

## **ALMIRALL CONTRIBUTES ALMOST 2 MILLION EUROS TO RENEW THE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE BARCELONA SCIENCE PARK UNTIL 2009**

- **Renewal and extension of the agreement originally signed in 2002, by which the Almirall-Barcelona Science Park Mixed Unit was set up, an example of public-private sector collaboration.**
- **Its medicinal chemistry programme, in alignment with Almirall R&D, has as its main goal the discovery of potential new medicines for the treatment of respiratory diseases.**
- **This initiative is part of the Genius Pharma research project that is supported by the Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Commerce.**

**Barcelona, 26 November 2007.-** Almirall has renewed and amplified the collaboration agreement with the Barcelona Science Park (BSP) until the end of 2009 with financial support of around 2 million euros. The signing of the agreement extends the 2002 agreement that led to the establishment of the Almirall-BSP Mixed Unit located in the same BSP.

Research at the Almirall-BSP Mixed Unit focuses on two complimentary approaches: the first being the design and synthesis of families of compounds that fulfil chemical diversity, novelty and patentability criteria to complement Almirall's corporate compound collection. The second is to work in close collaboration with the Medicinal Chemistry department within Almirall's R&D, on research programmes to discover new pharmaceuticals for the treatment of respiratory diseases such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Dr Per-Olof Andersson, Executive Director of Almirall R&D, states: *"this agreement is an example of public-private sector collaboration and a two-way flow of expertise and technology as well as proof of Almirall's long-term commitment to the local academic community, in this case the Barcelona Science Park."*

The current managing director of the BSP and Professor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Barcelona, Dr Fernando Albericio, is the investigator heading the project. Dr Albericio indicates *"we are pleased to be able to count on the collaboration of companies committed to R&D such as Almirall"*.

The initiative is part of the Genius Pharma research project, which receives financial support through the Ingenio 2010 CENIT programme managed by the Ministry for Industry, Tourism and Commerce. CENIT promotes the use of different technologies to discover new medicines to be applied in the fields of inflammation, metabolic syndrome, auto-immune diseases, organ transplants and analgesia.

### **About Almirall**

Almirall, an international pharmaceutical company committed to health, Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, researches, develops, manufactures and commercialises its own R&D and licensed pharmaceuticals with the aim of improving people's health and quality of life.

The therapeutic areas on which Almirall focuses its research resources are related to the treatment of asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Almirall is currently present in over 80 countries. The company has direct presence in Europe and Latin America via affiliates in France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Mexico.

For further information please visit the website at: [www.almirall.es](http://www.almirall.es)

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