

## Iris del Val García

She graduated in Biotechnology from the University of Zaragoza, where she completed her Final Degree Project at the BiFi Institute. She then completed a Master's degree at the Complutense University of Madrid, training in neuroscience at the Cajal Institute with a JAE Intro Scholarship. Currently, she is doing her doctoral thesis about the oligomerization and functional mechanisms of orphan receptors, at the BiFi Institute, under the direction of Dr. Javier García Nafría, with a DGA predoctoral scholarship since December 2022.



## Researcher profile

She is a DGA predoctoral student (R1 researcher), focused on the study of orphan GPCRs and their binding to lipids. These receptors, key in cellular communication and 35% of clinical drugs, do not have identified endogenous ligands. Her research aims to characterize their signaling pathways, test agonists, and understand their structural and functional mechanisms, using structural biology, biophysics, and cellular and biochemical assays.

## Importance of her research

G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) are key therapeutic targets, with more than 34% of drugs modulating them. Of more than 800 GPCRs, about 70 are orphans, with no identified ligands. Studying their signaling is crucial to designing new drugs. This research specifically focuses on understanding how lipids, drugs, and other proteins regulate GPCRs to improve therapies and discover new therapeutic targets.

