



*An integrated European platform for pancreas cancer research: from basic science to clinical and public health interventions for a rare disease. COST Action (BM1204)*

## **COST Actions BM1204 & IS1303 AEGINA SUMMER SCHOOL Aegina island, Greece – 10-14 September 2015**



Theme:

**Genomics and Genetics:  
Current developments and controversies**



## Introduction

The COST Action BM1204 & IS1303 - SUMMER SCHOOL is co-organised by BM1204 WG4 & IS1303 WG3. It will take place in the picturesque Aegina island in Greece. The School will be an opportunity for postgraduate, postdoctoral or established researchers, as well as other suitably qualified individuals working in the relevant academic and non-academic fields, to avail of a mixture of cutting-edge lectures and interactive sessions in the following areas:

- Translating genomic research to genomic medicine
- Direct to consumer genetic testing: scientific, legal and ethical concerns
- Incidental findings and informed consent
- Genomics in developing countries
- Genomics, markets and justice/inequality
- Economics of genomic medicine and health technology assessment
- Intellectual property in genomics
- Policy-making, public engagement and genetic literacy

This School is open to individuals from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds (including scientific, health care, sociological, philosophical, bioethical, economic, journalistic and other fields) as well as individuals from *both* academic and non-academic backgrounds.

This summer school will also include a guided visit to the **Afea archaeological site (including the ancient temple and museum)**, one of the oldest and best preserved temples of antiquity. **PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BRING ALONG THEIR STUDENT IDs SO THAT ENTRY FEES ARE WAIVED.**

### **About COST Action IS1303: *Citizen's Health through public-private Initiatives: Public health, Market and Ethical Perspectives (CHIP ME)***

The falling cost of genome sequencing is making genetic information more easily accessible to the ordinary citizen. The proliferation of different actors in COST countries and beyond, engaging with the generation and interpretation of genetic data represents a tremendous opportunity but also a new challenge for society. The public health care system will increasingly be asked to provide interpretation and counseling relating to genetic information that has been generated privately and to satisfy the legitimate curiosity of participants in large-scale population genetic research. Existing ethical and regulatory frameworks may not be suitable to allow an efficient and ethical meeting of demand and supply of genetic knowledge and health, as well as a virtuous interaction between public and private actors. This COST Action aims to improve the state of the art by creating a community of researchers and stakeholders and linking existing initiatives which bring critical expertise in bioethics, social studies of science and technology, genetic technology, information and communication technology (ICT), stakeholder deliberation, and patient-centered initiatives (PCI) with a new focus on new public-private interactions and consumer genetic testing.

For further information about COST Action IS1303 (CHIP ME), please visit: [http://www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/isch/Actions/IS1303](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1303)



**About COST Action BM1204: An integrated European platform for pancreas cancer research: from basic science to clinical and public health interventions... (EUPancreas)**

The EUPancreas COST Action (BM1204) represents a unique European platform that facilitates the collaboration of a broad range of European and international pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) multidisciplinary research groups to integrate knowledge and experience in a multidisciplinary way “from cell to society”. It also aims to promote the application of uniform study tools and protocols, to foster their optimal use by early-stage researchers, to enhance the mobility and training of researchers, and to permeate the society with the results originated by the Action. EUPancreas is developing novel interdisciplinary utensils and methods to improve our understanding of PDAC and its control by answering questions related to the aetiology, early detection and evidence-based and personalized treatment to enhance primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention, respectively, as well as on health management. It brings together a group of young scholars across a range of disciplines in collaboration with more experienced researchers and allows Europe to actively participate in the international scenario of pancreas cancer research. Overall, the Action involves 185 multidisciplinary members from 22 EU countries. The main objective of the Action is to capitalise on emerging scientific and technological developments in the field of PDAC.

For further information about COST Action BM1204 (EUPancreas), please visit:  
[http://www.cost.eu/domains\\_actions/isch/Actions/IS1303](http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1303)  
<http://www.eupancreas.com>

**Impact**

With the proposed Scientific Program content, we anticipate attracting a broad range of attendees, namely graduate students, post-doctoral scientists, healthcare professionals and early stage researchers, particularly from the neighboring countries. This will also maximize interactions and encourage the exchange of knowledge and experience and possibly stimulate the formation of new collaborations.

**Hosting COST member**

The Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research (<http://www.goldenhelix.org>) has been established in 2003 as a multidisciplinary non-profit international research organization in the field of Pharmacogenomics and Genomic Medicine. In 2013, it became a UK Charity (The Golden Helix Foundation) and moved its headquarters to London, UK, while it maintained the offices in Athens, Greece to serve the Eastern European and Middle East regions.

The Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research activities are focused on two main areas, namely research and education. Scientific activities involve multicenter collaborative projects in the fields of Pharmacogenomics, Genome Informatics and Public Health Genomics, while it actively supports and manages the Genomic Medicine Alliance (<http://www.genomicmedicinealliance.org>), a global research consortium aiming to harmonize Genomic Medicine practices in developing countries worldwide.

Also, since 2008, the Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research has been successfully involved in the organization of the **Golden Helix Conferences**, consisting of three different types of international scientific events in the field of Pharmacogenomics and Genomic Medicine, namely:



- (a) The **Golden Helix Symposia**<sup>®</sup> (organized in Athens, Turin, Dubai, Belgrade, Kuala Lumpur), which are 2-4 days high profile scientific research conferences,
- (b) The **Golden Helix Pharmacogenomics days** (organized in Athens, Thessaloniki, Alexandroupolis, Cagliari, Malta, Belgrade, Patras, Brno, Zagreb, Amsterdam, Bled, Aviano, Sarajevo, Cardiff, Trieste, Boston), which are international educational activities aiming to provide timely updates on the field of pharmacogenomics to the local biomedical scientists and healthcare providers,
- (c) The **Golden Helix Summer Schools**<sup>®</sup>, which are 5-day international research training activities co-organized with the Genomic Medicine Alliance, aiming to train early stage researchers in the various disciplines of Genomic Medicine.

