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Almirall and the Barcelona Supercomputing Center to collaborate in SilicoDerm project

- **SilicoDerm is a research project aimed to develop novel computational drug design methodologies applied to dermatological targets**
- **The application of SilicoDerm computational methodologies will facilitate the identification of active compounds for the treatment of inflammatory skin diseases, specifically atopic dermatitis and psoriasis**

[Almirall, S.A.](#) and the Electronic and Atomic Protein Modeling Group (EAPM) from the Life Sciences Department of the Barcelona Supercomputing Center-Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC-CNS) have entered into a research collaboration, SilicoDerm, a project focused on computational drug design applied to dermatological therapeutic targets.

SilicoDerm aims to develop novel high-performance computational methodologies that facilitate the identification of active compounds for the treatment of inflammatory skin diseases of Almirall's interest, such as psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. The project scope encompasses from the development of the computational methodologies for two novel therapeutics targets, to the synthesis and evaluation of the compounds identified *in-silico*. The new protein-based 3D virtual screening methodologies of SilicoDerm will allow to study thousands of compounds in a faster and a more reliable way than current computational methodologies.

Dr. Jordi Gràcia, Head of Drug Discovery, Almirall, commented: *"Our collaboration with BSC is an outstanding opportunity for Almirall R&D. The application of these novel computational methodologies for drug design will facilitate the identification of new compounds, and therefore, reduce the time of development of new drugs that will broaden our spectrum of potential treatments for unmet medical needs in patients with skin diseases."*

At the same time, **Dr. Víctor Guallar, leader of the Electronic and Atomic Protein Modelling Group from the Barcelona Supercomputing Center-Centro Nacional de Supercomputación (BSC-CNS)**, stated: *"This project shows the maturity of the modeling techniques developed at BSC to address real life drug design projects. We invested many years of research to get here."*

This project is being financed by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (MICINN) through the grants *Reto de Colaboración 2017* and co-financed by FEDER funds from the European Commission.

About Almirall

Almirall is a leading skin-health focused global pharmaceutical company that partners with healthcare professionals, applying Science to provide medical solutions to patients & future generations. Our efforts are focused on fighting against skin health diseases and helping people feel and look their best. We support healthcare professionals in its continuous improvement, bringing our innovative solutions where they are needed. The company, founded in 1943 and with headquarters in Barcelona, is listed on the Spanish Stock Exchange (ticker: ALM). Almirall has become a key element of value creation to society according to its commitment with its major shareholders and its decision to help others, to understand their challenges and to use Science to provide them with solutions for real life. Total revenue in 2017 was 755.8 million euros and more than 1,830 employees are devoted to Science.

For more information, please visit almirall.com [linkedin.com/company/almirall](https://www.linkedin.com/company/almirall)

About Barcelona Supercomputing Center

BSC is the leading supercomputing center in Spain. It specializes in high-performance computing. It has a dual role: providing infrastructure and a supercomputing service for Spanish and European scientists, and generating knowledge and technology to be transferred to society. It is a Severo Ochoa Center of Excellence, a member of the top-level European research infrastructure PRACE (Partnership for Advanced Computing in Europe) and manages the Spanish Supercomputing Network (RES). BSC is a public consortium owned by the Spanish Government Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (60%), the Catalan Government Department of Business and Knowledge (30%) and the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (10%).

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