



Institut Hospital del Mar
d'Investigacions Mèdiques

COLON CANCER MARKER LICENSED

In July 2013, the Hospital del Mar Research Institute (IMIM) signed a licensing agreement with the Belgian company Biocartis for the use of a new colon cancer biomarker. This new biomarker, discovered in a project led by oncologists from Hospital del Mar, shows that a mutation in the EGFR oncogene causes resistance to therapy with the Cetuximab drug, one of the most-widely used for this type of cancer.

Through this agreement, the Hospital del Mar and Biocartis worked together to incorporate the new biomarker into the unique panel of colon cancer markers that this company offers, and which includes the latest-generation detection platforms DMAT and Apollo. These platforms enable a series of biomarkers to be easily analysed in samples from a patient, quickly providing doctors with the data necessary to allow them to personalise the treatment, while at the same time facilitating both immunological and molecular clinical trials.

Medical diagnosis is continually evolving towards diagnoses based on the analysis of biomarkers, carried out using diagnostic platforms capable of high quality, thorough, and rapid analysis. For personalised medicine to become a reality it is necessary for information relating to a patient's genetic make up, as well as the presence and quantity of a series of biomarkers in samples from that individual, to be gathered quickly and analysed easily, so that the data can be rapidly transferred to the doctors who will treat that patient.

This licence transfer to Biocartis is a very important step towards translating excellent scientific research to patient care. It is a good example of knowledge transfer, of how research undertaken in the public ambit can be transferred to industry to benefit society at large.

Further information: www.biocartis.com