities.

Several UPC researchers attended, including Dr. Josep Lluís Larriba, director of DAMA UPC, who presented Sparsity, a spin-off from the research group that won an award for the SME with the greatest ICT innovation capacity in Europe, according to the first Innovation Radar Report published by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC). On this occasion, Sparsity was candidate for the IR Prize for an innovative company.

PARTICIPATION IN THE CONNECT-EU DAY

On 27 October, the fifth edition of the Connect-EU Day was held at the Palau de Congressos de Montjuïc. The event was organized by the Government of Catalonia, the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR) and ACCIÓ. At the event, which brought together over a thousand participants, presentations focused on opportunities to participate in European research, development and innovation projects through the new 2016-2017 calls for the Horizon 2020 programme, and the services offered by ACCIÓ and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) network to small and medium sized companies, in relation to policies and business opportunities in European Union (EU) countries, among other activities.

NEXT COURSES 2015
HOW CAN WE ENCOURAGE UNIVERSITY-BUSINESS COLLABORATION?

In addition to teaching and research, one of the university’s missions is contractual collaboration with agents in society and the production sector. Although we already have various years’ experience in this area (the first regulation that addressed it was Article 11 of the University Reform Act [LRU] of 1983, [...] Read more.

PUBLICATION OF THE OECD’S “SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY SCOREBOARD 2015”

The OECD has published the “Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2015”, indicating new challenges and opportunities emerging as a result of the recessions from which countries are on the path to recovery. As general conclusions, investments in innovation have increased, disruptive innovations are bringing the next revolution in production ever closer, government support for R&D is increasing, the focus is progressively innovation for companies, scientific excellence lies on both research and networks of collaboration, and the most successful companies are investing in their employees’ skills.

A WEB APP FOR THE CAVA REGULATORY BODY

SARTI UPC developed the web application for the Wine Register of the Consell Regulador del Cava (CRC, Cava Regulatory Body) in 2008. The
FINANCIAL GLOSSARY FOR RESEARCHERS AND ENTREPRENEURS

To promote knowledge transfer from the public research environment to industry, and to connect private resources with the public science network, the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI) and Foment del Treball have presented a glossary entitled 50 claus econòmiques per a investigadors i emprenedors (Fifty financial keys for researchers and entrepreneurs). On the basis of a joint analysis of the difficulties of connecting economic and financial concepts with those used in the world of research and entrepreneurship, this document is a practical tool that brings fifty terms from the industrial and business sector to the academic world.