Welcome and Update from the Action Chair

Chair: Nuria Malats

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

The Action counts with over 185 multidisciplinary members. The gender ratio is well balanced, as well as the inclusiveness countries participation. However, the participation of ECIs is rather low (n=28), especially with regard to inclusiveness countries.

The Chair presented the budget and expenditures of the 3rd GP (from 02/06/2015 till 01/06/2016), for which the budget allocated is EUR 127,937.20 EUR. A detailed budget by type of networking tools was presented.

Concerns about the low participation rate were raised. This was mainly attributed to other overlapping events on pancreatic cancer taking part at the same time in Milan and the US, though other COST administrative-related problems (e.g. important delays in the reimbursement of expenses to the members) may have lead to this situation. It is agreed that the COST activities should be announced in a timely manner and that reimbursement delays should be avoided; the latter one has been brought to the attention of the COST Officer.

This EUPancreas Annual Conference is held together with the WORKSHOP “Burning Issues in Pancreatology”.

2. WG1 (Harmonization of research tools). WG activities and planned goals for the 3rd GP

Carlo La Vecchia, on behalf of the coordinator Irene Esposito

Carlo La Vecchia presented the main achievements of WG1 over the year (current GP):

- **Meetings:**
1) April 2015 (Heidelberg, Germany), organized jointly with the PDAC biobanking workshop.
2) WG meeting during the EPC meeting in Toledo (June 2015)

- **Activities:**
  - Standardization of tools to be applied in the new scientific initiatives by EU countries, including homogenous pathological definitions of pancreatic lesions, epidemiological questionnaires, and standardized operating procedures (SOPs) for pancreatic cancer biobanking. The latter one is currently being developed.
  - The pilot study of the European Pancreas Cancer Registry (PancreOS) for clinical studies on pancreatic cancer is running. A first Workshop was held on the 5th October in Madrid to implement standardized working protocols under the guidance of the European Network of Cancer Registries (ENCR).
  - Histological confirmation of cases within the PanGenEU study: ongoing.

- **STSMs:** A new STSM has been awarded (Dr. Antanas Gulbinas)

- **Publications**
  The fourth publications acknowledging the COST Action has been published.

**Activities planned for the 3rd GP are:**
- Launch the SOP for pancreatic cancer biobanking
- Disseminate the SOP among existing networks of European biobanks
- Joint WG meeting with Panc4 (International Consortium of Pancreas Cancer Case-Control Studies) in 2016
- Standardization of clinical questionnaires within the PancreOS registry

### 3. WG2 (Integration of omics data)

**WG activities and planned goals for the 3rd GP**

Coordinator: Kristel Van Steen

Kristel Van Steen presented the main achievements of WG2 over the year (current GP).

- **Meetings:**
  1) November 2014 (Liege, Belgium), during the Annual Conference and Capida Selecta in Complex Disease Analysis Conference.
  2) WG meeting during the EPC meeting in Toledo (June 2015)

- **Activities:**
  - A survey to assess the available PDAC omics data was distributed among the Action members.
  - Establishment of standardized approaches for omics data deposit.
  - Working towards grant proposals preparations, to be submitted during 2016: televiev, Cancer Research UK, ITN

- **Publications**
  A new scientific publication acknowledging the Action is being published.

- **STSMs:** There were three STSMs awarded (S Pineda, F Gadaleta, K Van Steen). There was not any WG2 member applicant in the last STSM call.

- **Workshops:**
  OMICS INTEGRATION IN PDAC WORKSHOP: “Cancer genomics and personalised medicine workshop: focus on pancreas cancer”. 1st July 2015, Barcelona

**Activities planned for the 3rd GP are:**
4. WG3 (Translation Research). WG activities and planned goals for the 3rd GP

Chris Michalski via Skype, on behalf of the coordinator Stephan Hahn

Chris Michalski presented the main achievements of WG3:

- **Meetings:**
  1) March 2015 (Liverpool, UK). Discussions for the next steps towards a H2020 application for the diabetes new-onset project.
  2) WG meeting during the EPC meeting in Toledo (June 2015)

- **Activities:**
  - New onset diabetes subgroup as a high-risk group to identify early risk prediction biomarkers for PDAC.
  - European IPMN study, with the aim to develop a tissue biobank and to identify diagnosis and prognostic biomarkers for IPMN
  - Pancreatic cancer comorbidities and multimorbidities study. Paulina Gomez presented a summary of activities undertaken, results obtained within the PanGenEU study and future plans to replicate and expand results using the UK Primary Care data, as a collaboration with WG3 (Geri Keane, UCL).

- **Publications**
  There are three scientific publications published by members belonging to WG3, acknowledging the Action.

- **STSMs:** Five members of WG3 were awardees of a STSM (D Vangala, A Maziukene, N Cieplik, I Sangrador, S Benitz). There was not any WG3 member applicant in the last STSM call.

