

Minutes
6th Management Committee Meeting
COST Action no. BM1204
Action Title: An integrated European platform for pancreas cancer research: from basic science to clinical and public health interventions for a rare disease
Venue: University of Medicine Building, Multimedia Hall, 8, Victor Babes Street, Cluj-Napoca, Romania November 5, 2015, from 17h to 19h

Members and countries represented:

Italy (Carlo La VECCHIA), Romania (Traian Sorin BARBU), Spain (Esther MOLINA and Núria MALATS), Belgium (Kristel VAN STEEN), Lithuania (Audrius SILEIKIS)

Countries not represented:

France, Israel, Germany, The Netherlands, Greece, Norway, Slovenia, Portugal, Turkey, Hungary, Bosnia Herzegovina, Belgium, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Ireland,

5 out of 22 countries are represented.

MC was only informative due to the low attendancy rate.

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- 1. Welcome to participants**
 - 2. The agenda of the meeting was adopted by all participants**
 - 3. The minutes of the last MC meeting**

The minutes of the 5th MC meeting were presented.

- 4. Update from the Action Chair**

- a. Status of Action, including participating countries

- A total of 22 countries are contributing to the Action.

- At present, there are over 185 multidisciplinary members participating in the Action.

- Private biotechnological companies participating in the Action are: INTEGROMICS (Spain), IDD Therapeutics (Israel), ALACRIS (Germany), and PHOTONICS (UK). Celgene (Spain) has also joined the Action.
- Efforts are being made to include non-COST countries in the Action.

The Chair presented an update of members by country, distinguishing by inclusiveness and non-inclusiveness country, non-COST country, gender, WGs and early career investigators (ECIs).

	ITC	Non-ITC	TOTAL COST-country (ITC+non-ITC)	IC P	non-COST	TOTAL ALL (ITC+non-ITC+ICP+non-COST)
EUPancreas partners	10 (45.5%)	12 (54.5%)	22	2	3	25
Number of MC members	17 (45.9%)	20 (54.1%)	37	0	0	37
Number of Action members	26 (15.2%)	145 (84.8%)	171	3	11	185
Gender						
Men	17 (16.2%)	86 (83.8%)	105	1	9	115
Women	9 (13.6%)	57 (86.4%)	66	2	2	70
ECIs	0 (0%)	28 (100%)	28	0	0	28

ITC=inclusiveness country (BA, CZ, HU, LT, PL, PO, RO, SI, SK, TR)

non-ITC=non inclusiveness country (AT, BE, DE, EL, ES, FR, IE, IL, IT, NL, NO, UK)

ICP=International Partner Country (US and Canada)

COST country (AT, BA, BE, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HU, IE, IL, IT, LT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK, TR, UK)

non-COST=non COST country (Sweden=SE, Switzerland=CH, Croatia=HR)

TOTAL= including all COST, ICP and non-COST countries

b. Action budget status

The budget of the 3rd GP was presented. The budget allocated for this 3rd GP (from 02/06/2015 till 01/06/2016) is EUR 127,937.20 EUR, including the maximum of 15% of overheads of the GH Institution. A detailed budget by type of networking tools was presented.

Work and Budget Plan Summary

A. COST Networking Tools EUR

(1)Meetings 61,900.00

(2)Training Schools 34,320.00

(3)STSMs 12,500.00

(4)Dissemination 4,000.00

(5)Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities 0.00

B. Total Science Expenditure(sum of(1) to (5)): 112,720.00

C. FSAC(max. of 15% of B) 15,217.20

D. Total Expenditure(B+C) 127,937.20

Up to November 2015, the expenditure has been the following:

CONCEPT	GRANTED	SPENT	AVAILABLE
GRANT TOTAL	112,180.00	21,895.74	90,284.26
MEETINGS	65,860.00	16,824.23	49,035.77
Eu Pancreas & EPC2015 Joint meeting		14,604.80	
WG2 Workshops omics integration in PDAC		2,219.43	
Annual Conference and WGs and MC meetings		<i>pending</i>	
TRAINING SCHOOLS	32,320.00	3,871.51	
Aegina		3,871.51	
Antwerp		<i>pending</i>	
Portoroz		<i>pending</i>	28,448.49
SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSMs)	10,000.00	1,200.00	8,800.00
		<i>(1,000 pending)</i>	
DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH, WEBSITE	4,000.00	<i>pending</i>	4,000.00

Budget available is 90,284.26 EUR.

c. STSM status and new applications

An update on the STSM status and new applications is presented.

