Created in 2001, the Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) is a foundation supported by the Government of Catalonia and governed by a Board of Trustees. Its aim is to promote research in any field of knowledge, facilitating the consolidation of collective research and the retention of talented research staff within the Catalan university and research centre system. ICREA, through a selection process based on scientific talent, hires senior scientists from around the world to work in and cooperate with local universities and research centres. These are the ICREA professors at BSC:

- Carlos Pérez García-Pando - Atmospheric Composition Group Manager
- Toni Gabaldón - Comparative Genomics Group Manager
- Natasa Przulj - Integrative Computational Network Biology Group Manager
- Francisco J. Doblas-Reyes - Earth Sciences Department Director
- David Torrents Arenales - Computational Genomics Group Manager
- Víctor Guallar Tasies - Electronic and Atomic Protein Modelling Group Manager
- Mervi Johanna Mantsinen - Fusion Group Manager
- Alfonso Valencia - Life Sciences Department Director

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The mission of the European Research Council (ERC) is to encourage high quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence. Being 'investigator-driven', or 'bottom-up', in nature, the ERC approach allows researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in any field of research, rather than being led by priorities set by politicians. This ensures that funds are channelled into new and promising areas of research with a greater degree of flexibility. ERC grants are generally considered to be Europe’s most prestigious research awards.

- Reticulate evolution: patterns and impacts of non-Vertical inheritance in eukaryotic genomes (RETVOLUTION) is an ERC Consolidator Grant awarded to Toni Gabaldón
- Integrated Connectedness for a New Representation of Biology is an ERC Consolidator Grant to Natasa Przulj
- FRAGMENT (Frontiers in dust mineralogical composition and its effects upon climate) is an ERC Consolidator Grant awarded to Carlos Pérez García-Pando
- SuPerCom (Sustainable Performance for High-Performance Embedded Computing Systems) is an ERC Consolidator Grant awarded to Francisco J. Cazorla
- Riding on Moore’s Law (RoMoL) is the ERC Advanced Grant awarded to BSC’s director Mateo Valero
- Holistic Integration of Emerging Supercomputing Technologies (Hi-EST) is an ERC Starting Grant awarded to David Carrera
- Hi-OMICS is an ERC Proof of Concept to explore the commercial potential of Hi-OMICS, a SDI controller that leverages Deep Learning technologies, to manage efficiently Computational Genomics workloads on SDI platforms. Awarded to David Carrera.
- Best Curved Adapted Meshes for Space-Time Flow Simulations (Tesseract) is an ERC Starting Grant awarded to Xevi Roca
- Production and Distribution of Food during the Roman Empire: Economics and Political Dynamics (EPNet) is an ERC Advanced Grant awarded to José Remesal Rodríguez of The University of Barcelona and in which BSC plays an important role
- P.E.L.E (Protein Energy Landscape Exploration): a la carte drug design tools is an ERC Advanced Grant which was awarded to Víctor Guallar. This project has been completed
- Drug eDesign: Building the next generation of software solutions for drug design (eDrug) is an ERC Proof of Concept Grant awarded to Víctor Guallar. This project has been completed