Transferencia

FUNDACIÓN BOTÍN

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Flashes Transferencia

‘La Marató de TV3’ recauda más de 9 millones de euros para investigar enfermedades raras

El pasado 15 de diciembre se celebró la 28ª edición de ‘La Marató de TV3’. En esta ocasión, todos los esfuerzos se centraron en solidarizarse y visibilizar la realidad de más de 3 millones de personas que conviven, en España, con una enfermedad rara. La iniciativa recaudó más de 9,4 millones de euros tras 18 horas de emisión.

El objetivo de esta edición fue obtener fondos para impulsar la investigación en este grupo de patologías, de baja incidencia y gran complejidad clínica. De esta manera, se fomentan los estudios en cuanto a diagnóstico y tratamientos eficaces y seguros, un aspecto esencial para la vida de los pacientes.

Esta no es la primera vez que TV3 colabora con esta causa. En el 2009 llevó a cabo una potente campaña de sensibilización sobre este grupo de patologías. En esa edición, ‘La Marató’ consiguió recaudar más de 5 millones de euros, que se destinaron al estudio e investigación de las enfermedades poco frecuentes.

Esta iniciativa, impulsada por la televisión catalana, tiene como objetivo recaudar fondos para destinarlos íntegramente a la investigación médica, convirtiéndose en la principal fuente impulsora de los estudios biomédicos en Cataluña.

Desde 1992, ‘La Marató’ ha recaudado más de 183 millones de euros y ha financiado, un total de 829 proyectos de investigación que ha involucrado a más de 7.500 investigadores. Todo esto es posible gracias a la colaboración ciudadana, que cada año, se pone en la piel de los pacientes.

Los trabajos de investigación que se financiarán con los recursos recaudados en esta Marató se seleccionarán a partir de una convocatoria de proyectos que se abrirá el mes de febrero del 2020 a través de la web tv3.cat/marato. Todos los proyectos candidatos se someterán a un riguroso proceso de evaluación para determinar la viabilidad a partir de su calidad, metodología, relevancia científica, sanitaria y social, y valor innovador. En el año 2025, la Fundación dará a conocer los resultados obtenidos en los trabajos de investigación en un simposio científico, donde participan los investigadores que pudieron trabajar gracias a los donativos de la Fundación La Marató de TV3. Este simposium de cierre será abierto al público.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/36AGH6Y

Málaga acogerá el noveno foro europeo Transfiere para la ciencia, tecnología e innovación

El 12 y 13 de febrero del próximo año 2020, el Palacio de Ferias y Congresos de Málaga dará cabida al gran foro profesional y multisectorial para la transferencia de conocimiento y tecnología que se celebra en España, y que muestra quién es quién en el ecosistema del I+D+i nacional e internacional.

El 9º Foro Transfiere es un espacio único para impulsar la innovación entre los grupos de investigación y las empresas, además de contribuir a mejorar la competitividad del sector empresarial. Formar parte activa de este evento permite generar contactos de interés, sinergias y el intercambio de conocimientos en el campo de la innovación, la investigación y la transferencia de conocimiento en los diferentes sectores estratégicos de la economía.

La nueva edición de Transfiere contará de nuevo con un amplio programa de paneles temáticos y conferencias, en las que expertos de diferentes sectores abordarán los temas más destacados de la agenda innovadora internacional. El evento se centrará en los siguientes ámbitos: oportunidades para la internacionalización; inversión e innovación abierta; estado del arte de la investigación española; inteligencia artificial, transformación digital e industria 4.0; el papel de la mujer en el ámbito de la innovación; compra pública de innovación; apoyo a la comunicación y divulgación científica; diseño como palanca de la innovación; y casos de éxito: de la investigación a la empresa.

Canadá será el país invitado en la edición 2020 de Transfiere. De esta manera, el ecosistema de I+D+i canadiense estará presente en las distintas áreas de actividad del Foro (networking, programa de conferencias y exposición comercial, entre otros).

La pasada edición acogió 1.810 empresas; fueron representados 20.711 grupos de investigación; se escuchó a 297 ponentes; fueron presentadas 165 soluciones a ocho retos tecnológicos; se dieron a conocer 38 aceleradoras y fondos de inversión; y fueron expuestos 33 prototipos.

