

CIC biomaGUNE sets up Asparia Glycomics to market its glycan analysis technology for clinical diagnosis

Precise measurement of changes in this dense cell-covering layer of biomolecules opens up new pathways for the diagnosis and prognosis of cancer and many other diseases

The new company offers reagents, kits and software for glycan analysis in clinical diagnosis and quality control of biopharmaceuticals

(Donostia-San Sebastián, 21 December 2016). The Basque Centre for Cooperative Research in Biomaterials (CIC biomaGUNE) and private investors have come together to set up Asparia Glycomics, a company specialised in the production and marketing of reagents, reference standards, kits and software for glycan analysis in clinical diagnosis and for quality control of biopharmaceuticals.

The aim of this business initiative is to market state-of-the-art technology developed by the CIC biomaGUNE Glycotechnology Laboratory for quicker and more precise glycan quantification than other existing solutions on the market.

As Niels Reichardt, Head of the Glycotechnology Laboratory at CIC biomaGUNE, explains: “All our cells are covered with a thick layer of carbohydrate biomolecules known as glycans. As well as hydrating and protecting the cell, this layer also engages in the communication process with other cells. Glycans are targeted by many bacteria and viruses to specifically adhere themselves to these biomolecules, and this effectively represents the first step towards infection”.

The business line of Asparia Glycomics, a spin-off of CIC biomaGUNE led by the researcher Juan Echevarria, is based on the in-house development of a technology that may be useful for the diagnosis and prognosis of cancer, diabetes and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, amongst others.

The products and technology developed by the Glycotechnology Laboratory have been progressively reviewed and validated over the last two years by the CIC biomaGUNE Development Unit. The target market for these products and technologies is researchers, the academic world and pharmaceutical companies worldwide.

The research group led by Niels Reichardt in CIC biomaGUNE has been working for over 10 years on the chemistry and technology of carbohydrates.



Asparia Glycomics is the second spin-off of CIC biomaGUNE from the glycotechnology group after the previous setting up of MD Renal, a company specialised in the rapid identification and quantification of metabolites in blood and urine to help enable the detection of certain diseases.

About CIC biomaGUNE

The Centre for Cooperative Research in Biomaterials (CIC biomaGUNE), located in the Donostia-San Sebastián Technology Park, conducts cutting-edge research at the interface between Chemistry, Biology and Physics, and particularly on the properties of molecular level biological nanostructures and their biomedical applications.

