

Minutes

7th 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:

Cockerell Room at St George's hall
Lime St. L1 IJJ
Liverpool, United Kingdom

July 8th, 2016, from 3.30 to 5.00 pm

Members and countries represented:

Italy (Carlo La VECCHIA), Romania (Traian Sorin BARBU), Spain (Esther MOLINA and Núria MALATS), UK (Eithne COSTELLO), Turkey (Hatice YILDRIM), Germany (Jörg KLEEFF), France (Marlene DUFRESNE), Hungary (Peter HEGYI), Poland (Ewa MALECKA), Slovakia (Magdalena MAJEKOVA)

Countries not represented:

Israel, The Netherlands, Greece, Norway, Slovenia, Portugal, Bosnia Herzegovina, Belgium, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Ireland

10 out of 22 countries are represented.

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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 6th 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 200 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)	ICP	non-COST	TOTAL ALL (ITC+non-ITC+ICP+non-COST)
Numer of MC members	18 (47.4%)	20 (52.6%)	37	0	0	38
Number of Action members	34 (13.9%)	196 (80.0%)	230	3 (1.2%)	12 (4.8%)	245

Total COST country members: 245 members (-7 non-WG members)

- COST by ECI : 34 members
 - COST by WG
 - WG1: 64 members
 - WG2: 81 members
 - WG3: 71 members
 - WG4: 66 members
- 42 members are involved in various WGs

b. Action budget status

The budget of the 4th GP was presented.

Summary Budget

Instrument	Quant.	Budget
Meetings	3	43200.00 EUR
Training Schools	1	6760.00 EUR
Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	2	5000.00 EUR
COST Action Dissemination	1	1500.00 EUR
Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	0	0.00 EUR
SCIENCE EXPENDITURE :		56460.00 EUR
Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) - MAX. 15% 14%		7904.40 EUR
TOTAL EXPENDITURE :		64364.40 EUR

The budget allocated for this 4th GP (from 01/06/2016 till 1312/2016) is EUR 64.364 EUR, including the maximum of 15% of overheads of the GH Institution. A detailed budget by type of networking tools was presented.

Up to May 2016, 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

c. STSM status and new applications

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

- So far, 6 STSM calls have been publicized.
- The seventh STSM call will be launched in July 2016.

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.
- Reimbursement of expenses regarding the last activities were done without delays. The delays in reimbursement occurred before (due to changes in the administrative procedures, from the 2nd to the 3rd GP) are no longer an issue.

7. Update from the COST Office

Extension of the COST Action request to the officer:

The Chair informs that a 3-month extension was requested to the COST Officer (up to 13 April 2017) in order to accomplish some pending commitments. Although some budget has been requested, COST is not willing to allocate more funding, meaning that only the budget allocated for the 4th period will be available. Decision about the COST Officer will be received shortly.

Some of the pending commitments that were raised in the extension request were:

- To finalize the establishment of PancreOS Registry regarding legal, methodological and logistics aspects.
- Dissemination of biobanking SOPs and survey regarding samples, resources and methodologies applied in pancreatic cancer biobanking all over Europe.
- The construction of well-characterized large cohorts of pancreas cancer high-risk population.
- To participate in building a “Pancreas cancer omics” database.
- To outreach the expected networking activities EUPancreas have contributed to establish and maximize the impact of the COST Action, a final meeting would be needed with the purpose that all groups present on their achievements. Also plan pancreas cancer research at present will be discussed to defined unmet research needs. This event would take place at the end of the Action.

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)

As outlined above, a final EUPancreas meeting is planned by the end of the COST Action.

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

The Chair presented on progress done among all WGs, specifically regarding:

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 Chair commented on the last activities: Training school in Portoroz (WG3), Training school in Antwerp (WG2), and WG1 meeting jointly organized with PanC4 (WG1).

Besides, the Chair informed about updates on the H2020 call applications:

- the design of the type 2 diabetes project DIAMOND, submitted as full application to H2020. Awaiting the results from EC.
- to validate and identify early diagnostic markers for pancreas cancer. The feasibility of building a large IPMNs study comparing classification standards has been discussed, or a large IPMN cohort has been discussed in Milan on June 22 and in Liverpool on July 7, 2016. WG1 and WG3 will jointly design a project and request for funding to international agencies, this endeavour requiring additional months to be completed.

As regards publications, several lay and scientific papers have been published by acknowledging the Action. They are all posted in the website.

A book resulting from the Cluj meeting is in process.

As dissemination meeting, within the 4th GP it is planned to celebrate a EUPancreas Forum/Workshop during the Gastein 2016 meeting in Austria, a big stakeholder meeting with a potential outreach.

12. Requests for new members

A total of 60 new members have been included since the last MC meeting (November 2015).

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

A final EUPancreas meeting is planned by the end of the COST Action. Details will be communicated in due time.

16. Summary of MC decisions

As in previous meetings, the MC discusses about the prioritizing:

- The participation of young researchers, especially those from ICT countries, in the Action.
- Extending the Action with International Organizations/Foundations and to establish collaborations with other COST Actions.
- Facilitating/ encourage industry participation in the Action
- To announce more actively and in advance the Action activities
- Future activities according to the Work Plan are:
 - New and last call for STSMs (recently launched)
 - WGs and MC meeting during the final EUPancreas meeting, if finally hold
 - WG4: Gastein meeting in Austria, to disseminate the Action

17. Closing