

Ms. María Rio Presa  
General Manager  
Gilead Science

**OPEN LETTER**

Mr. Jesús Acebillo  
Chairman  
Novartis España

Dear Sir and Madam,

15 November 2017

The No es Sano Campaign is an initiative with the principal aim of universal access to medicine and the transformation of the current biomedical R&D model. It is promoted by Salud por Derecho, Médicos del Mundo, Organización Médica Colegial de España (OMC), the Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios (OCU), No Gracias, Asociación por un Acceso Justo al Medicamento, the Sociedad Española de Salud Pública y Administración Sanitaria (SESPAS), the Confederación Española de Consumidores y Usuarios (CECU) and also receives the support of OXFAM and ISGlobal. The campaign has also seen more than twenty other organisations subscribe to its manifesto.

The organizations that form part of the campaign would like to offer our congratulations to both of you and the universities and public centres that have worked towards, and continue to work towards, new advances in immunotherapy. These new therapies open a new, promising way in the fight against cancer and, without doubt, strengthening the steps in this direction is just what patients need. More specifically, T-cell treatments with chimeric antigen receptors, so-called CAR-T therapies, are an example of the innovation we are paying close attention to.

At a time as important as this, we, like other European and American organisations, want to take advantage of the opportunity to express, in this open letter, our enormous concern with the prices that these new lines of treatment might reach. Immunotherapies have been widely worked on at numerous public centres around the world, funded with the proceeds of the taxes paid by ordinary men and women. Many of these centres have made important discoveries from which your companies have benefited. For this reason, in the interests of greater transparency and in recognition of public investment in CAR-T therapies we would like to ask you a number of questions regarding:

- 1) The criteria upon which the price of these therapies is based, specifically Kymriah and Yescarta, at this incipient stage where clinical trials relating to these early treatments barely number one hundred patients, according to published information.

1

La campaña No Es Sano está promovida por:



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- 2) The R&D investment made in own R&D for *CAR-T* therapies on the part of your companies. Investment data shows that, in the United States, public institutions have invested over 200 million dollars in this area alone since 1993. Your specific investment in R&D, and the total sums from public investment is very valuable information for citizens and for the States that will subsequently pay the bill, as will occur in Spain.
- 3) The investment made in the acquisition of licenses and patents from public institutions. According to public information, Novartis paid 20 million dollars for the exclusive license for CTL-019.<sup>1</sup> Kite-Pharma, the company purchased by Gilead to develop these treatments has taken advantage of the research carried out substantially by the National Cancer Institute of United States.
- 4) In many developing countries, these treatments will be inaccessible if the patent is registered. We would like to know your intentions in this area.

Many thanks in advance for your time and your response.

Regards,

CC. John F. Milligan, PhD  
CEO Gilead  
CC. Joseph Jimenez  
CEO Novartis

**Promoter Organisations of the No es Sano Campaign.** Salud por Derecho, Organización Médica Colegial de España (OMC), the Organización de Consumidores y Usuarios (OCU), Médicos del Mundo, SESPAS, the Confederación Española de Consumidores y Usuarios (CECU), No Gracias, Asociación por el Acceso Justo al Medicamento. The No es Sano Campaign also has the support of OXFAM and ISGlobal

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

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<sup>1</sup> Data from Patients for Affordable Drugs. Available at <http://www.patientsforaffordabledrugs.org/2017/08/17/patients-for-affordable-drugs-launches-campaign-demanding-fair-pricing-of-new-cancer-drug/>

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