



IZMIR BIOMEDICINE  
AND GENOME CENTER

# NEWSLETTER

2025

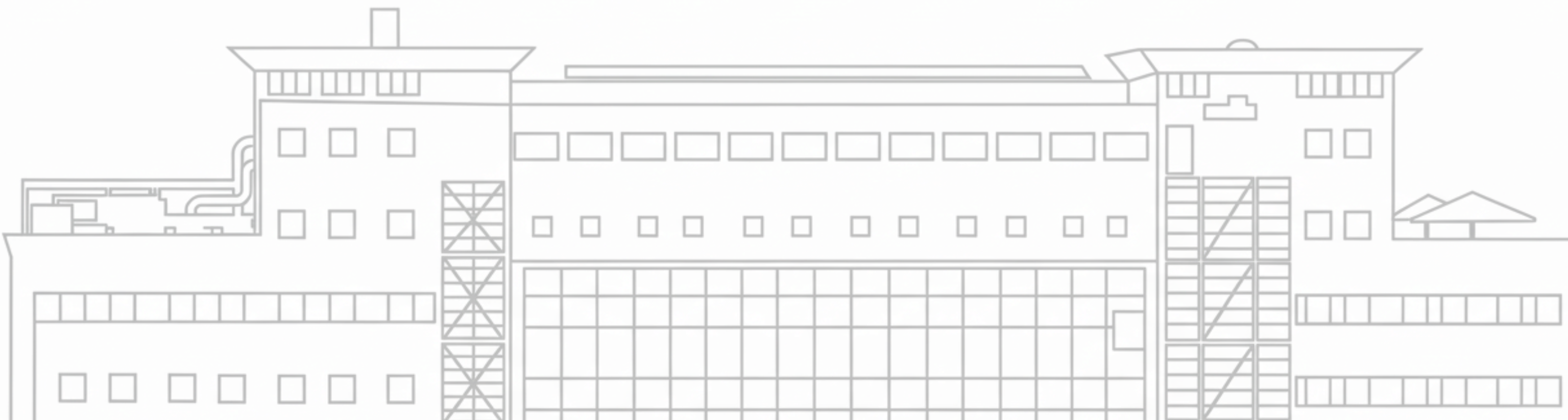
*HIGHLIGHTS*

## Year-Long Scientific Achievements and Strategic Developments

As the Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center (IBG), we have initiated significant national and international projects, earned valuable awards, and established important collaborations throughout 2025.

In this year-end edition, we are proud to share the milestones achieved through our collective dedication and the strategic partnerships that continue to strengthen Türkiye's biotechnology landscape.

We invite you to follow IBG across our social media platforms and website to stay informed about the latest news and opportunities as we continue to push the boundaries of science.





# PRESTIGE AND RECOGNITION: 2025 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

This year, IBG researchers have been recognized by the most esteemed scientific institutions for their notable contributions.

## TÜBA-GEBİP (Outstanding Young Scientist) Awards

- **Prof. Dr. Seda Nur Topkaya Çetin** (Health Sciences): Recognized for her work on analytical chemistry and bioanalytical sensor technologies, specifically early diagnosis systems.
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammed Üçüncü** (Natural Sciences): Honored for his research in organic chemistry, sustainable synthetic methodologies, and molecular design.

## IEEE Türkiye Research Incentive Award

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arif Engin Çetin:** Awarded in December 2025 for his significant contributions to the scientific world in the fields of biosensors and nano-photonics.

## Scientific Society Awards

- **Dr. Ece Çakıroğlu:** Received the TBD Prof. Dr. Nazmi Özer Science 2nd Prize and the MBD PhD Success Award for her work using CRISPR/Cas9 to identify essential genes in Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma and defining BUB1 kinase as a treatable target.
- **Fatma Kurul:** Awarded the Prof. Dr. Nazmi Özer Science 1st Prize (November 2025) for her project on "Plasmonic Biosensor Pre-Diagnosis Tool for Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF)."

# INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ADVANCES

## DEU-IBG-Oxford Collaboration

**Dokuz Eylül University, IBG,** and **University of Oxford** have launched a joint scientific and academic collaboration to advance research in cardiovascular diseases (February 21).

## U.S. Patent Recognition

Groundbreaking discoveries by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Serhat Tozburun** (high-precision laser output system) and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arif Engin** (portable smartphone-based incubator for cell imaging) were granted patents by the USPTO (March 06).

## Partnership with Sidra Medicine

**IBG** and **Sidra Medicine** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in pediatric biomedical research, focusing on genomics, precision medicine, and stem cell research (March 19).



## European Academy of Sciences

**Prof. Dr. Bayram Yilmaz** was officially inducted as a member (October 21).

# SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS & INTERNATIONAL GRANTS

**Strategic Collaboration:** A Framework Protocol was signed between **IBG** and **TÜSEB** (Turkish Health Institutes of Turkey), solidifying joint efforts in the field of health sciences (May 15).

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## **ICGEB CRP Research Grant**

**IBG's Transgenic Research Platform** was awarded a three-year grant from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (**ICGEB**) for **CENPA protein research** (June 25).

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## **METRICs Project (TRANSCAN-3)**

The **METRICs project**, involving IBG researchers, was awarded funding under the **TRANSCAN-3 JTC 2024** call to advance cancer research (July 17).

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## **STEM-CORE Project (MSCA)**

A key partner in the EU-supported **STEM-CORE project**, funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, focusing on innovative stem cell-based therapies for corneal regeneration (October 15).

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## **EUPAHW 2024 Grant**

An IBG researcher received grant support under the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (**EUPAHW**) **2024** call (November 11).

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## **Strategic ERDERA Successes**

Two projects—**ASCENT-PSC** and **CDKure-DBA**—were selected for the **ERDERA 2025** call for rare diseases (December 29).



# BREAKTHROUGHS & NATIONAL SUPPORTS

## Targeted National Grants

- **Turkish-Italian Cooperation:** A joint rare disease research project received formal TÜBİTAK approval (January 13).
- **AF-Ensemble Project:** Selected for TÜBİTAK support in genomic analysis (March 04).
- **Growth Phenotype Study:** TÜBİTAK backed a key study on growth phenotypes (July 09).

## TÜSEB Project Support

Two key strategic projects from IBCG have been officially selected for support by the Health Institutes of Türkiye (TÜSEB), following the framework protocol signed earlier this year (August 06).

## National Research (TÜBİTAK 1001)

A total of 7 projects from IBCG researchers were awarded TÜBİTAK 1001 support, strengthening our national R&D capacity (August 07).

## Scientific Milestone

IBCG's original Anti-VEGF Molecule research was published in Scientific Reports, marking a first for Türkiye (August 11).

## TÜBİTAK-2515 COST Successes

IBCG researchers secured multiple grants under the TÜBİTAK-2515 COST Scientific and Technological Cooperation Programme. These include a project investigating neuroprotective roles in Parkinson's disease using zebrafish models and a separate initiative focused on innovative biotechnological solutions (October 31 & August 29).