Más info:
https://transfiere.fycma.com/

ERC Synergy Grants Awarded to 37 research groups to take on the biggest challenges

Curing cancer, tackling climate change, forecasting earthquakes - such challenges and other scientific quests are simply too big to address for one researcher - even the most excellent. That is why the ERC awards the Synergy Grants. In the 2019 competition for these grants, 37 research groups will receive funding for their curiosity-driven science. Worth in total €363 million, these special grants will enable groups of two to four top researchers to bring together complementary skills, knowledge and resources in one research project. The recipients have chosen to tackle some of the most complex research problems, often spanning multiple scientific disciplines. This funding is part of the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020.

Most of the selected proposals span traditional boundaries of disciplines. For example, one group will investigate relationships between climate and cities, and will include geographers, a physicist and a meteorologist. A cancer research project will involve leading experts in different strands of biology and genetics, as well as a paediatrician. Another example is a group aiming to develop a cleaner way to produce chemicals, which will gather researchers in chemistry, spectroscopy and material science. See examples.

The 37 projects involve 126 principal investigators who will carry out their projects at 95 universities and research centres in 20 countries across the European Research Area and beyond. Four of the projects will include one or more researchers from newer EU Member-States, namely Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech republic and Hungary. Eight research groups will include one principal investigator working in the United States. The most common locations are Germany (involved in 20 projects), the UK (12) and France (11). Amongst the grantees, there are 24% women who will take part in 21 out of 37 projects.

The grants, each worth around 10 million euro, will help create some 1,000 jobs for postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, and other staff in the grantees' research teams.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/33YBhAZ

Patients with ultra-rare bone marrow disease set to benefit from £1.15m grant from LifeArc and The Aplastic Anaemia Trust

LifeArc and the Aplastic Anaemia Trust (AAT) have jointly awarded a £1.15m research grant to King's College London and King's College Hospital to investigate the potential of a novel type of "personalised cellular therapy" to reverse the ultra-rare condition aplastic anaemia (AA). The results of this research could give new hope to people living with a severe, life-limiting form of this condition.

The grant will fund a clinical trial to investigate the safety and efficacy of using a patient's own T-reg cells to restore the blood-making function of the bone marrow. This follows laboratory-based research from the team of scientists where T-reg cells from a patient's own blood were collected, selected for activity and multiplied. In a test tube, these cells prevented the immune system from attacking the patient's bone marrow stem cells.

Professor Ghulam Mufti, Department of Haematological Medicine at King's College London and King's College Hospital, and lead study investigator said: "For patients with this ultra-rare disease, we're looking for the first time at a personalised medicine approach where their own immune cells could be used to alter their disease. In AA there is a reduction in the number of T-regs and most of the ones that the AA patients do have are non-functional. We've seen success in the laboratory by selecting and bolstering the number of functional T-reg cells.

AA is an ultra-rare life-threatening illness caused by the bone marrow failing to make enough of all three types of blood cells—red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. Only around 100–150 people in UK are diagnosed per year, affecting all ages but most commonly people between the ages of 10 to 20 years old and those over the age of 60 years.

People with the illness are at greater risk of infections, bleeding, and can experience extreme fatigue, which leaves them unable to carry out simple daily tasks that most people take for granted. Around one in three patients with severe AA fail to respond to existing drug treatments and the other option — a bone marrow transplant – is reliant on finding a suitable donor, requires life-long treatment with immunosuppression therapy and is unsuccessful in one in three people.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/2sLX9Tm

Funds to transform research projects into investable propositions have been boosted with the addition of £5m from Oxford Sciences Innovation into the existing University Challenge Seed Fund

The UCSF, now 20 years old, is an "evergreen" fund through the conversion of awards into equity at the creation of a spinout company, or repayment of the award from proceeds of licensing to an existing company. The overall objective of the UCSF Scheme is to enable university researchers to achieve the successful transformation of research into a commercial success either through the creation of a spinout company or a commercial licence agreement.

The initial £4m has grown to over £14m of awards over the last 20 years and, with the injection from OSI, has reserves for the next five years. The Oxford UCSF has invested in 259 projects so far, awards ranging in size from £2,500 to £250,000.

