



## PRESS RELEASE

### **CELAC and European Consortium for a Personalized Medicine Approach to Gastric Cancer (LEGACy) launched**

On Thursday 10 January 2019, **experts from nine countries** gathered together in Valencia, Spain **to launch the European Union (EU) funded project LEGACy**. The project focusing on a **personalized medicine approach** in gastric cancer aims to **improve diagnosis and treatment** by using data obtained through **extensive research** in four EU countries and four countries within the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

**Gastric cancer is the third leading cause of cancer death in both sexes worldwide.** The disease is responsible for **783 000 deaths per year**<sup>1</sup>. The 5-year survival rate of gastric cancer patients in western countries varies from an alarming 10% to 25%. Also, median overall **survival rates for patients with advanced gastric cancer is only about 12 months**<sup>2</sup>. Without doubt, gastric cancer prevention requires urgent interventions.

To respond to this need, partners from Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Germany, Mexico, The Netherlands, Paraguay, Portugal and Spain will rally together in order **to design a cost-effective algorithm based the tumour biology knowledge**. The collaborative research will **analyse more than 3 thousand cases** in total. The project receives funding by the Research and Innovation programme Horizon 2020 and the **budget is over 3,5 million EUR**.

The project will bring new information about the different gastric cancer subgroups. The primary goal of the project is to **improve gastric cancer outcomes by applying personalised medicine** in CELAC and EU populations participating in the project through:

- implementation of a personalised medicine strategy at the first level of prevention
- **improvement of early gastric cancer detection** at the second level of prevention
- **improvement of gastric cancer treatment** through high-risk group identification
- analysis of regional variations in respect to gastric cancer between EU and CELAC populations

The EU-CELAC strategic partnership started in 2011 with a focus on Science and Research. After chronic diseases were identified as a shared priority, the EU narrowed its focus to cancer after input from CELAC. Under Horizon 2020, the EU is now funding translational collaborative cancer research between Europe and CELAC.

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Website (coming soon)

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## References:

1. WHO, The Global Cancer Observatory. (November 2018): Stomach fact sheet, available: <http://gco.iarc.fr/today/data/factsheets/cancers/7-Stomach-fact-sheet.pdf>
2. Ajani JA, Lee J, Sano T, Janjigian YY, Fan D, Song S. (2017): Gastric adenocarcinoma, available: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28569272>

## Partner organisations:



Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria

### FUNDACIÓN PARA LA INVESTIGACIÓN DEL HOSPITAL CLÍNICO DE LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA - INCLIVA

INCLIVA is a top 10 biomedical research institute in Spain. It is organized around four priority areas of research: cardiovascular, oncology, metabolism and organic damage and reproductive medicine. INCLIVA is included in the framework of centres of scientific excellence promoted by the Spanish Government. INCLIVA is the institution managing the research in the area of Health produced by School of Medicine of University of Valencia, the Valencian Infertility Institute and the University Clinic Hospital that includes a health department providing healthcare to the 350.000 inhabitants.



Instituto Nacional de  
Cancerología

### INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE CANCEROLOGIA

The INCan is the coordinator of 25 State Cancer Centers (CEC) in Mexico, thus offering a unique possibility for designing common programs and strategies for better cancer control of a national character, and for achieving an impact at the national level on improving cancer prevention and early detection, reducing the morbimortality of cancer in Mexico. INCan is the leading cancer institution in cancer policy, treatment, education and research in Mexico.



PONTIFICIA  
UNIVERSIDAD  
CATÓLICA  
DE CHILE

### PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE

The Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile was founded on June 21st, 1888 by Mariano Casanova, the Archbishop of Santiago with the purpose of blending academic excellence and training based on the Christian doctrine in a single institution. The University's mission is to reach excellence in the creation and transfer of knowledge and educational training of people, inspired by Catholic values and always at the service of the Church and society



## VALL D'HEBRON INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY

Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) is a private non-profit organization committed to translational research in oncology. The Institute has a broad expertise in carrying out clinical trials with pathway-targeted inhibitors and studies for the development of novel diagnostic/ prognostic tools and translational research. VHIO is part of the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital complex and performs translational and early clinical research providing a link between basic and clinical research.



UNIVERSITÄT  
LEIPZIG

## UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

The University Cancer Center Leipzig is a leading institution for basic, translational and clinical research on gastric cancer. The multidisciplinary team, led by the medical oncologist Prof. Florian Lordick, takes responsibilities within Europe and worldwide including ESMO, EORTC and the International Gastric Cancer Association (IGCA).



EUROPEAN  
CANCER  
PATIENT  
COALITION

## EUROPEAN CANCER PATIENT COALITION

European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) is the largest European cancer patients' umbrella organisation. Established in 2003 with over 450 members, the ECPC is the voice of the European cancer community, uniquely representing the interests of all cancer patient groups, from the most common to the rarest forms of cancer.



## INSTITUTE OF MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTO

The Institute of Molecular Pathology and Immunology of the University of Porto (Ipatimup) is a private non-profit association of public utility, and an Associated Laboratory of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Ipatimup's research covers several cancer types, with a special focus on gastric cancer. Ipatimup also provides specialized diagnostic and consultation services. Furthermore, Ipatimup has always put an effort in science diffusion, contributing to the population's scientific culture.



## GENPAT

GenPat is a histology/immunohistochemistry and molecular private laboratory established in Asunción-Paraguay in 1994. The laboratory performs immunohistochemical stains and chromogenic and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization for diagnose purposes for different public and private hospitals of Paraguay.



## INSTITUTO ALEXANDER FLEMING

The Institute Alexander Fleming is the only private Institute specialized in Oncology, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is organized around different priority areas of clinical research in Oncology. Institute Alexander Fleming (IAF) is included in the framework of centres of scientific excellence on behalf University of Buenos Aires and AAOC, (Asociación Argentina de Oncología Clínica). IAF is the institution managing the research in Clinical Oncology and basic research



## ANAXOMICS BIOTECH S.L.

Anaxomics is an SME founded in 2007 specialized in bioinformatics and systems biology providing services to bring a new insight in the understanding of the complexity of biological processes and innovative solutions to take our understanding of drugs and diseases to a new level.



## VU UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam UMC Cancer Center Amsterdam (CCA) is a national and international leading center for cancer research and treatment. As a clinical oncology research center, CCA has a unique position in the world because of the integration of research and care between laboratory and clinic. The Medical Oncology department, location VUmc has an excellent track record in translational and clinical research. The Medical Oncology Immunotherapy Lab aims to translate preclinical studies into new cancer immunotherapies, has been involved in bench-to-bedside research and has necessary reagents, tools, methodologies, and equipment for the proper evaluation and measurement of immune cell functions. CCA clinical infrastructure provides access to patient samples that are essential to this research.