

## **Caixa Capital Risc is leading the largest operation in the biotech sector in Spain, with a €55 million financing round in Sanifit**

- **The financing ends with a loan capitalisation of €17 million, which brings the total of the operation to 72.2 million.**
- **It will speed up research into SNF472, a drug designed to treat a rare disease known as calciphylaxis.**
- **Two new investors are joining the company: Columbus Venture Partners and Alta Life Sciences.**

**Barcelona, 26 June 2019** – Caixa Capital Risc has led the €55.2 million financing round for Sanifit Therapeutics, a biopharmaceutical company that develops drugs to treat calcification-related cardiovascular diseases. It is the largest operation in the history of the biotech sector in Spain.

The financing consists of a €55.2m Series D round, in addition to a recent capitalisation of €17m of convertible bonds. The fundraising, which is the largest completed by a private biotechnology company in Spain, was supported by new investors Columbus Venture Partners and Alta Life Sciences, in addition to an international consortium of existing shareholders including Lundbeckfonden Ventures (Denmark), Ysios Capital (Spain), Forbion Capital Partners (Netherlands), Gilde Healthcare (Netherlands), Andera Partners (France), HealthEquity (Spain) and several private individuals.

Sanifit is also pleased to announce that Guy Paul Nohra, representing Alta Life Sciences and Damià Tormo, representing Columbus Venture Partners, will join the Board of Sanifit as non-executive directors with immediate effect.

The proceeds of the fundraising will enable Sanifit to further accelerate the clinical development of its lead candidate SNF472 for the treatment of calcific uremic arteriopathy (CUA). The condition, also known as calciphylaxis, is a devastating rare disease which leads to the death of approximately 55% of patients within the first year of diagnosis due to severe cardiovascular calcification which blocks small blood vessels in skin and fat tissue.

In phase 2 studies, SNF472 met both its primary and secondary endpoints in calciphylaxis patients and has been granted Orphan Drug Designation by the FDA and EMA. Sanifit is currently preparing a pivotal phase 3 CUA study for SNF472 in Europe and the US, which is anticipated to start in Q4 2019.

**Dr. Joan Perelló, Chief Executive Officer of Sanifit commented:** *“We believe this successful fundraise represents a significant endorsement of both our technology and our mission to help patients suffering from debilitating conditions related to progressive vascular calcification, particularly calciphylaxis. We are delighted by the support from a number of highly regarded healthcare investors from Spain and across Europe and we welcome Guy and Damià to the Board. Their experience and insight will be invaluable as we utilise this funding to continue the advancement of SNF472 in the clinic. We look forward to finalising plans for the phase 3 pivotal trial in calciphylaxis patients, due to start later this year.”*

**Marcelino Armenter, Chairman of Caixa Capital Risc and Chief Executive Officer of CriteriaCaixa commented:** *“This notable private fundraising round -the largest of its kind to be completed in Spain- is representative of a growing healthcare ecosystem in the country. We look forward to continuing our support of Sanifit as it progresses its innovative and potentially life changing assets through the clinic to market approval, and finally to patients.”*

**Damià Tormo, Managing Partner for Columbus,** remarked: *“it is a huge satisfaction to support a historic operation for the Spanish biotech sector led by a company that emerged as a spin-off of the University of the Balearic Islands and which today is one of the most innovative on the international scene, with the potential to fill a clear gap in medical care”.*

#### **About Sanifit**

Sanifit is a biopharmaceutical company focused on calcification disorders. The company launched in 2007 as a spin-off from the University of the Balearic Islands and expanded its activities in the USA in 2016 with the incorporation of a subsidiary with offices in San Diego. The company’s lead asset, SNF472, has successfully completed a Phase 2 proof of concept study in calciphylaxis, with a Phase 3 pivotal study in preparation. The company is also investigating SNF472 in a Phase 2b proof of concept study to assess its effect on the reduction of cardiovascular calcification progression, with results expected in Q4 2019. Sanifit has raised around \$130M, including a series D funding of \$61.8M (€55.2M) in mid-2019. For more information please visit [www.sanifit.com](http://www.sanifit.com)

#### **About Caixa Capital Risc**

Caixa Capital Risc, CriteriaCaixa's venture capital management company, is an investor that provides equity and participating loans for innovative companies with a high growth potential. With more than 10 years of experience, Caixa Capital Risc invests in start-up companies. Its investments are concentrated in three sectors: ICTs, health tech and industrial.

Currently, Caixa Capital Risc manages, through eight investment vehicles, a volume of over 215 million euros in innovative companies in Spain and Portugal, and has a portfolio of 180 companies.

Through its Life Sciences area, Caixa Capital Risc invests in initial phases of innovative companies in the health tech and biopharmaceutical sectors that have projects based on the development of devices, solutions for diagnosis and therapies. Currently, Caixa Capital Risc manages a volume of 85 million euros in the life sciences segment, with a portfolio of 24 companies.

**About Columbus**

Columbus Venture Partners is a Spanish investment Management Company with an investment strategy focused on early-stage and high growth opportunities of biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and healthcare industries. Its team of professionals combines a solid scientific, medical and business knowledge with an extensive experience in the establishment and investment of companies to accelerate its growth. Founded in 2017, Columbus has offices in Madrid, Valencia and San Sebastian and €117 million in assets under management through its two funds: Columbus INNVIERTE Life Science Fund and Columbus Life Science Fund II.

**About Alta**

Alta Life Sciences is a new leading venture capital investment firm headquartered in Barcelona, that acts as investment advisor to the fund ALSS I FCR. The fund invests in companies at all stages of development: from seed financing through commercial growth, and in all areas of life sciences including biotechnology, medical devices, diagnostics, genomics and digital health. Altamar Private Equity SGIIC, a leading independent firm in the management of international Private Equity and other alternative assets, is ALSS I FCR's management company.

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