

**Inauguració de curs 2022-2023**  
**Lliçó inaugural**  
**Girona, 3rd November 2022**

*Alma Mater floreat / quae nos educavit / caros et conmilites / dissitas in regiones / sparsos congregavit.*  
May the Alma Mater flourish / that has educated us, / and has brought together the dear companions / who in  
distant regions / were scattered

**I. Opening of the event, welcome and introduction by Dr. Gerardo Boto Varela, Director of the Doctoral School**

Dear all,

You are very welcome to the inauguration ceremony of the 2022-2023 academic year of the School of Doctoral Studies: doctoral students, thesis directors, new doctors for the 2021-2022 academic year, and doctors with extraordinary doctoral awards. Everyone is very welcome to the opening ceremony of the academic year at the University of Girona, your Alma Mater. First of all, I would like to express our congratulations and our satisfaction with the quality and quantity of theses read at the UdG during the previous academic year.

Before anything, we would like to thank Dr. Maria Àngels Pèlach, Director of the Polytechnic School, for having given us this beautiful hall in Graus and, in particular, our rector, Dr. Quim Salvi, for having accepted the invitation to preside over this inaugural event. I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Joan Ramon Morante for agreeing to deliver the inaugural address on a subject that could not be more pertinent and topical, as I will indicate in the presentation.

**II. Lecture by Dr. Joan Ramon Morante, Director of the Catalonia Institute for Energy Research (IREC) and Professor of Physics at the University of Barcelona**

Dear Dr. Joan Ramon Morante,

You are very welcome to this inaugural event, and we would like to express our explicit gratitude for accepting this invitation. In the five years that the event has been held, you are the first physicist to deliver an inaugural lecture at this Doctoral School. You have been preceded by a prehistorian, a doctor, a biochemist, a bioengineer, an economist, a sociologist, a nanotechnologist, a biologist, a philologist, and now you.

Allow me to say a few brief words about Dr. Morante. His academic curriculum is as excellent as it is overwhelming. As you can read in the announcement document, Dr. Morante is the director of the Catalonia Institute for Energy Research, and since 1985 he has been a professor of Electronics, semiconductors and devices of Physics at the University of Barcelona. His research is focused on renewable energies, mainly based on nanomaterials and their functionalisation. He is also involved in the deployment of new energy vectors such as hydrogen, sustainable mobility, decarbonisation of industry, and the development of devices and systems for renewable energy storage. He is the author of several patents. He has more than 600 published articles, more than 35,950 citations, has supervised more than 55 doctoral theses, and has also participated in numerous international and industrial projects. His extraordinary academic impact is reflected in the magnitude of an H-number of 102 and an I-number of 510. He has been awarded the Narcís Monturiol medal of the Generalitat de Catalunya, the "senior research distinction" of the Generalitat de Catalunya, and is currently president of the European Materials Society.

Dear Dr. Morante, thank you very much for being with us today and taking the floor in this School to deliver the lecture "**Green energy: from the laboratory to the market**", the theme of which is completely aligned with the argument of the inaugural lecture of the university, on sustainability and non-recyclable materials, while underlining the commitment of the UdG to sustainability in all its aspects.

**Green energy: from the laboratory to the market.** Dr. Joan Ramon Morante  
*Research on the mechanisms for converting the sunlight energy, as an inexhaustible source, into various energy forms such as thermal, electrical or chemical, among others, constitutes, at the nanometric level, the basis for knowledge, the control and management of these processes with maximum efficiency.*

*However, the need for their implementation as key parts in the new energy models without fossil fuels, based on renewable energy and in a new energy carrier, such as the green hydrogen, requires their feasible deployment, on a large scale and estimating costs for facilitate the fight against climate change.*

*The combination of the two approaches, from materials to the system and from the system to the material, bottom-up and top-down, is the key to bringing research results from the laboratory to the market as a strong way for getting impact achieving innovation.*

*Several cases will be presented and discussed as examples. Hydrogen production or CO2 capture and reuse or biomethane production or synthetic aviation fuels, SAF, demonstrating how quality research can be done and how it can give rise to patents and also to new ideas to generate spin-offs.*

### **III. Awarding of diplomas to the doctors of the 2021-22 promotion.**

### **IV. Awarding of the Extraordinary Doctorate Awards 2021**

### **V. Parliament by Dr. Xavier Puig Montserrat, extraordinary doctorate award 2021 of the Doctoral Programme in the Environment**

### **VI. Opening of the academic year by Dr. Gerardo Boto, Director of the School for Doctoral Studies.**

Allow me to conclude this inauguration of the academic year with a few words to present the balance sheet and the current situation of the Doctoral School of the University of Girona.

