

Press release

Over 500 trees have already been planted at the Forest of Embryos near Barcelona

- **Institut Marquès and a local environmental organisation have renewed their agreement to keep reforesting an area in the Spanish region of Tarragona**
- **International reference centre in assisted reproduction, Institut Marquès plants a tree for each child born thanks to its fertility treatments**
- **800 families of over 25 nationalities have already signed up to have their tree planted in this protected area near Barcelona**
- **This project shows the commitment of Institut Marquès with the preservation of the environment and stresses the relationship between chemical toxins and fertility**

Barcelona, 11th of July, 2019

Leaving a better world for the children that are born thanks to our treatments is the goal that drove the renowned assisted reproduction centre Institut Marquès to embrace, together with the local environmental organisation “L’Escrucó”, a very special project, the [“Forest of Embryos”](#). Thanks to this collaboration there are over 500 trees growing already in a mountain in Montroig del Camp, in the province of Tarragona (Spain). Each oak corresponds to a child born thanks to Institut Marquès. For the past year, over 800 families of 25 different nationalities have already requested to take part in this initiative. Each planted tree is identified with a plaque with the name and the date of birth of the baby.

In order to allow families to go and visit whenever they want, Institut Marquès sends them a picture with the geolocalisation of their tree, a proposal that has attracted visitors from all over the world to the area. At the “Forest of Embryos” there are trees planted for children from all continents: Spanish, Italian, British, Irish, Swiss, Norwegian and from Australia, from the USA, Canada, Brazil, Estonia, Saudi Arabia, Singapur or New Caledonia, among others.

Renewal of the agreement

The Forest of Embryos started growing a year ago. With the support of the local institutions, Institut Marquès and the environmental organisation “L’Escrúçó” have renewed their agreement to plant 1000 more trees in this mountain, affected by a devastating fire in the 90s.

One of the areas in Spain with the worst sperm quality

The studies carried out by Institut Marquès about [sperm quality in Spain](#) unveiled that Tarragona is one of the areas where men have a poorer sperm quality. This is one of the reasons why Tarragona has been chosen as the location to plant this forest of solidarity, the “Forest of Embryos”. According to the research carried out by the centre, chemical toxins ([endocrine disruptors](#)) and environmental pollution have a direct relationship with the increase of sterility in the most industrialised areas, such as this one.

The Forest of Embryos is only one of the many environmental commitments adopted by Institut Marquès. Back in 2010, the clinic sponsored Lluís Pallarès’ participation at the North Pole Marathon”. In this competition, Pallarès was dressed up in a spermatozoid costume, in order to raise awareness regarding the negative impact of chemical pollution on male fertility.

Currently, Institut Marquès maintains its line of research on sperm quality and is carrying out [new studies in Italy and Ireland](#), countries where it has several centres. Furthermore, it supports the [manifest “Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation”](#), coalition of civil society, institutions, scientists and legal experts that demands a reform on the use of pesticides in the European Union.

About Institut Marquès

Institut Marquès is a Barcelona based centre of international standing in Gynaecology, Obstetrics and Assisted Reproduction with branches in Barcelona, London, Ireland (Dublin and Clane), Italy (Rome and Milan) and Kuwait.

The centre, with a wealth of experience in particularly difficult cases, helps people in more than 50 countries achieve their dream of parenthood. Institut Marquès offers the highest pregnancy success rates, with 89% per cycle in IVF with egg donation.

Leader in innovation, it conducts an important line of research on the benefits of music in the early stages of life, foetal stimulation and the male role in assisted reproduction treatments.

Institut Marquès is also involved in the research of the relationship between chemical toxins and fertility, taking part in many initiatives that support the defense of the environment. In 2018 it started its Corporate Social Responsibility project, “The Forest of Embryos”. For every child born with the help of assisted reproduction treatments, a tree is planted. Institut Marquès also

supports the manifesto “Citizens for Science in Pesticide Regulation”, a coalition of civil society, institutions, scientists and legal experts that demands a reform on the use of pesticides in the European Union.

Links of interest:

<https://institutomarques.com/>

<https://institutomarques.com/en/about-us/the-forest-of-embryos/>

<https://institutomarques.com/en/study-on-semen-quality/>

<https://www.fertility-experiences.com/sperm-quality-and-chemical-toxics/>

<http://www.toxicsarebreakingourballs.ie/>

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