

Almirall and IRB Barcelona announce a research collaboration to discover novel molecular glue therapeutics for severe skin diseases

- The collaboration aims to identify novel oral therapies for immune-inflammatory skin diseases with high unmet medical needs using a novel therapeutic modality called molecular glue degraders
- Molecular glue degraders could represent an opportunity to expand the scope of druggable targets with small, drug-like molecules that can reprogram natural cellular mechanisms to selectively remove disease driving proteins from human tissues

BARCELONA, Spain, January 18, 2022 – Almirall, S.A. (ALM), a global biopharmaceutical company focused on skin health, and IRB Barcelona (the Institute for Research in Biomedicine), an independent, international research centre engaged in fundamental and applied biomedical science, announced today a research collaboration to identify new oral treatments for immune-inflammatory skin diseases with remaining high unmet medical needs using molecular glue degraders, a novel therapeutic modality. These monovalent degraders offer a new avenue to induce the degradation of potentially disease-causing proteins that cannot be targeted with conventional therapeutic agents.

The collaboration brings together Almirall's scientific, dermatological, and data analysis knowledge with the expertise of the IRB Barcelona's Targeted Protein Degradation and Drug Discovery lab, led by Dr. Cristina Mayor-Ruiz. Recently awarded with an ERC Starting Grant, Dr. Mayor-Ruiz is a reputed expert on targeted protein degradation and pioneer investigator in the areas of the rational screening of molecular glues as well as the elucidation of their mechanism of action. Through this partnership, Almirall is expanding its toolbox of Targeted Protein Degradation approaches by entering the field of molecular glues.

Almirall scientists have identified several proteins whose abnormal function is associated with inflammatory immune skin diseases. However, many of these potentially therapeutically relevant proteins are not amenable to conventional small-molecule inhibitors, as they lack defined ligand-binding pockets. Molecular glue degraders can harness and reprogram natural cellular mechanisms to selectively remove those disease driving proteins from human tissues. They can do so by promoting interactions ("gluing") between these therapeutically relevant proteins and the machinery used by cells to naturally tag and destroy proteins.

"This exciting collaboration underlines Almirall's R&D commitment to provide innovative treatment options to patients suffering from severe skin diseases. It also builds on complementary core expertise of each partner to facilitate research and drug development. We are eager to start working with Dr. Cristina Mayor-Ruiz's group in the development of molecular glue therapeutic and are convinced that this partnership has the potential to address unmet needs in dermatological diseases.", states **Dr. Thomas Huber, Head of Research at Almirall.**

“We are very excited about this collaboration with Almirall. It’s an amazing opportunity to put their knowledge and experience in dermatology, together with our expertise in molecular glues to accelerate drug discovery to treat skin diseases. The biochemical characteristics of molecular glues make them suitable candidates, and this innovative approach could really mark a turning point in dermatological pharmacology. So much looking forward to making this vision a reality together with Almirall’s fantastic team”, explains **Cristina Mayor-Ruiz, Ph.D., Junior Group Leader at IRB Barcelona**

Over the past year, Almirall has established strategic collaborations to accelerate the discovery and development of new therapies in Medical Dermatology. Examples of these agreements are the partnership with **BIOMAP**, the first dermatology project of the European Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), to advance the field of psoriasis and atopic dermatitis, and the collaboration with **the University of Dundee**, which will bring with it the opportunity to develop new therapies based on Proteolysis Targeted Chimeras, another type of targeted protein degraders.

About IRB Barcelona

Created in 2005 by the Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia) and University of Barcelona, IRB Barcelona is a Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence, a seal that was awarded in 2011. The institute is devoted to conducting research of excellence in biomedicine and to transferring results to clinical practice, thus improving people’s quality of life, while simultaneously promoting the training of outstanding researchers, technology transfer, and public communication of science. Its 27 laboratories and eight core facilities address basic questions in biology and are orientated to diseases such as cancer, metastasis, Alzheimer’s, diabetes, and rare conditions. IRB Barcelona is an international centre that hosts 400 employees and more than 30 nationalities. It is located in the Barcelona Science Park. IRB Barcelona is a CERCA center, and a member of the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST).

For more information, please visit www.irbbarcelona.org

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 ground-breaking medical dermatology products to bring our innovative solutions to patients in need.

The company, founded in 1943 and headquartered in Barcelona, is publicly traded on the Spanish Stock Exchange and is a member of the IBEX35 (ticker: ALM). Throughout its 78-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 2020 were 814.5 million euros.

For more information, please visit almirall.com

Media contact:

Tinkle
Pilar Colomer
pcolomer@tinkle.es
Phone: (+34) 93 545 12 51

Corporate Communications contact:

Almirall
Maria Duro
maria.duro@almirall.com
Phone: (+34) 671 580 492

Investors’ Relations contact

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

Corporate Communications contact:

IRB Barcelona
Nahia Barberia
nahia.barberia@irbbarcelona.org
Phone: (+34) 93 40 37 255

Legal warning

This document includes only summary information and is not intended to be exhaustive. The facts, figures and opinions contained in this document, in addition to the historical ones, are “forward-looking statements”. These statements are based on the information currently available and the best estimates and assumptions that the Company considers reasonable. These statements involve risks and uncertainties beyond the control of the Company. Therefore, actual results may differ materially from those declared by such forward-looking statements. The Company expressly waives any obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, goals or estimates contained in this document to reflect any changes in the assumptions, events or circumstances on which such forward-looking statements are based, unless required by the applicable law.

If you wish to unsubscribe from any Almirall Corporate communication, click [here](#).

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation and the applicable local regulations, we inform you that your personal data is processed by Almirall S.A. with registered address at Ronda del General Mitre 151, -08022-, Barcelona (Spain), acting as Controller in line with the purposes indicated in our Privacy Policy. For further information, you may consult it at <https://www.almirall.com/privacy-policy> or contact our Data Protection Officer at the e-mail address: dpo.global@almirall.com. PRNewswire is the Agency that licenses your personal data according to their privacy policy <https://gdpr.cision.com/gdpr>. At any time you can exercise your rights of access, rectification, deletion, objection, portability as well as the limitation of the processing of your data in the terms provided in the current regulations on Data Protection, by addressing the corresponding written request to our postal address (Ronda General Mitre, 151, 08022 Barcelona, Spain). The request to exercise any of your rights must be accompanied by a copy of an official document that identifies you (ID, driver's license or passport). Finally, we inform you that you can contact the Spanish Data Protection Agency and any other competent public bodies for any claim arising from the processing of your personal data.