

Letter to the Editor

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the world, particularly in developing countries, and the World Health Organization has estimated that deaths from cancer worldwide are projected to continue rising to reach 13.1 million deaths by 2030. Pharmaceutical research in this field has improved exponentially in the past years and, in parallel, the provision of information has grown significantly.

To foster a close relationship between scientific communication and research, PharmaMar, a wholly owned member of the Zeltia Group, in addition to striving for progress in cancer treatment, has adopted a proactive role in scientific communication. PharmaMar was founded in 1986 and from its foundation has been a leader in the discovery, development, production and marketing of innovative drugs of marine origin. PharmaMar is conducting a pioneering marine biotechnology programme in search of new anti-cancer drugs.

The company's research taps the sea, whose enormous biodiversity makes it a vital and abundant source of new anti-tumour drugs. As a result, PharmaMar now has a unique marine organism library containing over 135,000 specimens. The PharmaMar Research, Development, and Innovation Department has discovered 700 new chemical entities and has identified 30 new families of compounds. Consequently, we have over 1800 patents that have been granted or are in the processing stage.

PharmaMar has established an extensive worldwide collaborative network involving more than 60 centres of marine biology, chemistry, and cancer biology research. We continue seeking to establish collaborations with local governments and institutions for the exploration of local biodiversity and establishing joint drug-discovery programmes for novel marine-derived anticancer compounds.

Our approach to pharmacological discovery contributes to the development of possible new treatments, while using only a few grams of marine sample. These small quantities of samples are processed and analysed in our biological

model systems specifically developed for the detection of anti-tumour activity. Next, the molecules with promising anti-tumour activity are subjected to pharmacological chemical programs to establish a suitable production mechanism via chemical synthesis, thus avoiding the need to resort to the natural source.

With this approach, we are continually discovering new molecules equipped with exclusive mechanisms of action. This represents a great opportunity to advance the basic sciences and, more importantly, it opens potentially new channels for the treatment of cancer.

The company is also committed to provide high quality services to healthcare professionals and patients, to ensure that they have the information about new treatment options that offer significant clinical benefits and help combat rare illnesses. We support training for young scientists through agreements with Spanish and international universities and put our trust in the value of collaboration and the transfer of technical knowledge as a means of promoting science and research, and working for the future of society.

We know that medical science evolves rapidly with new information becoming available constantly. As part of the healthcare system, we also understand the need to support healthcare professionals in their effort to provide the best patient care possible. We are proud to contribute to and support independent educational activities intended to improve patient care. We believe that being transparent with this information is the appropriate action to demonstrate our commitment to providing quality healthcare products and services, including support for medical education.

Our support of *Cancer Breaking News* will represent a significant initiative for us – and one that is consistent with our purposes. The realization of this project is due to the great efforts and willingness of the Editor of the Journal and of the members of the Editorial Board, to whom we want to offer our very sincere thanks.

We wish you good luck and brilliant success.

PharmaMar staff