



Kærtor is a not-for-profit private foundation of Galician interest, under the protectorate of the Galician Ministry of Economy, Employment and Industry.

**Its mission is to promote reciprocal transfer in the context of open innovation in drug discovery.**

Kærtor Foundation was born in Galicia as a result of an in-depth analysis to define the sustainability of Innopharma and arises from the conclusions reached after two years of intensive work with a committee of international experts in open innovation, drug discovery and financial models. It is an unprecedented model in the context of open innovation and public-private co-development in drug discovery.

The Kærtor Foundation is now launching a call for expressions of interest focused on adding value to transformational biomedical research to apply them to drug discovery, thus leaping over the gap between basic research in new therapeutic mechanisms and the industrial application of the research findings.

[www.kaertorfoundation.org](http://www.kaertorfoundation.org)

## Call for expressions of interest

If you are a researcher specialized in disease mechanisms and would like to apply your research to drug discovery, we would like to collaborate with you. We already know how to accelerate early drug discovery using the Kærtor methodology, which creates a parallel path to your research without interference. Potential publication of the research lines will not be affected by this parallel drug discovery process and may even be promoted by the synergies created with the new tools applied. The only confidentiality in the process is that associated with candidate drug molecules.

We create a steering committee which you will join, allowing your research, although parallel, to be permeable, with constant communication in real time.

The call is sponsored by the Janssen pharmaceutical company, who will participate in the selection and monitoring of those programs within their areas of interest without acquiring any IP rights. After the incubation and maturation stages, Janssen will have a right of first negotiation on the programs.

The Expressions of Interest will be submitted through the Kærtor Foundation website ([kaertorfoundation.org](http://kaertorfoundation.org)), by completing the **Expression of Interest form**.

The submitted expressions of interest will be reviewed by the Kærtor Foundation experts and evaluation committees to build a pipeline of selected programs to be prioritized for their development on the basis of the level of innovation and the stage of development of the program in the drug discovery process.

Open Innovation has transformed early drug discovery into a highly multidisciplinary and delocalized scenario, by enabling all players integrated in the network to share knowledge in real time throughout the entire health ecosystem. Pharmaceutical companies now operate through open innovation departments in which the top experts worldwide connect research on the mechanisms of disease through these pipelines. It is a new world where the creation of 'real' innovation in drug discovery is possible.

This initiative represents a great opportunity for drug discovery to join the new scenario, connecting biomedical research in disease mechanisms with clinical, biotechnological and pharmaceutical companies and patients.

Worldwide there are already several initiatives in Open Innovation in drug discovery. Spain has an enormous potential for advancing its excellent biomedical research to drug discovery programs within this new scenario.

## **Innopharma:** a model of success in open innovation

**The sustainability of the successful Innopharma model is driven by the Kærtor Foundation.**

The Innopharma pharmacogenomics platform was created in the open innovation framework to bridge the gap between basic research in new therapeutic mechanisms and the industrial application of the research findings. The EU/MINECO/Xunta de Galicia/University of Santiago de Compostela funded this platform during the period 2012-2015.

When Innopharma launched a call for programs, 122 expressions of interest were received, and those with the highest potential were selected for further development within the Innopharma platform.

### **Major achievements of the Innopharma call:**

- The ERIC EU-OPENSOURCE network has accredited the Innopharma platform as a high capacity-screening platform, certifying that it meets the requirements established for its inclusion in the network (link to the evaluation).
- One program with clinical Proof of Principle completed.
- One program selected as winner of the GSK Discovery Fast Track Challenge (DPAC).
- One program selected by AstraZeneca for co-development under its Target Innovation Program.
- Signed agreements with 42 companies and private partners.