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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Erdheim-Chester Disease Care Center Certified in Spain

*Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge Becomes First
ECD Global Alliance Referral Care Center in Spain*

(DeRidder, LA – October 18, 2022) - The Erdheim-Chester Disease Global Alliance (ECDGA) is proud to announce the Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge has become its first-ever ECDGA Referral Care Center in Spain.

ECDGA Referral Care Centers are specialized medical clinics that focus on treating and researching the ultra-rare Erdheim-Chester Disease (ECD). ECD is a type of blood cancer that is caused by the accumulation of histiocytes, which are cells that typically fight infections, in tissues and organs throughout the body.

Dr. Xavier Solanich, who specializes in internal medicine, will be the leading physician at the new center and has become one of Spain's foremost experts in treating and studying ECD.

"Our group has gained experience over the last decades caring for ECD patients and from now on we would like also to do teaching and research in this field," said Dr. Solanich. "Being part of the ECD Global Alliance allows us to improve the management of our patients and support patients cared for in smaller centers in Spain."

Because ECD can affect different organs of the body, patients often need to receive coordinated care across a range of medical specialties. These can include, neurology, pathology, cardiology, general counseling, and more. A major aim of ECDGA Care Centers is to provide access to a variety of these specialties within one facility or health network.



Hospital Universitari de Bellvitge will now join more than 35 ECDGA Care Centers across the globe currently treating patients with ECD. ECDGA Care Centers also serve as educational hubs for ECD and are required to collaborate within the network to ensure all patients are receiving up-to-date treatment and the best care currently available.

ECDGA Care Center physicians are also available to provide consultation to local doctors when patients are unable to travel.

For more information on the ECDGA Care Center network and how to contact them, please visit www.erdheim-chester.org/care-centers/.

[Erdheim-Chester Disease](#) is an ultra-rare condition that is believed to be underdiagnosed. It is considered a histiocytic neoplasm (type of blood cancer). The illness is characterized by the accumulation of histiocytes, cells that normally fight infections, in tissue and organs. The tissue and organs become dense and fibrotic due to the infiltration of the histiocytes and can lead to organ failure unless a successful treatment is found.

The [ECD Global Alliance](#) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the awareness, support, education, and research related to Erdheim-Chester Disease.

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