

Launch of the Girona Chair for Health Innovation, a meeting point for the sector to promote talent and a culture of innovation

- The Girona Chair for Health Innovation is a joint initiative of the University of Girona, the Dr. Josep Trueta University Hospital, the Institute of Health Care (IAS), and the companies ESTEVE and HIPRA.
- Its goal is to consolidate an innovative ecosystem that drives the economic and social development of Girona, positioning the region as a benchmark in the health sector through innovation.

Girona, April 4, 2025. The Rectorate of the University of Girona (UdG) was today the setting for the presentation of a new collaboration agreement between the UdG, the Dr. Josep Trueta University Hospital of Girona, the Institute of Health Care (IAS), and the companies Hipra and Esteve Healthcare to promote a new academic initiative: the Girona Chair for Health Innovation.

The Girona Chair for Health Innovation, directed by UdG Professor Teresa Puig, aims to promote awareness, dissemination, research, training, and knowledge transfer activities in the field of innovation and life sciences in the Girona region. Its ultimate goal is to improve efficiency and quality of care and to position the Girona region as a leader in the health sector through innovation.

The rector of the University of Girona, Quim Salvi, highlighted that the Chair “aligns with the academic and strategic priorities of the University, which seeks to bring sociocultural and socioeconomic innovation to the territory — in this case to the healthcare sector — by fostering access to knowledge creation and the development of new profiles of specialized talent.”

For his part, the president of the IAS, Martí Masferrer, emphasized “the pride” of being part of this new Chair and the importance of working together in innovation, “aligning efforts between academia, healthcare organizations, their professionals, and the business sector.”

Meanwhile, Àngels Morales Lozano, general manager of the Trueta Hospital and IAS, pointed out that “innovation not only improves the efficiency of healthcare services but also drives the development of new solutions that have a direct impact on the quality of care and people’s lives.” She underlined “the responsibility of health organizations to adapt their services to technological and social evolution in order to meet the population’s needs.” Morales also noted that there are already numerous initiatives aimed at promoting innovation in the Girona Health Region, but that this Chair represents “a step forward with a view to the future Health Campus.”

Next, Carles Fàbrega, Managing Director of HIPRA’s Human Health Division, stated that “the biotechnology industry must play a key role in the Girona region as a driver of scientific progress and economic development.” He added that “we understand innovation not only as a tool for competitiveness but also as a responsibility towards the territory that hosts us.”

For this reason, he expressed HIPRA’s commitment “to give back part of the value we generate through strategic alliances such as this one. It is a great opportunity to strengthen the health innovation hub of the region and, above all, to create the conditions that allow local talent — or talent trained here — to develop their careers and produce research with real, transformative impact on global health.”

Finally, Maria Àngels Valls, Director of Communication and Public Affairs at ESTEVE, added that “we believe in the power of collaboration between academia,



healthcare, and industry to drive health innovation. This Chair will allow us to generate knowledge, attract talent, and develop innovative solutions with a clear purpose: improving people's lives. We are proud to foster local talent and contribute to the region's scientific and economic development.”

With an annual endowment of €21,000, the Chair will also ensure that the training offer of undergraduate and postgraduate programs in technology and health meets the needs of companies, promoting educational programs that train professionals with the skills and competencies required by the innovation and health sciences sector.

Another objective of the Chair is to raise public awareness of healthcare innovations and professional opportunities, and to promote the participation of patients and communities in the development of new solutions.