

**The Basque Government recognises the work of Óscar Millet and Niels Reichardt, researchers in CIC bioGUNE and CIC biomaGUNE respectively.**

PRESS RELEASE

Recognition has been given to the researchers for their work in excellence, specialisation and proximity to market.

The research work of Dr. Óscar Millet's team in the Protein Stability and Inherited Disease Laboratory at CIC bioGUNE led to the creation of the spin-off company Atlas Molecular Pharma.

Likewise, the work of the Glycotechnology Laboratory, led by the researcher Niels Reichardt, at CIC biomaGUNE, led to the creation of the spin-off company Asparia Glycomics.

**(Bilbao/Donostia-San Sebastián, 21 November 2018).** The Basque Government has recognised the work in excellence, specialisation and proximity to market of 21 researchers of the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network (RVCTi). The event to mark this recognition, promoted by the Basque Government Department of Economic Development and Infrastructures, was presided over by the Basque Premier, Iñigo Urkullu Rentería. In acknowledgement of their work, the researchers, including Óscar Millet of CIC bioGUNE and Neils Reichardt of CIC biomaGUNE, were awarded a diploma of recognition. The researchers recognised for their work were selected by the Technology Centres and Cooperative Research Centres (CICs) themselves.

In his intervention, the Basque Premier referred to Cooperative Research Centres and Technology Centres as a core element of research and innovation. "You researchers are key actors in the Basque Country, the cornerstone of innovation" he added, highlighting that the key to the competitiveness of the Basque Country lies in integrating more knowledge into our production processes. "An effort", he observed, "that requires the commitment of government institutions, the business world and society alike".

All those recognised at the event were personally congratulated by the Premier, by the Minister Arantza Tapia and by the Vice-Minister Estibaliz Hernáez. In the course of the event, which was also attended by the Chairmen and Senior Management of the

Technology Centres and the CICs, both the Minister and the Premier thanked the researchers for the work they do in generating knowledge, which is directly reflected in the competitiveness of the Basque business fabric.

### **Óscar Millet**

The research conducted by the team led by Dr. Óscar Millet at the Protein Stability and Inherited Disease Laboratory at CIC bioGUNE led to the creation of the spin-off biotechnology company ATLAS Molecular Pharma. This company, located in the Bizkaia Science and Technology Park, develops cutting-edge therapies for the treatment of rare diseases, including congenital erythropoietic porphyria, prion diseases and tyrosinemia type I. The company currently employs eight people and has adopted an open innovation business model as part of a network of academic collaborators and companies of the sector. The biggest and most important challenge of the company is to take the congenital erythropoietic porphyria project forward to its clinical phases as soon as possible.

ATLAS Molecular Pharma, a spin-off of CIC bioGUNE, has designed an innovative molecular screening platform for the design and validation of pharmacological chaperones (Chassys®). After conducting biochemical and biophysical experiments with thousands of compounds, ATLAS has identified a drug seen to be active against congenital erythropoietic porphyria. As an existing drug for the treatment of other diseases, the compound is approved by drug regulatory agencies, which will facilitate the complex process of its development for congenital erythropoietic porphyria.

### **Niels Reichardt**

The work of the Glycothechnology Laboratory, led by the researcher Niels Reichardt, at CIC biomaGUNE, led to the creation of the spin-off company Asparia Glycomics. The company specializes in the production and marketing of reagents, reference standards, kits and software for the analysis of glycans in clinical diagnosis and for quality control of biopharmaceuticals. The group led by Niels Reichardt at CIC biomaGUNE has been researching for more than ten years into the chemistry and technology of carbohydrates.

This business initiative markets the state-of-the-art technology developed by CIC biomaGUNE's Glycothechnology Laboratory for quicker and more precise glycan quantification than existing solutions on the market.

Asparia Glycomics' line of work is based on developing a proprietary technology potentially 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 Glycothechnology Laboratory, progressively reviewed and validated over the last two years by the Development Unit at

CIC biomaGUNE, are aimed at researchers, academia and pharmaceutical companies worldwide.