

# CF SPANISH ASSOCIATIONS IN FAVOUR OF PHAGE THERAPY RESEARCH AND ITS REGULATION

## AUTHORS

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## AFFILIATIONS

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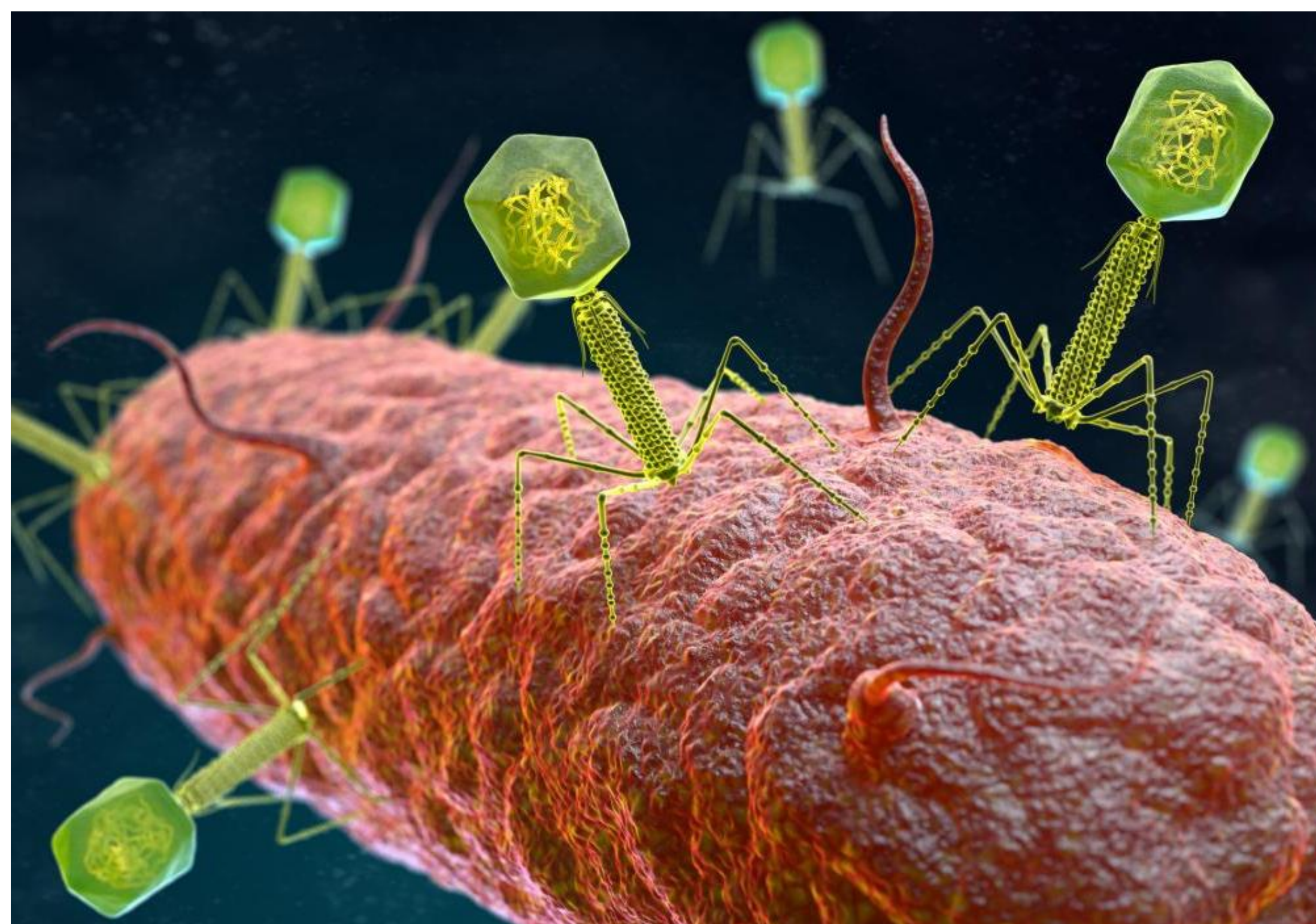
## SUMMARY

Faced with the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, the Spanish cystic fibrosis community has mobilised to seek alternatives. Phage therapy uses viruses, known as bacteriophages or phages, which kill pathogenic bacteria in a very specific way without damaging the microbiota and without side effects.

Associations and families have joined forces to jointly fund phage therapy research by Dr Pilar Domingo-Calap's pioneering group in Spain at the University of Valencia. In 2022, almost €100,000 was raised and work is underway to raise a further €100,000 in 2023.

In addition, the Respiralia Foundation, a Balearic CF organisation, has secured a donation that has made possible the creation of the company Evolving Therapeutics with this researcher and the University of Valencia as partners.

Now it remains to continue raising funds to continue this research and work on the regulation of this therapy both in Spain and in Europe: Adopt a phage!



