

Vall d'Hebron Research Institute and Oncoheroes Biosciences Announced a New Partnership in Pediatric Sarcomas

BARCELONA, SPAIN, July 14, 2022 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Vall d'Hebron Research Institute](#) (VHIR), a world-leading healthcare institution where healthcare, research, innovation and education go hand in hand, and [Oncoheroes Biosciences](#), a biotech company exclusively focused on advancing new therapies for children with cancer, today announced they have entered into a partnership to collaborate in the discovery and development of innovative therapies for pediatric sarcomas.

Survival rates in childhood cancer have improved considerably in recent decades with an overall survival close to 80% in developed countries. However, some of the most common solid tumors, such as soft tissue or bone sarcomas, still show an adverse prognosis in a high percentage of patients (nearly 40%). Sarcomas in children account for approximately 14% of cases and 20% of deaths in childhood cancers.

Oncoheroes Biosciences Discovery Lab, located at Barcelona Science Park and led by Dr. Eva Mendez, focuses on discovering and developing novel oncology drugs for those pediatric cancers with the highest unmet needs. "Pediatric sarcoma patients have not seen any significant improvement in treatment options in decades. We are excited to initiate this collaboration with Dr. Josep Roma, a recognized expert in this type of childhood cancer," stated Dr. Eva Mendez, Oncoheroes' Chief Discovery Officer. "We strongly believe that academic-industry collaborations are key to discover the new generation of drugs for childhood sarcomas."

Dr. Roma is leading the Sarcoma Laboratory in the Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders research group at VHIR. His current research focuses on discovering new therapeutic targets in rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), the most common soft tissue sarcoma in the pediatric population, by characterizing the role of embryonic pathways: Notch, Wnt, and Hedgehog. These pathways are essential during embryonic development and could have high oncogenic potential when an abnormal activation in childhood sarcomas is present.

Oncoheroes and VHIR's collaboration will focus on the Hedgehog pathway, where recent studies led by Dr. Roma have identified novel targets for pediatric sarcomas with high therapeutic potential, not disclosed yet. The academic group has demonstrated that the inhibition of some specific targets results in killing selectively cancerous cells in both in vitro and in vivo models. Oncoheroes will rationally design new inhibitors and conduct high throughput screening campaigns for identifying new active compounds that will be later optimized in collaboration

with Dr. Roma.

“The oncogenic mechanisms that we will evaluate in this collaboration are not exclusive to a single tumor type but are activated in a wide spectrum of sarcomas and other cancers,” added Dr. Josep Roma, VHIR’s researcher. “By combining the academic know-how generated at our research group, and the drug development and pediatric expertise from Oncoheroes’ team, we are confident we can accelerate the development of new targeted therapies for this underserved pediatric population”.

About Oncoheroes Biosciences

Oncoheroes is a ground-breaking biotech company exclusively focused on the discovery and development of better drugs for children and adolescents with cancer. Our vision is to deliver benefits to young cancer patients and create value in the process. The company is headquartered in Boston, US, with a discovery lab in Barcelona, Spain. Oncoheroes is actively looking for in-licensing opportunities in the pediatric oncology space while working to generate new proprietary assets for a number of pediatric cancer indications with high unmet medical needs.

For more information please visit: oncoheroes.com

About Vall d’Hebron Research Institute

The Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR) is a public sector institution that promotes and develops biosanitary research, innovation and teaching at the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, aimed at finding solutions to the health problems of citizens and with the desire to contribute to the scientific, educational, social and economic development of its area of competence. Founded more than 25 years ago, the VHIR is part of the Vall d'Hebron Barcelona Hospital Campus, the Catalan Institute of Health (ICS), and is a CERCA center of the Department of Economy and Knowledge of the Generalitat de Catalunya, as well as a University Research Institute from to the UAB.

Berta Marti Fuster

Oncoheroes Biosciences Inc

+1 857-999-1378

[email us here](#)

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