A valued source of seed investment in spinouts is the University of Oxford Innovation Fund (UOIF). Since 2014 OUI and Parkwalk Advisors have been working in collaboration to administer this EIS structured fund. Over the last five years four funds have been raised which have invested £5.7m across 20 companies.

In September this year, UOIF V raised over £2.6m for investment into Oxford spinout companies. This is the largest fund to date.

Alongside other sources of funding, these two developments will support even more innovative proof of concept and new venture projects across the University.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/2s45cuE

Japan and Singapore grant CRISPR patents to Merck

Merck, a leading science and technology company, today announced that the Japan Patent Office and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore have each allowed the company's patent application for the use of paired CRISPR nickases, bringing Merck's number of patents to 22 worldwide.

"Paired nickases represent a significant step in increasing specificity through a highly flexible and efficient approach to reduce off target effects in gene editing," said Udit Batra, member of the Merck Executive Board and CEO, Life Science. "Merck's technology improves CRISPR's ability to fix diseased genes while not affecting healthy ones, therefore improving the accuracy of potential gene therapy treatments."

These patents cover a foundational CRISPR strategy in which two CRISPR nickases are targeted to a common gene target and work together by nicking or cleaving opposite strands of a chromosomal sequence to create a double-stranded break. This process can optionally include an exogenous or donor sequence for insertion in the same manner as Merck's patented CRISPR integration technology. The requirement of two CRISPR binding events greatly reduces the chances of off-target cutting at other locations in the genome.

In addition to Japan and Singapore, Merck has CRISPR-related patents in the following regions: Australia, Canada, China, Europe, Israel, South Korea and the U.S. The company was awarded its first foundational patent in Australia covering CRISPR integration in 2017, and its first U.S. CRISPR patent for proxy-CRISPR in 2019.

Merck has been at the forefront of innovation in the field for 15 years, with experience spanning from discovery to manufacturing. As both a user and supplier of genome-editing technology, Merck supports research with genome editing under careful consideration of ethical and legal standards. The company established an independent, external Bioethics Advisory Panel to provide guidance for research in which its businesses are involved, including research on or using genome editing. Merck has also defined a clear operational position considering scientific and societal issues to inform promising therapeutic approaches for use in research and applications.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/2OTAHQY

Accelerating Medicines Partnership launches data knowledge portal for Parkinson's disease

The Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP) program for Parkinson's disease (PD) has launched a data portal to provide de-identified information collected from 4,298 PD patients and healthy controls to researchers working to develop effective therapies for the disease. The portal enables researchers to study complex data sets and perform genome-wide analyses at a scale previously impossible.

AMP PD is a public-private partnership between the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with industry (Celgene, GSK, Pfizer, Sanofi and Verily) and non-profit (The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research) organizations and managed through the Foundation of the National Institutes of Health (FNIH). The goal of this partnership is to transform and accelerate drug development in PD by providing the expertise and support needed to determine which biomarkers show the greatest potential for predicting PD and the progression of the disease.

The AMP PD Knowledge Portal contains data from cerebrospinal fluid, RNA, plasma and DNA samples previously collected through programs including The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) BioFIND Study, the Harvard Biomarkers Study of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, the NINDS Parkinson's Disease Biomarkers Program, and MJFF's Parkinson's Progression Markers Initiative. Additionally, AMP PD provides a platform that can incorporate additional data sources and new types of data, including proteomics, a project already planned.

Over the past 18 months, AMP PD scientific teams have worked to ensure that the data added into the portal was accurate and described in a consistent way. This crucial step, called data harmonization, allows information gathered from different programs to be compared, and it also provides best practices for how to integrate new data provided by the community into the platform. One of the unique features of these data is that they are longitudinal – it will allow researchers to analyze data from across an individual's lifespan or disease course.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/38dZGpC

PharmaMar recibe la designación de medicamento huérfano de lurbinectedina por la Agencia Suiza de Productos Terapéuticos para cáncer de pulmón microcítico

PharmaMar (PHM:MSE) anunció que la Agencia Suiza de Productos Terapéuticos (Swissmedic) ha otorgado la designación de Medicamento Huérfano a lurbinectedina para el tratamiento del cáncer de pulmón microcítico.