We would like to inform the community of doctoral students and thesis directors and supervisors, as well as the teaching and research staff of the UdG and associated researchers, of the changes, novelties and incorporations that have taken place during the central months of the year 2022 and with which we have planned the academic year 2022-2023, the starting point for the coming academic years.

First of all, the previous inauguration of the course was presided over by Dr. Miquel Solà, the excellent director of the Doctoral School for twenty years. It was from last February that I had the honour and responsibility of replacing him, contributing to the task that he has carried out impeccably during all this time.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Germà Coenders, who during my first five months was generous enough to continue as Deputy Director of Quality at the Doctoral School. At the end of the academic year 2021-2022 he made his position available, so that the position of Deputy Director of Quality in charge of the internal quality assurance system has been taken over by Dr. Joaquin

Meléndez, to whom I would also like to thank for his incorporation to this centre of the UdG. At the same time, the figure of the academic secretary of the Doctoral School has been activated, in this case with Dr. Lidia Feliu, coordinator of the Doctoral Programme in Chemistry for more than eight years, a person who is perfectly aware of the challenges and needs of the UdG doctoral programme. On the other hand, the responsibility of delegate for gender equality and diversity has now been taken on by Dr. Teresa Cabruja, also coordinator for many years of the inter-university doctoral programme in "Gender Studies: Cultures, Societies and Politics". With all three of them, in the month and a half since the beginning of this course, we have begun to take up some of the different challenges that the Doctoral School of the UdG has for the immediate and medium-term future. Our joint gratitude as the academic management of the Doctoral School goes to the technical team, Àngels Carreiro, Cesca Barcons, Eugènia Paradedà and Anna Sans. They have been and are the soul, the memory and the atlantes of the Doctoral School.

Among the promotion and dissemination of our doctoral programme, I would like to remind you that we have participated in the fourth edition of the contest "La Teva Tesi en 4 minuts" (Your thesis in 4 minutes), with the help of Cristina Valentí, as well as the second edition of the #Hilotesis contest organised by the CRUE, with a clear success given that the twitter thread of Maialen Beltran Arretxe (PhD programme in Education) was the winner in the category of Integration.

Finally, we have celebrated the 6th edition of the Jornades Predoctorals, a really successful edition in all quantitative and qualitative aspects, with the participation of predocs from other universities and different lectures marked by areas of knowledge. This edition has been possible thanks to the participation in the organisation, and I would like to acknowledge it, of Laia Vicens i Serra, Emma Calderón Arias, Herminia Andreu, Alba Ceballos-Escalera, Cristina Serra Castrelló, Maialen Beltran Arretxe, Fidanka Vasileva and Alejandro Piñel Bordallo. I would like to express our gratitude, because without them it would not have been possible.

The publication of the book of summaries of this conference is progressing promisingly and I believe that we will be able to make it public in a couple of months.

At the same time, we will begin to prepare the 7th Predoctoral Conference, as a consolidated activity. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in its organisation and development, especially considering that some doctoral programmes were not represented on the organising committee last year. I encourage you to be there in all possible options because these are your transversal sessions within your university.

The Doctoral School offers its thirty or so transversal training courses for doctoral students (face-to-face and online, in English, Catalan and Spanish) and also offers a training course for postdocs in thesis management and research group leadership, because it is a key issue for the transmission and continuity of training at the university, and which increasingly has to be placed in the context of the European institutional framework of the European Charter for Researchers, the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers and the HRS4R Human Resources Strategy for Researchers. If you are interested, please visit the "researcher's guide" page because it will be very useful.

The information I am talking about appears on the website of the Doctoral School, which I invite you to consult after its updates, including the google site that the School now has to receive your evaluations. It is also important that you visit the researcher in training page.

We would like to inform you that in the academic year 2021-2022 there were 878 doctoral candidates, a significant and progressive increase compared to previous years, and also that more than 109 theses were read, consolidating once again the overcoming of the barrier of 100 doctors/doctors per year.

