



## THE PRESENTATION OF THE NEOGENIUS PROJECT BRINGS TOGETHER AROUND A HUNDRED INVESTIGATORS

**The NEOGENIUS consortium, made up of Almirall, Esteve, Palau Pharma and Proteomika, organises a kick-off meeting for the CENIT project during which over a hundred investigators from all over Spain came together at the Biomedical Research Park in Barcelona**

**Barcelona, 15 June 2010.** The NEOGENIUS kick-off meeting took place this morning in the auditorium of the Biomedical Research Park in Barcelona (PRBB), bringing together practically all the entities involved in the project and over a hundred investigators from all over Spain. The meeting included a presentation of the scope of the project's activities, the common aim of which is to discover and develop new medicines for the treatment of pain in osteoarthritis patients.

The consortium partners presented activities conducted by NEOGENIUS and work by the research organisations and SMEs collaborating on the project, generating an atmosphere that encouraged information and experience exchange.

NEOGENIUS PHARMA, AIE is a consortium made up of the pharmaceutical companies Almirall, Esteve and Palau Pharma, and the biotechnology company Proteomika. It is a strategic alliance and an innovative project of its kind in the Spanish pharmaceutical industry. It is also a clear example of public-private cooperation to foster R&D&I.

The NEOGENIUS consortium has its roots in the GENIUS PHARMA project, a CENIT project approved in the first call for this programme in 2006. NEOGENIUS is using this groundwork by developing it into a research programme made up of two sub-projects: *Pharma*, in which one or more original compounds are identified that are capable of contributing an analgesic effect to improve the quality of life of osteoarthritis patients; and *Biomarker*, to identify biomarkers that offer more in-depth knowledge of this type of patient and that in the short to medium-term will help design diagnostic tools.

NEOGENIUS is a 4- year programme involving a total of 14 entities, including public research organisations and small and mid-sized enterprises throughout Spain. To improve communication and coordination among these entities, NEOGENIUS has an exclusive telecommunication network to ensure secure information exchange.

The project has a budget of 15.4 million euros, of which 7.6 come from a subsidy from the National Strategic Consortia in Technical Research (CENIT) appointed and managed by the Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI).

The CENIT programme provides funding for large, strategic, industrial research projects with an extensive, far-reaching scientific and technical scope for planned research in prospective technological areas with a strong international perspective.

## Neogenius Pharma



Place	<b>Auditorium of the PRBB, Barcelona</b>
Date	<b>15 June 2010</b>
No. of attendees	<b>100-105</b>
Partners	<b>Almirall Esteve Palau Proteomika</b>
Attending collaborators	<b>Enantia Galchimia Institut Català d'Investigació Química (ICIQ) Parc Científic de Barcelona (PCB) Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) Universidad de Granada (UGR) Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (USC) Centro de Biología Molecular "Severo Ochoa" (CBMSO) BRAINco Progenika Synapse Ros Petit</b>

### Information on companies in the Neogenius Pharma, AIE consortium

**Almirall**, an international pharmaceutical company based on innovation and committed to health. Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain, researches, develops, manufactures and commercialises its own R&D and licensed drugs with the aim of improving people's health and wellbeing.

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

Almirall's products are currently present in over 70 countries while it has direct presence in Europe and Latin America through 11 affiliates.

. For more information please visit the website: [www.almirall.com](http://www.almirall.com)

**Esteve** is a Spanish chemical-pharmaceutical group with a significant international presence. Established in 1929, it currently conducts its activity in the pharmaceutical field, through research into and the development of new drugs, principally in the area of pain relief. It markets an extensive portfolio of prescription medicines, over-the-counter products, vaccines, generic medicines and products for veterinary use. It is also present in the active pharmaceutical ingredients segment, thus offering a global solution in the health sector. Its products are marketed the world over, and it has facilities in Europe, Asia and North America. For further information: [www.esteve.com](http://www.esteve.com)

**Palau Pharma** ("Palau") is a biopharmaceutical company committed to discovering and developing innovative medicines that target the unmet needs of patients suffering from inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, such as asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis, and others. Its business strategy consists of developing compounds up to the point of obtaining their proof-of-concept in humans, and then establishing strategic alliances with multinational pharmaceutical companies for their subsequent development and marketing. Palau currently has an extensive portfolio of projects, six of which are in clinical phase, and has forged partnerships with internationally renowned companies, such as GlaxoSmithKline and Schering-Plough. Palau

## **Neogenius Pharma**



commenced operations in November 2006, as a spin out of the Uriach Group's R&D business unit. Its current investors include Grupo Uriach (majority stakeholder), Caja Duero, Andosins Capital, Caixa Catalunya and Najeti Capital. For further information: [www.palaupharma.com](http://www.palaupharma.com).

**Proteomika is a bio-technological company**, forming part of the Progenika Group. It was established in 2002, with the aim of developing and marketing tools for personalised medicine using proteomic tools. The business objective of Proteomika is the development of systems for non-invasive diagnosis, prognosis and/or prediction or monitoring of the response to pharmacological therapy in human illnesses, as well as the implantation of the products related to or derived from its lines of investigation and associated know-how for clinical pharmacological use.

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