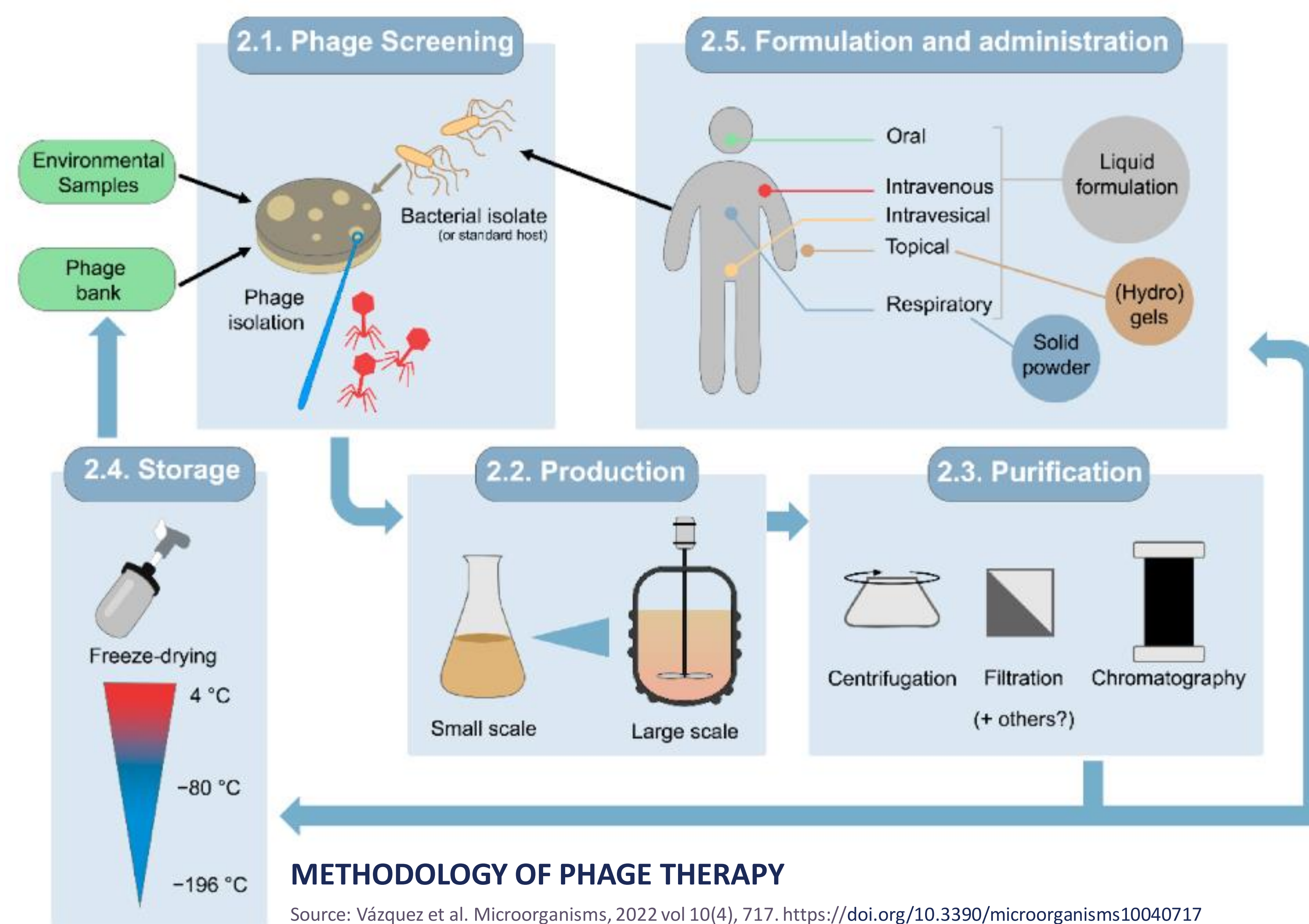
Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a genetic, severe, degenerative and incurable disease. It mainly affects the respiratory, digestive and reproductive systems and the sweat glands.

Its greatest morbidity and mortality is due to respiratory involvement, as these people have a high tendency to get recurrent lung infections. They are treated with antibiotics, but bacteria become resistant to them and more difficult to eradicate.

Phage therapy can be used not only in people with CF, but also in many other people suffering from multidrug-resistant infections (immunosuppressed, oncology, people in ICU, other respiratory diseases, etc.), as well as at animal and environmental levels. In addition to their therapeutic interest, phages can be of great use in the prevention and diagnosis of bacterial infections, making them highly versatile and promising in the field of biomedicine.

## OBJECTIVES

- Support phage therapy at national level: Support the research of Dr Pilar Domingo-Calap's pioneering phage therapy team, throughout crowdfunding and donations.
- Work for the regulation of phage therapy, alternative to antibiotics, in Spain (and in Europe).



## RESEARCH TEAM



Research team of Dr. Pilar Domingo-Calap, Director of the Laboratory of Environmental and Biomedical Virology, University of Valencia-CSIC



PHAGE THERAPY IS PRESENTED AS A LIFE-SAVING ALTERNATIVE THERAPY AGAINST THESE MULTI-RESISTANT BACTERIA DUE TO ITS SPECIFICITY AND LACK OF SIDE EFFECTS

## RESULTS

### RESEARCH RESULTS

- Phage banks against several species of multidrug-resistant bacteria obtained
- First clinical phages obtained
- First compassionate treatment licenses obtained
- Several research awards obtained

### FUNDING RESULTS

- More than €100,000 of funding raised thanks to the entire Cystic Fibrosis community in Spain. 3 people have been hired
- Creation of the company Evolving Therapeutics, SL, thanks to the Respiralia Foundation and the University of Valencia. It will work on phages with the One Health philosophy: human, vegetable and animal health are interdependent and linked to ecosystems.

## FUTURE STEPS

- At the research level. Find more phages, improve phage evolution protocols, fine-tune phage delivery modes at the clinical level...
- At the fundraising level. Continue fundraising in society. The more money, the more progress.
- At the regulatory level. Launch a clinical trial and raise awareness in society and public administration of the importance of seeking alternatives to antibiotics against multi-resistant bacteria.



**DO YOU WANT TO COLLABORATE?**  
MAKE YOUR DONATION TO THE CYSTIC FIBROSIS SPANISH FEDERATION (FEFQ)  
ACCOUNT NUMBER ES21 2100 4331 01 020005125255 (SWIFT CODE CAIXESBBXXX) WITH THE  
HASHTAG #ADOPTAUNFAGO.

