Minutes from the WG 3 Meeting

24. November 2014
10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Liege, Belgium

Participants:

Eithne Costello
Marlène Dufresne
Stephan Hahn
Núria Malats
Christoph Michalski
Patrick Jacquemin
Eva Vaquero
Xavier Molero
Geri Keane
Paulina Gomez
Filipe
Santos-Silva
Bo Kong

1.) **Chris Michalski (IPMN study group)** reported the activities of the subgroups. The IPMN group will have their separate meeting and will report on their discussions. He furthermore presented their data collection on risk predictors for IPMN, which according to his interpretation are not specific enough.

2.) **Eithne Costello (biomaterial from early stage pancreatic cancer group)** reported that their research suggests that there is no significant number of early cancer available anywhere in Europe, and probably not anywhere else. This group will therefore be no longer active.

3.) **Geri Keane and Paulina Gomez (risk population group) reported on their research on PDAC risk markers for the general population.**

Discussion:

The main problem of current biomarker development and testing is the lack of early stage cancer biomaterial and biomaterial prior to cancer development at the level of imaging sensitivity. The early onset diabetes subgroup was identified with the WP3 participants as a potential group to enrich from 1:10000 to 1:100 (100fold) for pancreatic cancer (provided the published data is not too far off), thus providing a more realistic ground to collect the missing biomaterials . Therefore the possibilities to set up a prospective multi center study to collect some 10000 early onset diabetes patients (which may lead under optimal conditions to the identification of approx. 100 PDACs) , have them fill out a simple informative questionnaire an do an initial MRI scan on each patient (CT was dismissed because of radiation and sensitivity) to know the tumor status. Subsequently i.e. plasma will be collect over 5 years time. This would ideally allow the identification of some early cancers at the time of onset of diabetes, but also of patients which are initially negative for cancer at the level of MRI sensitivity who will develop cancer over the follow up period of 5 years. This will help to gather biomarker on relatively early cancer patients for future studies. It was clearly acknowledged by the group, that there are manifold problems in setting up such a study which needs to addressed in more detail the near future . Eithne Costello reported that Liverpool has already embarked in collecting early onset diabetes biomaterials and she was willing to lead the group in setting up a proposal defining the study in more detail as a basis to identify and approach potential collaborators and funding opportunities (including companies).

The next WG3 meeting was suggested to be end of February beginning of March in Liverpool.