

WG1 Meeting- COST Action BM1204

29th November 2013 – CNIO, Madrid

Participants: Irene Esposito, Malte Buchholz, Eric Duell, Carlo La Vecchia, Giedrius Barauskas, Tatjana Crnogorac-Jurcevic, Vita Dolzan.

Excused: Fiona Campbell (UK, pathology), Bill Greenhalf (UK, molecular biology), Paulina Gomez (Spain), Sibylle Gündisch (Germany, molecular biology), Günter Klöppel (Germany, pathology), Markus Lerch (Germany, gastroenterology), Julia Mayerle (Germany, gastroenterology),

Minutes

General introduction

Short introduction round. Irene introduced Eric Duell as new WG1 member and co-leader of WG1 and herself as new leader of WG1.

Summary of tasks and deliverables of WG1

Irene briefly recapitulated the task of WG1, as well as the tasks and deliverables, as discussed during the WG1 kick-off meeting (see minutes).

Progress report WG1

Irene summarized the tasks that had been prioritized during the kick-off meeting for the first year (end: March 31st 2014) and presented the progress report (see attached Powerpoint presentation).

The following points were discussed in detail:

1. Composition of WG1: New members have been acquired:

Eric Duell: epidemiologist

Julia Mayerle and Markus Lerch: gastroenterologists

Tatjana Crnogorac-Jurcevic: molecular biologist

Sibylle Gündisch: molecular biologist

Brief discussion about WG1 members (according to list provided by Maria-Dolores Liebanes): Timur Ceric (Bosnia Herzegovina), Juan Iovanna (France) and Linda Sharp (Ireland) have not participated to any of the WG1 meetings and/or activities so far.

It was decided that the list of the active WG1 members should be updated for the planning of the next events.

Bas Bueno de Mesquita (Netherlands, epidemiology) will remain WG1 member with advisory functions.

2. Meetings/Networking: Milan was proposed as site for the next WG1 meeting (possible date May 20th 2014).

An intensification of the networking with other WGs (especially WG2 and WG3) was discussed and it was decided that at least one WG1 member should participate to meetings of other WGs to get information and report about their activities.

3. STSM: Carlo summarized the results of the first call. Two possible STMS were proposed for the second part of the first year:

- One with focus on epidemiology (PanC4) between Italy and Spain
- One with focus on pathology/standardized definition of pathologic lesions between UK and Germany

Malte proposed that study nurses and/or technicians could also apply for STSM. **This issue has been approved during the MC meeting on the following day.**

4. Contact with other consortia:

PanC4: contact exist through Carlo, Nuria and Eric

ICGC: contact has been established for the whole action by Nuria

SPIDIA (www.spidia.eu), m4 biobank alliance (www.m4.de): contact established by Irene

5. Specific WG1 tasks:

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

This task was prioritized for the first year during the kick-off meeting. Since a standard terminology already exists, it was decided that the main issue is to raise the awareness of the scientific community about it.

Irene proposed to coordinate with other pathologists/experts a consensus paper to be submitted to *Virchows Archiv* (Official Journal of the European Society of Pathology).

Standardisation of biological sample collection, processing and storage protocols.

Irene presented some data pertinent to this aspect coming from a Munich group and published in

J Proteom Res 2012, 11 (12), pp 5748–5762

J Proteome Res., 2013, 12 (10), pp 4424–4434

A similar project has been planned by Irene and the Munich researchers on PDAC samples. The results could represent the basis for a standard protocol about storage procedures in pancreatic research.

6. WG1 task forces

For a more efficient organization of the work in WG1 the following 3 internal “task forces” were proposed:

TF Pathology (coordinated by Irene)

Focus on:

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

Expertise available within WG1 (Esposito, Klöppel, Campbell)

Deliverable: Consensus paper about standardized nomenclature (see point 5.)

TF Epidemiology (coordinated by Eric)

Focus on tasks

- Development of protocols for patient enrolment and monitoring
- Standardisation of epidemiological and clinical questionnaires

Close interaction with WG1 members with clinical background, WG3 & 4

Deliverables: Establish contacts. Systematic review of available data within existing projects/consortia. Develop a strategy.

TF Molecular Biology (coordinated by Malte)

Focus on:

- Standardisation of biological sample collection, processing and storage protocols
- Establishment of criteria to assess the quality of existing biobanks for pancreas cancer research
- Interconnection about biorepositories and databases

Close interaction with WG1 members with pathology background, WG2 & 3

Deliverables: Results of Munich study (see point 5.)

Systematic review on existing data

It was pointed out that ethical aspects should be taken into account for the assessment of the quality of biorepositories and their interconnection. It was proposed to organize a workshop about this topic within the COST action.

Each TF should provide monthly short-term progress reports to keep WG1 members updated.

7. Other issues

Funding:

The necessity to identify funding opportunities was underscored. Possible sources:

Horizon 2020

UEG (United European Gastroenterology)

Erasmus

Others?

It was decided that each WG1 member will take care of this aspect according to his/her expertise

Dissemination:

The possibility of organize a summer school within the scopes of WG1 was discussed.

Each WG1 member should contribute to present our activities at international meetings (e.g. European Pancreatic Club)