

## Barcelona to host Bio€quity Europe 2019, the most important biotechnology investor conference in Europe

- International VCs will convene in the city at the initiative of Biocat, Ysios Capital, Catalonia Trade & Investment and CataloniaBio & Healthtech
- The number of international investors participating in life sciences companies of the BioRegion of Catalonia has doubled in just 2 years

**Barcelona, June 26, 2018.** - Bio€quity Europe, the longest running, independent investor event serving the European biopharma industry, will take place in Barcelona for the first time on May 20-21, 2019. It provides a forum for the international venture capital communities to establish relationships with the management teams of hand-picked companies selected by BioCentury with promising investment prospects.

Bio€quity Europe – which is organized by BioCentury and EBD Group -- is the seminal industry event for financial dealmakers looking for investor-validated life science companies positioning themselves to attract capital, and for pharmaceutical licensing professionals to assess top prospects. Bio€quity Europe has showcased more than 800 leading European companies to thousands of investment and pharma business development professionals. More than 550 delegates from 26 nations attended Bio€quity Europe in Ghent in 2018.

The event will be held in Barcelona at the initiative of the Host Regional Committee, which brings together four organizations: **Biocat, Ysios Capital, Catalonia Trade & Investment** and **CataloniaBio & HealthTech**.

The organizers selected Barcelona for its 20<sup>th</sup> annual event based on a number of key criteria. “Barcelona has all of the key ingredients for a vibrant life sciences ecosystem -said **Eric Pierce, Publisher at BioCentury-**. The region has solid academic science, a risk-taking, entrepreneurial culture and a growing pool of venture capital, all of which are essential to establishing, fostering and growing life science innovators”. Holding Bio€quity Europe in Barcelona will be an outstanding opportunity for Barcelona and the BioRegion of Catalonia to showcase to the world this fertile environment to conduct biopharma business. “We are pleased to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in collaboration with the Biocat and Regional Host Committee members.”

**Jordi Naval, Strategy Director of Biocat**, emphasizes the significance of this investors’ conference in Barcelona: “Bio€quityEurope will allow us showcase how Barcelona and the BioRegion of Catalonia have become a destination of choice for biotech investment in Europe. In the last years our biotech companies have attracted an average of 135M€/year in investment. There are over 40 international investors participating in life sciences companies of the BioRegion of Catalonia already - most of them from US - and the figure has almost doubled in just 2 years”.

**Joan Romero, CEO of Catalonia Trade & Investment**, stresses that “connections with international investors are key to the growth and development of the hub of 1,250 Catalan start-ups. So, the fact that

BioEquity Europe 2019 will be held in Barcelona is decisive: venture capitalists from around the world will get a first-hand look at our ecosystem, which is one of the most dynamic in Europe, above all in biotechnology and the life sciences. International capital risk is looking more and more to Catalonia. Events like BioEquity Europe choosing Barcelona is further proof that Catalan start-ups have the right assets to move up and become successful on a global level.”

**Joël Jean-Mairet, Managing Partner at Ysios Capital**, comments “Barcelona is becoming a hot biotech hub in Europe, and hosting BioEquity Europe in Barcelona will allow international investors to interact with local biotech companies and to see first-hand the evolution of the rising Spanish biotechnology ecosystem.”

**Jaume Amat, president of CataloniaBio & HealthTech** and CEO of Specipig, says, “Bringing BioEquity Europe 2019 to Barcelona will strengthen our sector’s position on the international biomedical investment scene. We have a growing, maturing ecosystem, as can be seen in the data from the latest report we published with EY, and this fair can be a good catalyst to attract more investment that will speed up the transfer of innovative medicines and medical technology to market.”

#### **About Biocat**

Biocat is the organization that champions the healthcare and life sciences ecosystem in Catalonia working to transform science and technology into regional economic growth as well as social impact. Biocat focuses its strategy on different key points: raising awareness and promoting the ecosystem with the aim of positioning the BioRegion as an international reference; providing innovative training and developing talent; and accelerating technology transfer and business growth by supporting and carrying out activities for increasing the value of the sector, placing special emphasis on the access to capital. More information on: [www.biocat.cat/en](http://www.biocat.cat/en)

#### **About Catalonia Trade & Investment**

Catalonia Trade & Investment is the Catalan Government agency for foreign investment and business competitiveness. It promotes innovation, internationalisation, trade and funding of Catalan companies and startups. It also organizes trade missions in countries chosen strategically for their business and technology cooperation opportunities. In addition, it offers specialised one-stop-shop services to international investors and corporations, attracting foreign direct investment to Barcelona and Catalonia. Headquartered in Barcelona, Catalonia Trade & Investment operates from 40 offices around the world, covering more than 100 markets. More information on: <http://catalonia.com/>

#### **About Ysios Capital**

Ysios Capital is a leading Spanish venture capital firm that provides private equity financing to early- and mid-stage human healthcare and life science companies with a special focus on pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and medical devices. Founded in 2008, Ysios Capital currently manages over to €200M (\$220M) distributed across two funds: Ysios BioFund I, fully invested, and Ysios BioFund II Innvierte, almost fully invested. More information on: [www.ysioscapital.com](http://www.ysioscapital.com)

#### **About CataloniaBio & HealthTech**

CataloniaBio & HealthTech is the association of companies in the biomedicine and health arena in Catalonia. Its mission is to promote research, development and innovation (R&D&i) to help the business fabric generate new products and services in biopharmaceuticals, medical technology and digital health to improve people’s wellbeing. The association currently has 150 member companies and collaborating agents, including hospitals, research centres and universities that are leaders in biomedical R&D&i. More information on: <http://www.cataloniabioht.org/>

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