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Director of Innovation

**“Innovation and research constitute both sides of the same coin. At the CNIO, we are making our effort so that the products of our research end up benefiting society.”**

Scientific research often brings about the generation of knowledge and/or products that can be of use beyond the boundaries of academic research. These can include novel technologies, animal models, antibodies or chemical entities with interesting biomedical properties, among others. At the CNIO, we aim to bridge the gap between our researchers and potential outsourcees that could potentially be interested in further developing our inventions. These initiatives have materialised in the form of contracts with industry or in the licensing out of several of our products. Importantly, while the royalties deriving from these activities mostly benefit the CNIO as an Institution, they also circle back to the scientific Groups to fund their research as well as to the inventors themselves. To date, more than 40 investigators from 11 groups have benefited from this initiative.

A Programme that deserves to be singled out in terms of innovation is that of the Experimental Therapeutics Programme (ETP), a whole department that aims to develop chemical entities that could potentially lead to new anticancer therapies. With several of these molecules already licensed out to the Pharmaceutical industry, their current portfolio of projects includes several at an advanced stage. The Direction of Innovation promotes a pipeline based on collaborative drug development between ETP and the rest of the CNIO Groups, so that drug-development capitalises on the excellent research conducted by our basic scientists.

Accordingly, all of our current early stage drug development projects have emerged from active collaborations with scientific research groups. In addition, we are trying to consolidate ETP as a strong node for anticancer drug development in Spain, so that our expertise can contribute towards the development of new therapies together with other cancer researchers in our country.

An important strength of our innovation activities derives from the excellent support provided by the Biotechnology Programme. Their work is not only vital for the progress of our scientific projects, but has also led to the realisation of important products and technologies that have contributed to our innovation portfolio. Some of the antibodies developed at the CNIO are contributing towards important aspects of current innovative treatments, such as those based on immunotherapies. The accreditation of our Animal Facility by the *Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International* (AAALAC) also represents a key milestone in 2016 for the Biotechnology Programme.

Finally, several initiatives continue to be in place with the aim of fostering an innovation culture among our scientists, such as our continuous agreement with the prestigious *IE Business School*, through which many of our investigators have already obtained training in market-oriented innovation strategies.