**Aragon Health Sciences Institute (IACS)**

IACS (Instituto Aragonés de Ciencias de la Salud/Aragon Health Sciences Institute) is a public institution dependent on the Government of Aragon devoted to Health Sciences development. It was created by the Regional Health Law (6/2002) and its objective is to generate knowledge in order to fulfil the main needs in health, producing scientific results capable of raising resources and promoting research amongst the public hospitals and health services in the Region of Aragon. In order to fulfil its aims, and according to the framework agreement signed between the Regional Health System of Aragon (owner of the hospitals) and the IACS, all the research groups and infrastructures from public hospitals and health centres are managed by IACS, besides their structural dependence.

Aragon is a Spanish Autonomous Community in the northeast of the country, with close to 50,000 Km2 and 1,700,000 population. The capital is Zaragoza (around 750,000 pop.). The public care system is provided in Aragon by the Regional Authority (DGA) through the SALUD. It is organized in 8 Sanitary Sectors, each one including PRIMARY CARE centres, SPECIALIZED CARE centres, SOCIO-SANITARY HELP centres, and MENTAL HEALTHCARE centres. See Figure 1.



**FIGURE 1: SANITARY SECTORS IN ARAGON**

Research lines of the Institute: Psychiatry. Mental Disorders. Dementia. Sociotype. Modelling and simulation as methodological tools for research. Genetic and molecular bases of human physiology and pathology. Study and characterization of diagnostic and prognostic techniques. Identification and design of targets, methods, vectors and agents for therapy. Pharmacological intervention for therapy and prevention. Cell therapy and regenerative medicine application. Surgical methods to minimize damage and to improve therapeutic efficacy. e-Health.

In addition, IACS has a direct relationship with the Aragonese Institute of Social Services (IASS), since they are in the same regional department and we are regular partners in R & D projects and initiatives. The IASS is the Institute responsible for the residences and centers of elderly people of the Government of Aragon. The IACS also has a close relationship with the Elderly Office of the Zaragoza City Hall.

Therefore, from IACS we have access to all the hospitals and primary care centres of the Community of Aragon, comprising the rural and aged areas of the three provinces (Zaragoza, Huesca and Teruel), as well as residences and centres for the elderly, with all its professionals and patients. Numerous projects of research and innovation have already been achieved in this regard. All of that makes IACS suitable for proof of concepts, product validations, clinical trials, etc.