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San Rocco Therapeutics renovates its Altamura headquarters and restores historic statues

The project was curated by American artist Megan Euker, who stayed in Altamura in recent days - EDITORIAL STAFF ALTAMURA - ALTA MURGIA

By Giovanni Mercadante - July 28, 2025, at 2:43 p.m.



Megan Euker and Patrick Gironi; photo credit by Piero Lorusso

San Rocco Therapeutics (SRT), a US biotech institute active in research on sickle cell anemia and thalassemia, announces the redevelopment of its European headquarters in Altamura, Puglia. The project also includes the artistic restoration of the three large statues surrounding the building, symbols of the company's mission.



The project was led by Megan Euker, an artist and project manager at SRT, who was in Altamura in recent days. She oversaw the restoration of the sculptures originally created by sculptor Mimmo Laterza in 1998 using Altamura stone. Euker, a two-time Fulbright scholar in Italy, scanned and reconstructed the damaged faces in 3D, giving new life to the works. The statues depict St. Roch—patron saint of incurable diseases and inspiration for the SRT logo—a man with a child, and a third figure that now bears the faces of Luciano Pavarotti and Silvio Berlusconi, as a tribute to Italy's great cultural personalities.

The initiative comes at a crucial moment for the company. After three decades of research, SRT is preparing to launch new clinical trials in Europe on its experimental treatment based on Arginine Butyrate, a fetal hemoglobin gene enhancer. In Altamura, in the 1990s, 38 patients were treated with this molecule.



To seal the continuity of the scientific project, Professor Franco Locatelli, director of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Institute of Health), will lead the next clinical trial at the Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome. Locatelli also participated in the inauguration of the SRT center in 1995, thus beginning a long collaboration with the company founded by Patrick Gironi.

"This restoration is more than just an aesthetic project: it symbolizes a rebirth for our mission," said Gironi, the project's promoter. "San Rocco Therapeutics continues to work diligently to offer accessible and innovative therapeutic solutions to the most neglected patients."

The company's commitment has also attracted institutional attention: U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kennedy recently praised Gironi's work, noting that the therapy developed by SRT promises to be "more effective and significantly less expensive" than currently available treatments. President Donald Trump also shared the company's story on social media.

Since 2019, the specialist publication TrialSite News has been following the scientific progress of SRT, which continues to operate with scientific rigor, independence, and a clear social vocation.

Euker, who also serves as the US manager, thanked all the collaborators who supported the project in Altamura, including Gironi, Laterza, and numerous members of the local and international community.