Apart from the above meetings, it has actively co-organized, with local entities and the FDA, **2 Latin America Pharmacogenomics Conferences** in Puerto Rico (US, 2010) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 2012). Since 2008, the Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research has successfully organized more than 20 international Conferences in the field of Pharmacogenomics and Genomic Medicine in 18 cities in Europe, Middle East and Latin America, attended by over 5,000 participants. The various research and educational activities of the Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research are dependent upon its International Scientific Advisory Council. The Institutes activities are supported by local and international research grants and donations from local and international corporate entities, foundations and individuals.

**Program at-a-glance**

TIME	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
08:00-09:30	Arrival & Registration	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
09:30-11:00		Lectures	Lectures	Site Visit *	Lectures
11:00-12:30		Lectures	Lectures		Lectures
12:30-14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch **	Lunch
14:00-16:00	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Delegates Departure
16:00-17:30	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	Lectures	
17:30-19:30	Free time	Free time	Free time	Free time	
19:30-22:00	Welcome Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Farewell BBQ Party	

\*: AFEA Archaeological Site and Museum

\*\* : At Aghia Marina village

**Costs for attendee**

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	TOTAL
<b>Accommodation (F/B) <sup>1</sup></b>						
Single	105 €	105 €	105 €	105 €	105 €	525 €
Double <sup>2</sup>	89 €	89 €	89 €	89 €	89 €	445 €
<b>Other expenses</b>						
Guided visit to the AFEA site	ENTRY FEES TO BE COVERED BY PARTICIPANTS (STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC PERSONELL ARE ADMITTED FREE OF CHARGE PROVIDED THAT THEY SHOW VALID ACADEMIC IDs (STUDENT ID OR VISIT CARDS))					

**Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup>Accommodation (F/B): Includes accommodation in a standard room with buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner.

<sup>2</sup>Double accommodation will be mostly provided for registered participants and students.



## Venue and accommodation

The proposed venue and accommodation of the 2015 COST-EUPancreas & CHIPME summer school is Apollo Resort hotel, a 4\* hotel situated in an ideal location in the bay of Aghia Marina, by the seaside, surrounded by a pine forest bordering with the classical temple of Afea. The hotel was designed in Modern Greek style and its furnishings comply with the requirements of this style. Its lounges are extremely spacious, with ample views to the garden, swimming pool and the sea. The hotel offers a tennis court, a mini golf course and table tennis facilities that are situated in the forested area of the hotel. Water sports are also available on the beach of Aghia Marina 10 minutes away from the hotel for those wanting to enjoy the crystal clear waters of the sea in a more active manner.



Apollo Resort hotel is an ideal location for conferences and workshops. Its proximity to Athens and the quiet atmosphere of its surroundings guarantee the success of these events. The conference hall is equipped with all necessary equipment and can accommodate up to 120 participants. Meetings take place overlooking the bright blue waters of the Aegean and attendants can enjoy a rich buffet during their breaks in a privately owned outdoors area. Accommodation is available in nearby hotels and guest rooms.

## Hosting City

Aegina is one of the closest islands to Athens (40-min trip by high-speed boats) and is considered the jewel of the Saronic Gulf islands. The city and harbor which is adorned with neoclassical buildings, was the **first capital of Greece in 1830**. It is worth taking a stroll through the colorful fish market on to the prehistoric quarter of the island before going on to visit the house of Kazantzakis that is situated on the waterfront. After savoring the beautiful sunset from the beach of Marathonas you can pay a visit to the picturesque village of fishermen in Perdika, a favorite mooring place for private yachts. The renowned pistachio trees found in the middle of the island, as well as the byzantine churches of Paleochora, mark their stamp on the island's scenery. Aghia Marina is the most beautiful beach of the island where water sports are offered during the day, while at night-time it brims with life. The temple of Afea, the jewel of the area, is situated on a lush green hill overlooking the Saronic Gulf and is one of the best preserved ancient Greek temples.

## Travel logistics

**1. Arriving to Athens:** Athens International Airport (IATA: ATH) is located about 40 minutes drive from the city of Athens and the city's main port of Piraeus. Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos" initiated operations in March 2001 and today, it is regarded as one of the best and safest airports in the world and continues its steady development thanks to the constant improvement of its performance. In 2012, there were approximately 180,000 flights from more than 75 international airlines through Athens to over 120 cities in more than 70 countries worldwide.



Conference venue

**2. Arriving to Piraeus:** The easiest way to reach the main port of Piraeus directly from Athens International airport is the X96 airport bus service. The trip takes roughly 1 hour and the cost of a one-way ticket is 5€. For more information and timetable please visit <http://athensairportbus.com/en/X96-bus-from-airport-to-piraeus-port.htm>. Taxis are always available at the arrivals hall of Athens International airport and a trip to Piraeus costs roughly 40-50€.



**3. Arriving to Aegina:** From the port of Piraeus, you can take a regular boat to the main port of Aegina (travel time roughly 70 minutes, cost 7-10€ one-way) or a high-speed boat (Flying Dolphins; travel time roughly 40 min, cost around 13€). From there, a suburban bus will take you to Aghia Marina, where the conference venue is situated. Alternatively, there is a boat that operates 3 daily trips from Piraeus directly to Aghia Marina port (trip takes approximately 90 minutes and costs around 11€).