

**COMUNICADO DE PRENSA**

**Novartis reimagines neurosciences by developing smart templates that measure progression in MS patients, in collaboration with FeetMe and the Vithas Nisa Foundation**

- *The Company took advantage of the LXX Annual Meeting of the Spanish Society of Neurology to reveal the start-up of the R & D project together with FeetMe, a firm specialized in smart medical devices and Hospital Vithas Nisa de Sevilla*
- *The study implements the use of portable templates to improve the evaluation in real conditions of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS), with the aim of helping them to manage the pathology.*
- *MS is a disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS) and associated with a cumulative loss of physical and cognitive function, with a prevalence in Spain of 47,000 people<sup>1</sup>*

**Seville, November 20th, 2018** – In the field of the celebration in Seville of the LXX Annual Meeting of the Spanish Society of Neurology (SEN), Novartis has presented the beginning of a pioneering research in collaboration with the firm specialized in smart medical devices FeetMe, focused on the development of portable insoles that measure progression in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS). This is a unique trial, coordinated by Dr. Guillermo Izquierdo - head of the EM Research and Treatment Unit of the Vithas Nisa Foundation - and developed exclusively at the Vithas Nisa Sevilla Hospital, which has recently achieved the first inclusion of patients, from a total sample of 208.

The main objective of the project is to contribute to the mobility of patients through the analysis of movement and posture in real time and conditions of life, through the coordination of pressure and movement sensors and the use of reinforced learning algorithms. All this allows analyze the functional capacity of the patients and provide a rehabilitation tool to those who suffer gait disorders, which often constitute a precursor and indicator of MS.

Both companies, with the unconditional support of the Vithas Nisa Foundation, are committed to the creation of a connected template and associated software to measure plant pressure and space-time gait parameters, as well as technologies to monitor patient data in real time, detect biological and behavioral changes, improve patient adherence and, ultimately, improve treatment outcomes. Marking a new milestone in the remote evaluation of the evolution of MS in real time.

Dr. Guillermo Izquierdo - head of the EM Research and Treatment Unit of the Vithas Nisa Foundation - and developed exclusively at the Vithas Nisa Sevilla Hospital, located in Hospital Vithas Nisa Sevilla, “quantifying the status and progression of MS is a challenge for

specialists and patients, especially if data is not available in real time. At present, there are only subjective tools such as clinical scales to assess mobility, with a notable lack of sensitivity that helps to adapt therapeutic treatments correctly. For this reason, we believe in this trial and its real potential to improve the lives of people with MS worldwide. "

Alexis Mathieu, founder and CEO at FeetMe, said: "This partnership is a unique opportunity to bring to market new validated medical devices to help assess patient evolution and improve disease management in MS. Novartis illustrates its strategy to improve patient management leveraging innovative technologies in combination with upcoming treatments".

"The connected insole allows patients and physicians to manage and evaluate in real time and remotely treatment efficacy to adapt them for the patient. Creating new digital biomarkers will reinforce existing therapeutics with companion diagnostics providing accurate and actionable monitoring solutions".

MS is a disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS), autoimmune and chronic, which has a prevalence of 47,000 people in Spain and an incidence of about 1,800 new cases per year<sup>1</sup>. The pathology, associated with a cumulative loss of physical and cognitive function and for which there is currently no curative treatment, is diagnosed in 70% of cases between 20 and 40 years, being the most common disease in young adults and the second cause of disability in Spain, behind traffic accidents<sup>1</sup>.

D. Orlando Vergara Correa, Business Franchise Head Neuroscience of Novartis Spain, explains : "we are very pleased with the launch of this promising project, which is supported by our extensive experience and leadership in biomedical research. Our commitment is to improve the quality of life of people with neurological diseases such as MS, through investment in R & D to implement effective solutions that meet their needs not covered. We work with leaders in digital health such as FeetMe to promote the next wave of medical innovation. We are proud to be part of this initiative, which we hope will mark a before and after in the management of MS and will help us continue to reimagine neurosciences".

#### **About FeetMe**

FeetMe is a Paris-based medical device start-up company developing movement analysis solutions based on connected insoles, with applications in the monitoring of neurodegenerative diseases as well as rehabilitation and physical therapy. FeetMe Monitor, its first product, is CE mark and commercially available.  
[www.feetme.fr](http://www.feetme.fr)

FeetMe is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Feet\_Me at [http://twitter.com/feet\\_me](http://twitter.com/feet_me)

#### **About Novartis**

Novartis provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to meet these needs: innovative medicines, cost-saving generic and biosimilar pharmaceuticals and eye care. Novartis has leading positions globally in each of these areas. In 2017, the Group achieved net sales of USD 49.1 billion, while R&D throughout the Group amounted to approximately USD 9.0 billion. Novartis Group companies employ approximately 122,000 full-time-equivalent associates. Novartis products are sold in approximately 155 countries around the world. For more information, please visit <http://www.novartis.com>.

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