

**Acte d'inauguració de la EC-US Task Force
on Biotechnology Research Conference**

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PRBB Auditorium

Director General for International Cooperation and Institutional Relations of the Ministry of Science and Innovation,
Deputy Director General of Scientific Advances of the European Commission,
Consul General of the United States of America in Barcelona,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of Pompeu Fabra University and its rector Josep Joan Moreso, I would like to welcome all of you to the University and to the city of Barcelona.

I would like, first of all, to apologize for the absence of the rector, who is attending an international rectors conference in Mexico this week.

It is a great honor for UPF, and also an important opportunity, to host the conference that celebrates the 20th anniversary of the European Commission - United States Task Force on Biotechnology Research. On the course of today's conference scientists and policy makers from both sides of the Atlantic will have the opportunity to discuss the future of biotechnology research and its applications for the benefits of society. The conference will be followed tomorrow by the annual task force meeting, continuing the open dialog between scientist to analyze challenges and identify trends in biotechnology research. It is a great opportunity for UPF, also this year celebrating its 20th anniversary, to host the meeting and have for the first time a scientist of our community to participate in such an event.

The venue of the conference is the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB), one of the largest biomedical research clusters in Southern Europe. The Park, an initiative of the Government of Catalonia, the City Council of Barcelona and Pompeu Fabra University, is a large scientific infrastructure that is physically connected to the 'Hospital del Mar de Barcelona' and that gathers together six public research centers closely coordinated amongst them. Within this large scientific community there are researchers specialized in fields closely related to the priority areas of the biotechnology task force, such as bioinformatics, complex systems or artificial life, among others.

I hope you find the environment stimulating for the interaction of knowledge and the generation of new ideas.

I would like to wish you a fruitful conference, and also a pleasant stay in Barcelona and in Catalonia.

Thank you very much.