

## EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



### **Isabelle Vernos**

Group leader

CRG (Center for Genomic Regulation)

Barcelona, Spain

Isabelle Vernos is [ICREA](#) Research Professor and co-coordinator of the Quantitative Cell Biology program at Center for Genomic Regulation ([CRG](#), Barcelona).

She obtained a PhD in Biology in 1989 from the University Autònoma of Madrid and move as a postdoctoral fellow to the Wellcome/CRC Institute in Cambridge, UK. In 1992 she moved to the EMBL in Heidelberg (Germany) where she established her first independent research group in 2001.

Her group has a long-standing interest in understanding how microtubules organize the bipolar spindle and ensure faithful chromosome segregation during mitosis and meiosis and how failures in this process may generate infertility and other human diseases such as cancer.

The lab follows an interdisciplinary approach using various experimental systems including tissue culture cells, cytoplasmic extracts from eggs of the frog *Xenopus laevis* and in vitro reconstitution experiments combined with high end microscopy methods, proteomics and various proteins expression and purification systems. Altogether the group has obtained novel insights on the mechanism of cell division that were published in high impact journals.

Isabelle Vernos, has extensive experience in the participation to and coordination of EU funded projects as well as national research projects. She has also shown an active role in driving innovation projects by establishing collaborations/agreements with private companies (Clinica EUGIN and Chemotargets).

She was nominated European Molecular Biology Organization ([EMBO](#)) member in 2005 and she serves as advisor and referee for several European and non-European research organisations and Institutes.

She was a member of the Advisory Board for Science, Technology and Innovation for the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness in Spain from 2012 to 2015. In 2015 she was awarded Narcis Monturiol medal for scientific and technological merit. She was a member of the European Research Council ([ERC](#)) scientific Council in the period 2011-2019 and chaired its Gender Balance working group in 2013-2019. She was also chair of the CRG Gender Balance committee during 2013-2023. She coordinated the [Horizon 2020](#) funded project [LIBRA](#) (2015-2019): Leading Innovative measures to achieve gender Balance in Research Activities.