

PRESS RELEASE

Parc Taulí and Devicare to co-develop medical devices which allow patients with chronic diseases to monitor their own health

- **The Institute for Research and Innovation Parc Taulí (I3PT) aims to strengthen research-related activity and innovation that promotes public-private collaboration**
- **Located in the UAB Research Park, Devicare is a company that develops innovative medical devices and solutions for patients with chronic diseases to carry out remote, self-monitored care**

Sabadell/Cerdanyola del Vallès (Barcelona), 14 November 2017 – The Institute for Research and Innovation Parc Taulí (I3PT) and Devicare have signed a collaboration agreement to promote R+D+I projects in the innovative field of Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) devices, which allow patients to monitor the indicators of their chronic diseases.

Approximately **34.3% of Catalans suffer from a chronic disease. Mental disorders are one of the most prevalent diseases** and also have a major functional impact on the individuals. Individuals who suffer mental illnesses need frequent check-ups to optimize treatment, prevent relapses and improve adherence. Therefore it's becoming more and more important to develop **personalised treatment models**.

An advance for mental health

In order to tackle this need, Parc Taulí and Devicare are currently working on developing a new **medical device** which will allow patients to **monitor the treatment with lithium salts from home** in the cases of affective diseases such as bipolar disorder and major depression, where these salts are frequently prescribed.

The introduction of Remote Patient Monitoring will not only allow patients to participate actively in the therapeutic process (**patient empowerment**), but it will also enable the healthcare team to have greater control and more suitable follow up. The device will be equipped with a unique technology patented by Devicare that uses sensors to measure clinical biometric indicators in breath, and in body fluids such as blood, sweat, saliva and urine.

Two groups from I3PT's Neurosciences and Mental Health Research Areas are participating in this project: e-Mental Health led by Dr Diego Palao and Affective Disorders led by Dr Narcís Cardoner, both connected to the Mental Health Network at the Biomedical Research Centre (CIBERSAM).

"Allowing patients being treated to analyse their blood lithium levels with their own mobile phone will lead to an extraordinary improvement in the patient's involvement in their own healthcare and **will better help prevent relapses**" Dr Palao comments. "This innovative device will contribute to improving our knowledge of mental diseases and to actively participating in prevention, by automatically sharing the information with the medical team in charge of providing healthcare".

Dr Cardoner also highlights the advances that this new device will provide for treatment with lithium carbonate: "**This will improve the security of one of the most effective medications** and will empower people who are affected".

Devicare's technology is already being used in other chronic diseases through Lit-Control[®], intended for patients with recurrent urinary diseases, and Tao-Control[®], for patients who take oral anticoagulants. "We're joining forces so that our technology advances even further and continues to be introduced in **priority fields as we have done in urology, cardiology and, now, mental health**" remarks Rosendo Garganta, founder and CEO of Devicare.

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For further information:

Institute for Research and Innovation Parc Taulí

Oficina de Comunicación Parc Taulí
Tel. 93 745 83 80
comunicacio@tauli.cat

Devicare

Gemma Escarré (Communications Manager)
M. 667 76 15 24
gescarre@devicare.com