- So far, five STSM calls have been publicized. A total number of 16 STSMs have been approved.
- The sixth STSM call will be launched in December 2015.

As stated in the last MC meeting, although the number of STSM applications and awardees is satisfactory, it would be advantageous to increase the rate of awardees among young researchers and specially ICT countries.

5. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

The male:female ratio is still slightly unbalanced in terms of Action members, but well-balanced in terms of leadership and coordinators. There are 28 ECIs involved in the Action. All of them belong to non-inclusiveness countries.

6. Update from the Grant Holder

- Administrative tasks including meeting invitations, delegate registration, STSM management, conference organization.
- Some important delays have occurred in the reimbursement of expenses of the last events due to the administrative reasons (change to 3rd GP and close of the 2nd GP).

7. Update from the COST Office

The monitoring progress review was received in June 2015. In brief, some of the issues highlighted were:

Overall the progress of the Action and delivering of deliverables is good. A large multidisciplinary European network has been established, including a big pharmaceutical company, SMEs, governmental and non-governmental institutions and partners from USA and Canada. The number of MC, SC and WG meetings are according to the MoU, the number of STMS is also good (14), one training school has been held and more planned in the future. Standardized tools have been created and registries and biobanks established. Dissemination activities are very good and include the establishment of a web page of a high standard www.eupancreas.com.

Nine scientific publications are listed in the progression report and six publications pass the rules of COST, but none of these six is an original research paper and none of the co-authors were from the Inclusiveness Target Countries. Two reports have been written based on the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine survey, and can be approached at the Action's webpage. Two H2020 proposals have been submitted but both were rejected. The relevance of these achievements and significance to the Action's objectives is good.

In the Progression report a long and impressive list can be found of already launched and upcoming dissemination events. Besides scientific publications and reports, the aim of the events are mainly to present the existence of the Action and its goals, tasks, outcome of finished tasks and summaries of various components related to pancreas cancer, past and planned training schools, conferences and meetings.

8. Update from the DC Rapporteur

The DC Rapporteur newly designated for the COST Action is Rósa B Barkardottir

9. Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC)

The annual progress conference will not be held.

10. Follow-up of MoU objectives

After the WGs meeting, each WG coordinator will report on the follow-up of MoU objectives and progress of their WG. Details will be found in the minutes of the 4 WGs.

11. Scientific planning

a. Scientific strategy
b. Action Budget Planning
c. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)
d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)

The overall scientific strategy for the 3rd GP period is to foster multidisciplinary and collaborative pancreas cancer research in Europe.

12. Requests for new members

15 new members have been included during the 3rd GP.

13. Non-COST applications to the Actions

No further non-COST have expressed interest in becoming part of the COST Action.

14. AOB

No other business were raised

15. Location and date of next meeting

Details will be communicated in due time.

16. Summary of MC decisions

- To encourage the participation of young researchers, especially those from ICT countries, in the Action.
- To extend the Action with International Organizations/Foundation and to establish collaborations with other COST Actions.
- To facilitate/ encourage industry participation in the Action
- To announce more actively and in advance the Action activities

1st period activities

- New calls for STSMs
- WGs and MC meeting during the EPC meeting in June 2015
- WG2: Workshop on omics integration in July 2015
- WG4: Training School EUPancreas&CHIP Action and WG4 meeting in September 2015
- Annual Conference and WGs and MC meetings & EAPM "Burning issues in Pancreatology"
Combined EFISDS & EPCPostgraduate Course in November 2015

Other activities scheduled:

- WG2: Training School on Statistical Interactions/Interactome & Belgian Society of Statistics in April 2016
- WG3: TRAINING SCHOOL on "GENOMIC MEDICINE – Bridging research and the clinic" jointly organized with ARTEMIDA, Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research Genomic Medicine Alliance in May 2016

17. Closing