



Alfasigma joins the global fight against COVID-19 participating to GEFACOVID Project

*From Italy, with European, Chinese and Iranian partners, the attempt to answer the questions generated by the SARS-CoV-2 virus:
a genetic study at the basis of new diagnostic and therapeutic solutions*

A massive aggregation of 29 subjects between universities (Padova, Brescia, Torino, Trieste, Essex, Essen, Madrid, Munich, Maastricht, Isfahan), **Institutions** (Istituto Nazionale Malattie Infettive-Spallanzani, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, INSERM Brest, SINH-Shanghai), **Foundations** (Aviralia, Lorenzini), **private companies** (ThermoFisher, BBraun, ABBVIE, Alfasigma, DaVinciDigital Therapeutics, Novartis), **Start-ups** (Bioscience Genomics, Personal Genomics, Diatheva, TOMA Impact Lab Group, GenDx, PharmGenetix GmdH), aims to find the right answers to what is still unknown about SARS-CoV-2 virus, responsible for over 40 thousand deaths in 192 countries.

The coordinator of the newborn consortium involving many European countries and Iranian and Chinese partners is Giuseppe Novelli, *Full Medical Genetics Professor at the University of Rome Tor Vergata*.

The GEFACOVID project, recently submitted to EU, which allocated specific funds to fight the current pandemic, will try to answer mainly to the following questions: **How does the virus behave? What genetic factors** (the acronym GEFA derives precisely from GEnetic FActors) **influence the immune response of patients?** With more knowledge, more information, more scientific evidence, the challenge to the global pandemic could be tackled with stronger weapons, and hopefully new diagnostic and therapeutic solutions, even customized ones, could be found.

The GEFACOVID will examine in detail the virus' genetic polymorphisms and pathogenesis mechanism(s) as well as genetic, genomic, metabolomic, epidemiological and clinical data in order to identify biomarkers that confer susceptibility to virus

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infection and increase the risk of life-threatening complications. “This information – says **Professor Giuseppe Novelli** – *will be then developed to a level that could be exploited for development of therapeutics and diagnostics, which can be used both in the laboratory and in the field, with the ultimate goal to prevent further human losses. Working closely with corporate and clinical partners, we will pursue rapid, clinically actionable solutions, which will facilitate novel preventative approaches and dynamic medical interventions*”.

Another major impact of GEFACOVID will include the development of an innovation hub involving the partner academic institutions that could develop into a virtual network for advanced scientific research and control strategies for future outbreaks.

Alfasigma

Alfasigma, one of the key players in the Italian pharmaceutical industry, is a company focused on prescription specialties, over-the counter drugs, nutraceuticals and dietary supplements; in addition, it is also present in many primary care therapeutic areas.

Founded in 2015 through the aggregation of the Alfa Wassermann and Sigma-Tau groups — two of Italy's historic pharmaceutical companies. Alfasigma is broadly represented on the international market, not only in terms of a quantity of products, but also because it can count on a large number of subsidiaries and affiliated companies as well as a network of distributors that guarantee its diffusion throughout all five continents and in nearly 90 countries worldwide. Currently Alfasigma has more than 3000 employees worldwide, 50% of whom are connected to the sales force and located in Italy and are divided into five locations: Bologna is home to the management centre and Milan holds the international division headquarters, while Pomezia (Rome), Alanno (Pescara) and Sermoneta (Latina) house the production facilities. Bologna and Pomezia also host the Research & Development laboratories. In addition to the Italian plants, Alfasigma also has two other production plants — one in Tortosa, Spain, the other in Shreveport, Louisiana, USA.

In Italy the company focuses on prescription specialties, over-the counter drugs, nutraceuticals and dietary supplements; in addition, it is also present in many primary care therapeutic areas. Among the well-known over-the-counter products are Biochetase, Neo-Borocillin, Dicloreum, Proctosoll and other commonly known names such as Yovis, Carnidyn and Tau-Marin. For more information, visit www.alfasigma.com. Alfasigma is passion with pharmaceuticals.



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