- **Activities planned for the 3rd GP are:**
  - IPMN: To set up a registry for already available samples and to establish SOPs for cystic fluid and blood collection, also fostering international collaboration with ongoing studies (e.g. PACIFIC study).
  - To set up the new-onset diabetes study: preparation of the proposal for the H2020 grant call
  - Training school on “Genomic Medicine – Bridging research and the clinic” jointly organized with ARTEMIDA, Golden Helix Institute of Biomedical Research Genomic Medicine Alliance (May 2016)

5. WG4 (Patient management). WG activities and planned goals for the 3rd GP

Denis Horgan, on behalf of the coordinator Angela Brand

Denis Horgan presented briefly the main achievements of WG4:

- **Meetings:**
  1) WG meeting during the EPC meeting in Toledo (June 2015)

- **Activities:**
  - Involvement of national Pancreas Cancer organisations via EAPM (European Alliance for Personalized Medicine) and the EU Multi-Stakeholder on Pancreatic cancer
  - Guiding policy guidelines translations into the EU through:
- Participation in the 3rd Annual Conference of EAPM in June 2015 (Brussel, Belgium). During this round table, the EU-Pancreas translation into healthcare was endorsed, being the Action presented.

- **STSMs**: Three STSMs were completed (M Jansen, JM Mazarico, S Benitz). A new STSM was awarded to a WG3 member (Nora Meyers).

- **Training school**: “Genomics and Genthics” Organized jointly with CHIP-ME Cost Action (IS1303), the European Society for Pharmacogenomics and Theranostics, and Golden Helix Genomic Medicine Alliance (September 2015).

- **Publications**: Launch of the Pancreatic Cancer WHITE PAPER (together with two press releases on this issue).

- Two new publications acknowledging the Action were published.

**Activities planned for the 3rd GP are:**
- Literature review of policy papers of personalized medicine
- Dissemination of the White Paper to a broader audience through EAMP planned activities

### 6. Dissemination plans
Coordinator via skype: Filipe Silva (& Esther Molina)

Dissemination activities of the Action were presented by both the coordinator and Esther Molina. Over the last months, the following dissemination activities were carried out:

- Updates of all web contents in www.eupancreas.com
- Implementation of new dissemination tools in the web:
  - Four Newsletters highlighting news of the Action and related topics have been circulated
  - e-Library as a documentation repository for pancreas cancer research
  - Activation of twitter and LinkedIn.
  - Some webinars are planned for the next training schools.
  - The EUPancreas PODCAST about the action and its impacts was launched during the meeting.

- Three press releases and a report on the COST Action in the Parliament Magazine have been published.

The Action members were encouraged to participate in the dissemination activities in various ways: acknowledging the Action in their publications, using the EUPancreas logo in presentations and email, becoming a follower of Twitter and LinkedIn, taking advantage of press releases, etc.

### 7. Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)
Coordinator: Carlo La Vecchia

Professor La Vecchia presented an update of the STMS activities. So far, there have been 5 calls publicized:
- 1st call September 2013
- 2nd call January 2014
- 3rd call July 2014
- 4th call December 2014
- 5th call September 2014

There were 16 STSMs awardees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Original centre</th>
<th>Hosting centre</th>
<th>WG</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D Vangala</td>
<td>Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany</td>
<td>CNIO, Spain</td>
<td>WG3</td>
<td>October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Maziukiene</td>
<td>Lithuanian university of health sciences, Lithuania</td>
<td>TUM, Germany</td>
<td>WG3</td>
<td>Nov-Dec 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JM Mazarico</td>
<td>CNIO, Spain</td>
<td>Imperial College of London, UK</td>
<td>WG4</td>
<td>Jan-April 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Gadaleta</td>
<td>ULG, Belgium</td>
<td>Integromics, Spain</td>
<td>WG2</td>
<td>Febr-March 2014</td>
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The sixth call will be launched in December 2015.

8. Identification of new milestones and goals

The Chair presented an overview of the discussions and debates held during the joint WGs meeting. The major issues raised were:

WG1:
- Developing SOPs for pancreatic cancer biobanking
- Establish contacts/collaborations with the ongoing biobanking initiatives (common SOP for pancreas tissue collection)
- Dissemination of standardized tools developed within WG1 (pathological definitions, epidemiological questionnaires and SOP for pancreatic cancer biobanking)
- Extend the Pancreos registry participation to the EUPancreas groups/members

WG2:
- Standardization of data collection
- Identification of top scientific questions
- Fostering international collaborations: elixir, ICGC, EORTC

WG3:
- Extend the participation in the IPMN registry to other WGs (WG1: SOPs and questionnaires) and foster International collaborations (e.g. PACIFIC study)
- Population risk-morbidities study
- Setting up an Europe-wide registry of new-onset diabetes

WG4:
- Development of guidelines on clinical trials for pancreas cancer
- Keep lobbying in EC for pancreas cancer research and funding
- Having pancreas cancer recognized as a “rare cancer”
- Raising the “PDAC patient management barriers” report to the policy makers

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