

Minutes WG1 Meeting (Action BM1204)

13th June 2013

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO)

Madrid, Spain

2nd Floor Seminar Room

Participants: Roger Milne (Spain), Irene Esposito (Germany), Malte Buchholz (Germany), Carlo La Vecchia (Italy), Giedrius Barauskas (Lithuania), Núria Malats (Spain), Paulina Gomez (Spain).

Apologies: Bill Greenhalf (UK), Bas Bueno de Mesquita (Netherlands), Vita Dolzan (Slovenia), Günter Klöppel (Germany), Linda Sharp (Ireland), Fiona Campbell (UK)

1. Overview of the Action

Núria gave an overview of the Action

2. Overview of WG1

Roger gave an overview of the tasks and deliverables for WG1

3. Work plan

3.1 . Deliverables

Roger presented the specific tasks to be completed over the four years of the Action as:

- i. Prepare work plan for year 1 (1st April, 2013 – 31st March, 2014)
- ii. Form WG1
- iii. Meetings
- iv. Propose at least one short-term scientific mission
- v. Contact with other consortia (PanC4, ICGC, Biobanks, SME)
- vi. Identify research and funding opportunities
- vii. Comparison across groups and countries, and across settings and contexts, of definitions and terminology for sporadic, hereditary and familial pancreas cancer
- viii. Standardized definition of PDAC and establishment of key terminology
- ix. Development of protocols for patient enrolment and monitoring
- x. Standardisation of biological sample collection, processing and storage protocols

- xi. Standardisation of epidemiological and clinical questionnaires
- xii. Establishment of criteria to assess the quality of existing biobanks for pancreas cancer research

Those underlined were prioritized for the work plan for the first year

3.2 . **Scheduled teleconferences**

It was agreed that these would be done through Skype, at least monthly, starting in September. All members need to create a Skype account. The CNIO has a premium account which allow for multiple users simultaneously. We aim to hold the first teleconference in September.

3.3 . **Organisation**

- i. Prepare work plan for year 1 (1st April, 2013 – 31st March, 2014)

Priorities between now and the MC, WG and Scientific Meeting in November are to expand the list of members of the working group and to begin planning teleconferences. Further plans will be made at the November Meeting (details below)

- ii. Form WG1

The working group has been formed, at present composed of those people listed above. See point 3.4 below.

- iii. Meetings

Two WG meetings will be held per year, the first being this one. The next meeting will be held immediately prior to the MC and Scientific Meetings, on the morning of the 29th November, in Madrid. Further details will be circulated at a later date.

- iv. Propose at least one short-term scientific mission

The group discussed short-term scientific missions (STSM) potentially relevant to the goals of WG1. See point 3.5 below. Further details re the purpose of and eligibility criteria for STSM are available at: http://cost-winemo.org/docs/COST_Vademecum_Grant_System.pdf

- v. Contact with other consortia (PanC4, ICGC, Biobanks, SME)

Contact has already been made with PanC4 in which Carlo, Núria and Roger participate. Additional groups that could be contacted include <https://www.bioshare.eu/>, CamPac (Cellular and Animal Models of PC) – a five year grant, starting in November, 2013, an initiative in Heidelberg to accredit biobanks.

- vi. Identify research and funding opportunities

It was agreed that at least initially, funding could be sought to appoint a person to coordinate the work of the WG, collating information and following up with members and contacts. Depending on the priorities established, we could later look to fund the creation and maintenance of a central database. Potential funding sources

identified include Horizon 2020, Erasmus (for education), Charities (at the national level) and United European Gastroenterology (UEG).

- vii. Comparison across groups and countries, and across settings and contexts, of definitions and terminology for sporadic, hereditary and familial pancreas cancer
- viii. Standardized definition of PDAC and establishment of key terminology

Irene highlighted that the pathological definition is well-established (WHO criteria) and that more important is about raising awareness about this fact. Giedrius suggested that establishing clinical guidelines would be very challenging but also very worthwhile.

- ix. Development of protocols for patient enrolment and monitoring
- x. Standardisation of biological sample collection, processing and storage protocols
- xi. Standardisation of epidemiological and clinical questionnaires
- xii. Establishment of criteria to assess the quality of existing biobanks for pancreas cancer research

It was agreed that the first step towards tasks vii. to xii. is to generate lists of:

1. Key clinical and research groups and PDAC studies in Europe
2. Clinicians (to come up with relevant questions for vii and viii)
3. Protocols used for patient enrolment and sample collection processing and storage
4. Epidemiological questionnaires used
5. Clinical and follow-up data collection forms used

The ultimate aim of points 3-5 could be to propose one version of each “approved by COST Action BM1204” for as a reference for future research.

3.4 . Inclusion of other WG members

All WG members to identify potential groups and contact PIs to invite to participate, keeping in mind that we should encourage the participation of early-stage researchers. Other disciplines to be considered, in addition to Epidemiology, Molecular Biology and Pathology, are Gastroenterology and Imaging, as well as Information Technology. Malte suggested that it would help in encouraging people to participate, to create a standard statement on a) what COST is, b) what WG1 is about and c) what people can get out of participating.

3.5 . Short-term scientific missions (STSM)

We should look for opportunities for STSM that further the work of this Working Group. One possibility raised was for people to visit the CNIO group to be trained in techniques to recruit and interview cases and controls for cases-control PDAC studies, and to review clinical charts for follow-up studies of patients with PDAC. Another was for researchers participating in studies in different countries to visit each other to work on questionnaire, form and data harmonization.

3.6 . Training schools

Núria suggested that this could be planned for summer 2014. Irene mentioned that her group are running on-line courses on mouse pathology (pathpath.eu). They have applied for funding to run a face-to-face training schools on specific topics. If funded, COST funding could complement this.

6. Meeting in November

A scientific meeting (Pancreas Cancer Forum) is being organised in Madrid on the afternoon of the 29th and the morning of the 30th by Manuel Hidalgo, a CNIO researcher, oncologist and expert in pancreatic cancer. It will be focused on patient management, covering topics from 'omics and other types of markers to personalized medicine. It will be attended by a large number of pancreatic experts from the EU. COST Action BM1204 is now an official co-organizer of this meeting. The COST MC meeting will be held on the afternoon of the 29th.