The researcher Manuel Perucho and Neocodex collaborate in Cancer Research

Neocodex, the biomedical company located in Seville, and the researcher, Manuel Perucho, who received the Spanish National Oncology Award in 1995, 1999 and 2003, are collaborating in the search for and identification of new diagnostic and predictive tools to provide a greater understanding of Cancer.

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Neocodex and Manuel Perucho have concluded a collaboration agreement to research, among other aspects, genetic alterations in biological samples taken from cancer patients. The objective is to gain a greater understanding of the causes of the disease, focusing in particular on cases in which the cancer can not be attributed to hereditary factors, in order to identify new diagnostic and predictive tools. Genomic and molecular research methods are used to identify the therapeutic targets and genes involved in different human pathologies, which is cancer in this case.

Alongside Neocodex, the researcher Manuel Perucho manages one of the most well reputed oncogenetic research programmes. He is Director of the Burnham Institute's Program on Cancer Genetics (California) and Director of the Badalona Institute of Predictive and Personalised Medicine of Cancer (Barcelona). He is one of the greatest international exponents within the field of genetic and molecular cancer research. During his career he has received various honours and awards, including the Spanish National Oncology Award on three occasions. He is also a member of the scientific committee for the Consolider Programme, which is led by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science. This programme is working towards significant qualitative progress within Spanish science and technologies.

Neocodex was created in 2002 and currently owns seven biomedical patents for cardiovascular risk, osteoporosis, menopause and pharmacogenetics. At present, it holds 10% of biomedical patents in Andalusia and aims to increase this figure to 50% within the next two years. The patents are created in part thanks to the company's large DNA Bank, which has almost 15,000 samples and is used to identify the factors involved in diseases. This information is then used to create patents for treatment and develop new ones based on methods aimed at molecular diagnostics in common diseases and the development of predictive response markers to different therapeutic guidelines.

Neocodex's DNA Bank enables the company to carry out the largest study on how genetic factors have an influence on the development and appearance of certain common diseases. Thus, it facilitates scientific research within the field of human health and the design of medicines which are adapted to the genetic profile of different groups within the Spanish population. The information and samples stored will lead to the design of diagnostic tests and therapies which will prevent some of the most common diseases affecting adults: breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer, laryngeal and lung cancer,

melanoma, diabetes, osteoporosis, cardiovascular risk, Alzheimer's disease and schizophrenia.

Another one of its objectives is to focus its efforts on acquiring the latest technology available within the market. This technology will be rendered obsolete within a short term and therefore investment must be doubled in this area. In 2002 Neocodex invested 180,000 euros, 1,300,000 in 2006 and it will invest 1,670,000 euros in 2007.