



### **Maria Segarra-Queralt**

born the 17th of April of 1996, is a biochemist by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. During her bachelor, her curiosity about bioinformatics began, and receiving an honor mention in this subject further encouraged her to pursue master's studies in computational biology. Specifically, by the end of 2018, she enrolled in the Computational Biomedical Engineering Master program of Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF). Throughout the year, in the context of her master thesis, she actively worked for the HOLOA project, a national project founded by Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, in the SIMBIOsys group of BCN-MedTech (UPF). Recognizing her potential, her supervisor, Jérôme Noailly, endorsed her to pursue her Ph.D. in Communication and Information Technologies, in the branch of Systems Biology. In 2020, Maria received personal financial support through the Generalitat de Catalunya's pre-doctoral grant FI (2020 FI B 00680), allowing her to actively work in the field of Mechanobiology.

During her Ph.D. she contributed as first author to national and international conferences. Specifically, she presented 7 posters and she got 11 podium presentations. Moreover, she contributed as a co-author in the methodology and in the editing of 11 abstracts that were further accepted for poster (6) and podium (5) presentations. To date she has published three insightful papers (e.g., 10.1038/s41598-022-07776-, 10.3389/fbioe.2023.1006066 and <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plrev.2024.02.003>) about chondrocyte dysregulation in health and osteoarthritis contributing to national (e.g., STRATO) and international projects (e.g., Disk4ll and O-Health). Maria combined her research with teaching, student co-supervision of master's and bachelor's thesis, experimental work at KU Leuven and organizing research initiatives at UPF. Finally, Maria obtained the maximum degree of Excellence on November 22th 2023 in her Ph.D dissertation, along with the International Mention.