

## **ESTEVE adds its weight to the fight against the pandemic through donations and research collaborations**

- The company has donated protective material (masks, gloves, gowns and protective suits) to several hospitals throughout Spain.
- Hospitals in Madrid and Barcelona have received more than half a ton of fresh fruit and more than 7,000 cans of tuna have been sent to the Food Bank so that high-protein food can be distributed to the most vulnerable groups.
- ESTEVE is participating in 3 European projects aimed at identifying and/or repositioning drugs that are active against COVID-19; at detecting SARS-CoV-2 (the causative coronavirus of COVID-19 pandemic); and at analyzing the involvement of the sigma-1 receptor in the viral infection cycle.

**Barcelona, 28 April 2020.-** ESTEVE has made donations targeted at health professionals, patients and people on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) have been made through the Ministry of Health and the Catalan Union of Hospitals and have been distributed to several hospitals in Spain, while fruit and food have been donated through Refruiting and the Food Bank. The company is also collaborating in national and international research in the fight against COVID-19.

ESTEVE has donated healthcare material to help protect healthcare professionals caring for patients with COVID-19. Specifically, 200 protective suits, 30,000 gloves, 1,000 masks and 800 booties.

ESTEVE has also been keen to contribute to the welfare of health professionals by distributing more than one hundred boxes of fresh fruit, equivalent to over half a ton (676 kg), to different hospitals in Madrid (the La Paz Hospital and the Gregorio Marañón Hospital) and Barcelona (the Clínic Hospital and the Vall d'Hebron Hospital), and by donating food to the Food Bank so that it can be distributed to the most vulnerable people and families.

### **Collaboration in national and international research**

ESTEVE is participating in the European supercomputing platform EXSCALATE4CoV (EAC), financed by the European Commission in a recent express call related to COVID-19 within the framework of the H2020 programme. The objective of this project is twofold. On the one hand, the aim is to identify/reposition drugs that are active against COVID-19 through a process of in silico simulations (via computer simulation) and in vitro validations. And, on the other hand, to develop and consolidate an effective tool to counteract future epidemics.



The pharmaceutical laboratory has also provided equipment with state-of-the-art technology to perform mass COVID-19 detection tests, in a joint initiative of the Barcelona Science Park (PCB), the National Centre for Genomic Analysis (CNAG), the Institute for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC), and the Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona).

It has also supplied a research compound with selective sigma-1 activity so that in vitro studies can be carried out both nationally and internationally. According to a recently published study<sup>1</sup> by an international consortium of more than 90 researchers from around the world, the sigma-1 receptor may be involved in SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 infection.

Ever since this global pandemic began, ESTEVE has continued to guarantee the supply of essential and non-essential drugs by applying additional internal control mechanisms and by adapting its active ingredient production plants both in Spain (Celrà and Banyeres del Penedès) and elsewhere in the world.

#### **About ESTEVE**

ESTEVE ([www.esteve.com](http://www.esteve.com)) is a global pharmaceutical company with headquarters in Barcelona. The company's mission is to advance in innovation in order to improve people's lives, and ever since its foundation in 1929, it has focused on providing solutions for unmet medical needs. ESTEVE has an important presence in Europe thanks to its subsidiaries in Germany, France and the United Kingdom and its own production centers in Spain, Germany, Mexico and China.

#### **Bibliography**

1. [A SARS-CoV-2-Human Protein-Protein Interaction Map Reveals Drug Targets and Potential Drug-Repurposing](https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.22.002386). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.22.002386>

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