

**Press Release** 

Barcelona 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2020

## Almirall and the University of Dundee announce a multi-target research collaboration to develop novel Targeted Protein Degraders medicines

- The collaboration accelerates discovery for innovative medicines and synergizes optimally core expertise
- The novel mechanism of action of Targeted Protein Degraders, also known as proteolysis-targeting chimeras (PROTACs), generates the possibility to eliminate disease relevant targets that were difficult to tackle with conventional approaches
- Through this collaboration, Almirall will develop innovative treatment opportunities for patients with high level of unmet medical needs for skin diseases

<u>Almirall, S.A. (ALM)</u>, a global biopharmaceutical company focused on skin health, and **University of Dundee**, a top-ranked university in the UK for biological sciences, announced today a research collaboration agreement with the aim to identify and develop a novel class of medicines that target and degrade disease-causing proteins. The collaboration brings together Almirall's strong knowledge in dermatology with the expertise of Professor Alessio Ciulli, one of the pioneers in the field of Targeted Protein Degraders (also known as PROTACs), and his research group at the School of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee. Through this collaboration, Almirall aims at developing drugs for severe skin diseases with high level of unmet medical need.

PROTACs have emerged as a new pharmaceutical modality with the potential to revolutionise drug discovery. They are designed to co-opt the cell's natural disposal system (the ubiquitin-proteasome) to remove diseasedriving proteins and are expected to be broadly applicable to diverse therapeutic areas such as immunodermatology, onco-dermatology, immunology, oncology, and also respiratory diseases.

The main objective of this collaboration is to identify and develop new compounds on a set of innovative and exclusive biological targets defined by Almirall. "*This partnership is an example of how world class university researchers and the pharmaceutical industry can work together to accelerate drug discovery and improve patients' lives by transformative medicines*", said **Dr. Thomas Huber, Research Director at Almirall**.

Alessio Ciulli, Ph.D., Chair of Chemical Structural Biology at the University of Dundee and winner of the 2015 EFMC Prize for a Young Medicinal Chemist in Academia: "We are looking forward to working on this new research collaboration with Almirall. We are excited to partner with one of the world-leading pharmaceutical companies in the therapeutic area of dermatology, to advance a next-generation of first-in-class degraders as pharmaceutical agents that will eliminate protein drivers of disease to ultimately benefit patients".

#### **About University Dundee**

The University of Dundee is the top-ranked University in the UK for biological sciences, according to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. Dundee is internationally recognised for the quality of its teaching and research and has a core mission to transform lives across society. More than 17,000 students are enrolled at Dundee,

helping make the city Scotland's most student-friendly. The University is the central hub for a multi-million pound biotechnology sector in the east of Scotland, which now accounts for 16% of the local economy.

#### For more information, please visit www.dundee.ac.uk

#### **About Almirall**

Almirall is a global biopharmaceutical company focused on skin health. We collaborate with scientists and healthcare professionals to address patient's needs through science to improve their lives. Our Noble Purpose is at the core of our work: "Transform the patients' world by helping them realize their hopes and dreams for a healthy life". We invest in differentiated and groundbreaking medical dermatology products to bring our innovative solutions to patients in need.

The company, founded in 1943 and headquartered in Barcelona, is publically traded on the Spanish Stock Exchange and is a member of the IBEX 35 (ticker: ALM). Throughout its 77-year history, Almirall has retained a strong focus on the needs of patients. Currently, Almirall has a direct presence in 21 countries and strategic agreements in over 70, through 13 subsidiaries, with about 1,800 employees. Total revenues in 2019 were 908.4 million euros.

#### For more information, please visit almirall.com

#### Media contact:

Tinkle Pilar Colomer <u>pcolomer@tinkle.es</u> Phone: (+34) 93 93 545 0861

Almirall Corporate Communications contact: Mar Ramírez

mar.ramirez@almirall.com Phone: (+34) 659 614 173

#### Press Officer University Dundee

Grant Hill +44(0)1382 384768 | +44(0)7854 953277

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### Almirall Investors' relations contact

Pablo Divasson del Fraile pablo.divasson@almirall.com Phone: (+34) 93 291 3087