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Este ciclo de conferencias cuenta con la colaboración exclusiva de la Fundación BBVA y ha sido coorganizado con el Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas y el proyecto Europeo del programa marco H2020: LONGPOP (Methodologies and Data mining techniques for the analysis of Big Data based on Longitudinal Population and Epidemiological Registers). El proyecto LONGPOP ha recibido financiación del programa marco de Investigación e Innovación H2020 de la Unión Europea dentro de la modalidad de proyectos Marie Skłodowska-Curie. Contrato Nº 676060.

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**La Fundación BBVA y el Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas tienen el placer de invitarle a la conferencia:**

## **Urban Environment and Cardiovascular Health: The Heart Healthy Hoods ERC Project**

**Prof. Manuel Franco**  
**Universidad de Alcalá (España)**  
**and Johns Hopkins University (EE. UU.)**

**Lunes 6 de marzo, 19 horas**

**Fundación BBVA**  
**Paseo de Recoletos, 10**  
**28001-Madrid**

**Imprescindible confirmar asistencia. Aforo limitado**

**email: [confirmaciones@fbbva.es](mailto:confirmaciones@fbbva.es)**

**La conferencia será impartida en inglés sin traducción simultánea**



## **Summary:**

Cardiovascular diseases are the first cause of death in the European Union. Given the treatment costs and the high prevalence of risk factors (smoking, physical inactivity, diabetes and hypertension), they account for the largest social and economic burden of any disease group. Manuel Franco, beneficiary of an ERC Starting Grant, is measuring the food, physical activity, alcohol and tobacco environments of hundreds of neighborhoods in Madrid, to correlate these results with a cardiovascular cohort study of 2,600 residents (aged 40-75) and cardiovascular primary care health records.

The Heart Healthy Hoods (HHH) project addresses factors such as the location and accessibility of fast food restaurants or green spaces in relation to cardiovascular risk. By combining a rigorous epidemiological design with a social science perspective, the HHH research team hopes to offer a complete portrait of the cardiovascular health of a sample of 1.4 million inhabitants in this age group. The study also compares the urban reality of Madrid with that of other cities in the United States and Europe.

## **Biography:**

Manuel Franco completed his MD training in Madrid (Spain) and Berlin (Germany). As a Fulbright Scholar, he joined the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he earned his PhD and went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship working on the Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA) in the Department of Epidemiology.

Franco's work focuses on the epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) and their major risk factors. He studies how different social characteristics relate to CVDs and cardiovascular risk factors such as dietary patterns, hypertension, diabetes and obesity, with particular attention to food environment. He also studies population characteristics and CVD risk, highlighting the relevance of population strategies to prevent CVDs.

His methodological interests include the measurement of social and neighborhood characteristics relative to population health outcomes.

His research topics are:

- Social epidemiology
- Urban health
- Cardiovascular epidemiology and prevention
- Epidemiological methods

As well as serving on the faculties of the University of Alcalá and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, he is Principal Investigator on the ERC Starting Grant project Heart Healthy Hoods (<http://www.hhhproject.eu>), studying urban characteristics in relation to eating patterns, physical activity levels, smoking and alcohol consumption. He is also PI on the participatory project on food in the cities, Photovoice Villa-verde.