Esta decisión se ha basado en el reconocimiento como medicamento huérfano concedido por la Agencia Europea del Medicamento el 26 febrero de 2019. El cáncer de pulmón microcítico es el área de investigación prioritaria para PharmaMar. El pasado 19 de agosto se comunicó que la compañía presentará a la FDA en Estados Unidos la solicitud de registro de lurbinectedina, bajo la regulación de "accelerated approval", para el tratamiento de cáncer de pulmón microcítico a lo largo del último trimestre de este año. Ello abriría la posibilidad a que la FDA pudiera aprobar lurbinectedina en EE.UU. para tratamiento de cáncer de pulmón microcítico en segunda línea a lo largo del año que viene.

Por su parte, el ensayo de fase III ATLANTIS de lurbinectedina en combinación con doxorubicina, para el tratamiento en este mismo tipo de tumor, finalizó el reclutamiento de pacientes en julio de 2018 y espera tener los resultados de supervivencia global en 2020.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/2PlovY6

Anaconda biomed secures €20 million round of funding

Anaconda Biomed S.L., a medical technology company developing next-generation thrombectomy systems for the treatment of ischemic stroke, has closed €20 million in new funding. The funding will be used for clinical studies of the company's groundbreaking technology, regulatory submissions in international markets, further product development and manufacturing scale-up.

Finding new and more effective treatments for the onset of stroke remains a medical priority for the healthcare industry. According to the Lancet, stroke is the second leading cause of death worldwide, with 5.5 million deaths attributed to this cause in 2016. A New England Journal of Medicine report from the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2016 Lifetime Risk of Stroke Collaborators stated that the estimated global lifetime risk of stroke in 2016 for those aged 25 years or older was 24.9 percent, an increase from 22.8 percent in 1990.

Barcelona, Spain-based venture capital firm Asabys Partners led the round from its fund, Sabadell Asabys Health Innovation Investments SCR, SA, with participation from existing investors Ysios Capital, Omega Funds and Innogest, as well as Sabadell Venture Capital, who joined the previous financing round.

Anaconda's Advanced Thrombectomy System consists of a delivery catheter, a unique, funnel-shaped aspiration catheter and a stent retriever. When deployed, the funnel self-expands and directly conforms to the artery diameter up to 5mm, locally arresting flow and allowing full thrombus extraction without fragmentation. The system is designed to deliver significant improvement in revascularization rates at both first and third pass.

Anaconda Biomed S.L. has already enrolled 14 patients in a 125-patient first-in-human study, with results to be used to support a regulatory submission to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/2YmIUAd

El Gobierno destina cien millones al fomento de la investigación biomédica y sanitaria

Esta ayuda irá destinada a la Acción Estratégica en Salud (AES) 2020, una iniciativa que introduce mejoras para facilitar la protección y creación de nuevo tejido científico y que gestiona el Instituto de Salud Carlos III.

El Gobierno quiere retener el talento científico. Bajo este objetivo, el Consejo de Ministros aprobó una ayuda de cien millones de euros para fomentar la investigación biomédica y sanitaria en España. La inversión irá destinada a la Acción Estratégica en Salud (AES) 2020, una iniciativa que introduce mejoras para facilitar la protección y creación de nuevo tejido científico y que gestiona el Instituto Carlos III.

Para ello, la AES 2020 fomenta la incorporación estable de científicos en los centros asistenciales del Sistema Nacional de Salud (SNS), requiriendo formalmente que se creen plazas permanentes y exista una aportación de fondos adicionales para facilitar la creación de dichos puestos de trabajo.

Además, el programa promociona y apoya el liderazgo de jóvenes investigadores, financiando grupos en transición para facilitar el relevo generacional. Por otra parte, contempla una mayor protección de la carrera científica para los profesionales en baja por maternidad o paternidad o para aquellos que deben cuidar de personas dependientes.

La AES 2020 incluye contratos predoctorales de formación en investigación en salud y doctorados en ciencias y tecnologías de la salud, ayudas de formación en gestión de la investigación en salud y contratos de gestión en investigación en salud en los Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria (IIS) acreditados.

Más info:
https://bit.ly/2s2cQFw