



## **Axxam supports drug discovery efforts to identify novel inhibitors for SARS-CoV-2**

**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020** - Axxam SpA (Milan/Italy), a privately-owned innovative Partner Research Organization (iPRO) announced its commitment to support the identification of antiviral therapies to treat the severe acute respiratory syndrome COVID-19, caused by the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

Axxam is developing a series of *in-vitro* biochemical and cell-based assays using artificial pseudo-viral particles. These assays will be suitable for the identification of novel virus-specific small molecule inhibitors of SARS-CoV-2 cellular uptake and biological pathways. We will be conducting High Throughput Screening campaigns using different small molecule libraries including known/approved pharmaceutical compounds for repurposing studies.

These activities will also include the identification of antivirals for other members of the Coronavirus family like SARS-CoV-1 and MERS which might pave the way to generate Pan-Coronavirus acting drugs.

A network of external collaborations with key academic and medical institutions is already in place so that we can leverage a wide range of competences and experiences to move forward this program in an effective and comprehensive way.

As Axxam is based in Italy, one of the most heavily affected countries from this pandemic, we have a strong sense of responsibility and motivation to apply our drug discovery experience and competences to the worldwide efforts of developing therapies against this devastating virus.

### **Axxam status: fully operational**

In compliance with all the local and national guidelines and decrees on the COVID-19 emergency, Axxam immediately implemented strict contingency measures in order to protect the safety of the employees while preserving lab-based work and business continuity.

Even in these times of uncertainty, the Axxam Team is here to fully support our Clients and Partners with the usual energy, strength and passion.

We have all been impacted by the global pandemic and the Axxam Team is extremely grateful and thankful to the medical community, in Italy and around the globe, for their relentless courage and commitment to COVID-19 patients. Now, more than ever, are we seeing the benefit of collaborations to further the research and development efforts in accelerating drug discovery programs.

### **About Axxam S.p.A.**

Axxam SpA is a privately owned iPRO (innovative Partner Research Organization) and discovery company located at the Science Park OpenZone in Bresso (Milan, Italy). The Company is a leading provider of discovery services for the entire life sciences industries as: pharmaceutical, crop protection, animal health, cosmetics and nutrition. Axxam has a strong expertise across a broad range of discovery disciplines and innovative technologies, including assay development, compound management, HTS, hit identification and hit validation. Axxam is also engaged in developing novel innovative therapies for diseases with a high unmet medical need. For more information, please visit [www.axxam.com](http://www.axxam.com).