By gender, men and women

55 73 49 52 59 43 54 51

64 48 47 52 57 66 49 58

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 (year)

Without international mention with international mention

81 84 55 71 83 74 72 76

38 37 41 33 33 35 31 33

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 (year)

Event lecture's	Telematic 30	Presential 79
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Next January we will hold a new welcome session in English and Catalan, online, for the new doctoral candidates for the 2022-2023 academic year. But beyond that, the Doctoral School aims to be a meeting point for doctoral students and thesis directors and supervisors. It is for this reason that this academic year we will begin to hold a series of School lunches in the different faculties and schools of the university, once a month. You are all invited to participate in the *Doctmorzars*. Today, at the end of this event, we will have this one (more appetizer than lunch) corresponding to the month of November. The next ones will be on 14 December at the Faculty of Education and Psychology, 19 January at the Faculty of Science, 14 February at the Campus Centre of Medicine and Nursing, 15 March at the Faculty of Law, .... We will write to you to inform you of this calendar, while reiterating that you will be very welcome. In addition to this initiative, you will continue to receive the survey, both doctoral students and thesis supervisors, to find out what you think and where you stand.

At the same time, I would like to remind you that all the procedures can be carried out online, apart from the withdrawal of your degree, which will continue to be physical.

We also communicate electronically by email, by twitter @udgdoctorat and by telegram.

Finally, we would like to wish you a very good course and many successes in your research, which in every area will become a reference for the academic communication of the UdG, first and foremost, and also for the international academic community and the society of which you are a part and for which we work.

I therefore pass the floor to the magnificent Rector, Dr. Quim Salvi, so that he can give his speech.

## VII. Closing Parliament by Dr. Joaquin Salvi Mas, rector of the University of Girona

Dr Gerardo Boto, director of the Doctoral School;

Dr. Joan Ramon Morante, Director of the Catalonia Institute for Energy Research (IREC);

PhD students, doctors, teaching staff and friends,

In recent years, the University of Girona has dedicated its course opening ceremony to diverse topics of great human and planetary interest. We have talked about social commitment and the refugee crisis, equality of gender and of opportunities between women and men, inclusion for universal education and, in this occasion, about environmental sustainability.

The rest of the activities of the academic centres, faculties and schools, in some way, also participate in this focus. Dr. Morante's lecture is part of this idea and concern about the environment, in a perspective that values both the research carried out by our institutions and the necessary transfer of knowledge to society so that research becomes an actor of social transformation.

The Doctoral School, which deploys 14 doctoral programmes, 6 of which are interuniversity, with an ascending number of PhD students, with an average of 900, and with a consolidated figure of about 100 theses read annually, also participates in environmental awareness, not only in the most specific areas of research, but also and just as an example: in promoting international cooperation to train researchers in the face of global challenges.

This was the basis of the meeting, in May, of about twenty representatives of various universities within the framework of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education. A projection outside the Doctoral School that continues to consolidate. Another example: The Doctoral Studies or European Cross-Border Doctoral Conferences, where the meeting of doctoral students is encouraged.

I have put only two samples of the activity of the Doctoral School, which we must remember that it was classified in the year 2010 as the first doctoral school in Spain, and that it continues to lead the universities with the largest numbers of theses read. And all these figures are thanks to the efforts of the people who make it possible. Today I wanted to refer especially to the former directors Elisabeth Pinard and Miquel Solà and to the new director since the beginning of this 2022, Dr. Gerardo Boto, who I am pleased to welcome in his first course opening ceremony.

The University of Girona, with its policy of master's degrees and doctorates, has continued to promote new generations and has expanded its desire for internationalization. Through the Predoctoral Researchers' Conferences, the accreditation of programmes or grants for researchers in training, and the good results in talent recruitment programmes, research, and recently in the call for projects of ecological transition financed by Next Generation funds, where the UdG has been the 3rd Catalan university in projects and funding.

The fourth edition of the course "Direction of research groups and doctoral theses", a collaboration of the Doctoral School with the ICE, has also served to intensify training not only in terms of content and project management, but also to acquire knowledge about administrative procedure and to disseminate research.

The Doctoral School is necessary and essential to form a solid program of master's and doctoral degrees, with a precise mention of this dissemination towards scientific communication and perfectly oriented to the generation of research talent, the generation of talent such as yours, doctors of the UdG, necessary and essential if we want to be a country that generates knowledge that makes us a more prosperous society, more sustainable, more democratic, more socially responsible, freer.

Thank you, therefore, for the work carried out to all the staff of the Doctoral School and to the PhD students who have made it possible. And my congratulation, also, to the new doctors of the University of Girona and to the ones awarded by the 2021 extraordinary doctoral awards.

Thank you very much I wish you the best for the new academic year.

Quim Salvi  
Rector

### **VIII. University hymn *Gaudeamus Igitur* (excerpt)**

Gaudeamus igitur,  
iuvenes dum sumus. (bis)  
Post iucundam iuventutem,  
post molestam senectutem,  
nos habebit humus.

Vivat Academia,  
vivant professores.  
Vivat membrum quodlibet,  
vivant membra quaelibet,  
semper sint in flore.