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Grupo Catalana Occidente is supporting the Spanish National Research Council in researching a future vaccine against COVID-19

Through the Fundación Jesús Serra, it will donate 350,000 euros to one of the research groups leading various projects to protect the population from infection.

Grupo Catalana Occidente, through the Fundación Jesús Serra, has donated 350,000 euros to the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), with the aim of driving research into a future vaccine against COVID-19.

Specifically, this contribution is going to one of the research groups of the CSIC National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB). Since last month, the CNB has been collaborating with other national and international research groups to drive various projects, in order to develop a detailed understanding of the structure of this coronavirus and develop vaccines, key to protecting the population against the infection.

This initiative from the group and its foundation is an additional step as part of the various measures that it has developed in recent weeks to preserve the health and safety of society during the COVID-19 outbreak. At the same time, this contribution from the Fundación Jesús Serra falls within its vocation to recognise the efforts and strengthen the work of Spanish researchers and scientists.

'The insurance sector plays a key role in society when it comes to protecting against unforeseen circumstances. But also, through its foundation, Grupo Catalana Occidente channels its commitment to people by supporting research projects, teaching, sports activities, cultural projects and charity initiatives. This is why, whilst contributing to research on potential solutions with respect to COVID-19, we also want to highlight the work of professionals who are trying to prevent and treat health problems within our society', according to the managing director of the Fundación Jesús Serra, Ignacio Gallardo-Bravo.

Furthermore, the chairwoman of the CSIC, Rosa Menéndez, thanked the support of Grupo Catalana Occidente and the Fundación Jesús Serra to science and knowledge as tools for solving society's problems. In this regard, she stressed that 'now more than ever, these problems need research teams that can tackle them in a coordinated manner, with the knowledge, experience and resources that this requires'.

Innovation to combat COVID-19

Meanwhile, Grupo Catalana Occidente has come together with other firms from different sectors to promote the launch of 'Beat the Vid' (<https://beatthevid.opinno.io/>), an innovation platform that seeks to unite efforts within the healthcare ecosystem to respond to the current challenges caused by the COVID-19 emergency, as well as future challenges. Beat the Vid is open to start-ups, businesses, R+D centres, universities, etc. The only requirement is for participants to be able to respond to the challenges proposed on the platform in the short term.

About Grupo Catalana Occidente

Grupo Catalana Occidente is one of the leaders in the Spanish insurance sector and the global credit insurance sector. As an extensive business organisation showing constant growth, the group has more than 7,400 employees and a presence in over 50 countries, while providing services to more than 4,000,000 customers. Its network includes more than 1,600 offices and more than 17,000 mediators. It is currently ranked in fifth position in the Spanish market and second worldwide for credit insurance.

For any additional information please don't hesitate to contact us.

Carlos González
c.gonzalez@romanrm.com
Telf. +34 934 185 387

Estefanía R. Fonseca
estefania.rodriguez@catalanaoccidente.com
Telf. +34 935 825 561