

Barcelona, 15 May 2023

Dear all,

On 29 March 2023, the FUNDACIÓ DE RECERCA CLÍNIC BARCELONA-INSTITUT D'INVESTIGACIONS BIOMÈDIQUES AUGUST PI I SUNYER (hereafter, FRCB-IDIBAPS) reported on its website that, on 5 March 2023, HOSPITAL CLÍNIC DE BARCELONA (hereafter, HCB) had suffered a ransomware cyberattack affecting the data systems that FRCB-IDIBAPS shares with HCB.

In the aforementioned communiqué, FRCB-IDIBAPS, as data controller for the personal data of participants in clinical studies developed by the institution, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.c of Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of April 27 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data (hereinafter, GDPR), reported that, due to the cyberattack suffered, the confidentiality of this encoded personal data may have been compromised. Work continues today aimed at ascertaining the extent of any possible effects of the cyberattack.

In the same communiqué, FRCB-IDIBAPS further reported, as data controller for the personal data of the professionals working there, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.c of Article 34 of the GDPR, that, due to the cyberattack suffered, the confidentiality of the personal data of these professionals may also have been compromised.

Unfortunately, on 16 April 2023, it was detected that the cyberattackers had published several documents on the Dark Web containing personal data relating to past and present FRCB-IDIBAPS workers, a matter that we deeply regret. Specifically, the type of personal data compromised is different in each case, but includes only the following type of data: name and surname(s), telephone number, email address, ID number, ID photo, postal address, information about salaries, bank details, Social Security number, professional category and employee number. FRCB-IDIBAPS has directly contacted all professionals affected to inform them that their personal data has been compromised.

In this present communiqué, supplementing that of March 29, FRCB-IDIBAPS, as the data controller the personal data of donors of biological samples for biomedical research to its biobank, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3.c of Article 34 of the GDPR, reports that, due to the cyberattack suffered, the confidentiality of this personal data may have been compromised and that work is underway to ascertain the extent of the possible impact. Until all information is available, we advise all donors of biological samples to our biobank to take the greatest care with regard to any communications or requests for data they may receive.

You are reminded that the Catalan Data Protection Authority (APDCAT) was informed about the cyberattack on 17 March 2023 via the corresponding Security Breach

Notification and that, since its detection, HCB and FRCB-IDIBAPS have been working with the Cybersecurity Agency of Catalonia and the Catalan police (Mossos d'Esquadra) with a view to recovering the systems attacked and restoring the data affected.

FRCB-IDIBAPS further informs you that the HCB and FRCB-IDIBAPS are working on an action plan to be implemented in coordination with both the Cybersecurity Agency of Catalonia and APDCAT. Moreover, the following actions, amongst others, have been implemented or are underway:

- Technical and data-processing measures to counter the impact of the cyberattack and eliminate the cyberattacker's capacity.
- Forensic analysis of the impact and extent of the cyberattack.
- Restoration of data.
- Launch of data processing systems.
- Mass change of passwords.
- Internal and external contingency work methods to identify the details of the categories and types of compromised data.

We advise all those affected by the cyberattack to be alert to the risk of being the victims of attempted scamming, identity theft or fraud. Should this occur, you should notify the police immediately on 112 or via the website <https://www.mossos.cat>.

Finally, if you have any doubts or queries about this communiqué, please contact the FRCB-IDIBAPS Data Protection Delegate at the following email address: protecciodades@recerca.clinic.cat