

WG1 Meeting- COST Action BM1204

20th May 2014 – “Mario Negri” Institute for Pharmacological Research, Milan, Italy

Participants: Cristina Bosetti (Milan, Italy), Malte Buchholz (Marburg, Germany), Tatjana Crnogorac-Jurcevic (London UK), Irene Esposito (Munich, Germany), Paulina Gomez (Madrid, Spain), Elin Kure (Oslo, Norway), Carlo La Vecchia (Milan, Italy), Nuria Malats (Madrid, Spain), Eva Negri (Milan, Italy).

Excused: Giedrius Barauskas (Lithuania), Fiona Campbell (UK), Eithne Costello (UK), Vita Dolzan (Slovenia), Bill Greenhalf (UK), Olaf Kelm (France), Günter Klöppel (Germany), Linda Sharp (Ireland)

Minutes

General introduction and news about the action (Irene & Nuria)

Short introduction round of all participants.

Irene introduced Elin Kure from Norway as new WG1 member.

Nuria gave an overview of the action and the main achievements of the first year, especially in term of scientific outputs and networking, by showing her slide presentation from the Annual COST Progress Conference held in Malta on April 29th.

The **scientific output** includes 5 publications, 3 workshops (“Pancreatic Cancer Forum”, held in Madrid in Nov. 2013, “Omics integration” held in Heidelberg in February 2014 and the “London Pancreas Workshop” in May 2014) and 7 STSM (short term scientific missions).

The **scientific networking** includes contacts with EORTC, NCI, ICGC, European Alliance for Personalised Medicine, PanC4, EPC and IARC.

2 applications have been submitted so far:

Bio-PaC within TRANSCAN (Translational Cancer Research, FP7), coordinated by Thomas Gress, Germany)

PACK-Ing (PANcreas Cancer risk: INtegratinG data towards a predictive model), an epidemiologic study coordinated by Nuria within Horizon 2020

Nuria further focused on the activities planned for the **SECOND PERIOD**, including:

- An **EU-Pancreas session** at the meeting of the European Pancreatic Club held in Southampton in June 2014 (together with the MC meeting) about IPMN (speakers: Aldo Scarpa & Jens Siveke)
- **EU-Pancreas annual meeting** to be held in Liege (Belgium) in November (24th to 26th): the individual WGs meeting and the next MC meeting will take place there
- **Pathology workshop/Training school**, organized by Irene Esposito, Fiona Campbell and Francisco X. Real, on December 4th-6th in Madrid, Spain.

Irene provided further information. The **aim** of this workshop is to provide detailed knowledge about pathology and genetics of the main inflammatory and neoplastic diseases of the pancreas, as well as on current animal models for pancreatic diseases. **Specific topics** will be: Normal anatomy and histology of the human and murine pancreas; Acute and chronic pancreatitis; Mouse models for pancreatitis; Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma – Pathology & Genetics; Cystic and intraductal tumors of the pancreas- Pathology & Genetics; Specimen handling and reporting; Neuroendocrine neoplasms; Mouse models for pancreatic exocrine & endocrine tumors;. Diagnostic pitfalls. Pathologists, physicians and researchers with special interest in the field are invited to attend.

Finally, Nuria referred about additional important news/messages coming from the Malta conference:

- The rapporteur will disappear
- Eastern Europe countries should be supported
- **IMPORTANT: everybody who is part of the action can acknowledge it in any of his/her publications**

Report from the WG3 meeting (Nuria & Paulina)

Nuria and Paulina briefly referred about the WG3 meeting, which was held in London in May 2014.

One of the efforts of WG3 focuses on the definition of “Risk populations”. Two approaches were presented and briefly discussed:

1. Validation of risk prediction algorithm (QCancer, Pancreas): Externally validate existing algorithms to identify patients with suspected PDAC based on symptoms
2. Determination of an enriched risk population that can be used for surveillance in a prospective study of PDAC
e.g. use adult onset of diabetes to define the enriched population

For further details please refer to the minutes of the WG3 meeting.

Report from the WG2 meeting (Malte)

Malte referred about the WG2 meeting, which he attended in February 2014.

Topic: Large-scale omics integration.

Access to data has been discussed, as well as current efforts to join existing databases (Hemant Kocher, London). The resulting data will be made available to COST members.

Data analysis: difficult. Platforms (Affimetrix Chip, Illumina) are defined. The type of material is unclear and poorly standardized: interaction with WG1 is required concerning these aspects. There is the planned effort to develop a questionnaire to check the level of standardization of available databases, but doubts were raised about its success.

To further promote the interactions between WG1 and WG2, Malte will contact WG2 suggesting checking if any of the *omics* data they are going to analyze were generated using tissues coming from epidemiological studies.

Report about STSM within WG1 (Carlo)

There is one STSM involving WG1: Valentina Rosato from the group of Carlo is in Barcelona working with the group of Eric Duell. The topic of the STSM is the analysis of risk factors for PDAC in no smokers using the data of the PanC4 study (PanC4: consortium of case-control studies (about 20) from different countries, mostly USA + Australia, Canada about different risk factors for PDAC).

Cristina Bosetti from Carlo's group reported her studies about diabetes in PDAC.

Here a short summary:

8000 PDAC cases are included in the PanC4 consortium. In the diabetes project there are 8305 cases and 13987 controls. OR have been adjusted for different co-variants.

Strong risk (10-fold) for recent-onset (<1 year) diabetes: discussion if this is actually a symptom and not a cause of diabetes. But: hormones as risk factors usually have a short-term effects. With longer standing diabetes the risk decreases, but it is still there.

WG1 progress report (Irene)

Irene presented the achievements of the first year. All planned deliverables (for details see please minutes of previous Wg1 meetings) were achieved with the exception of the consensus paper about definitions and classifications in pancreatic pathology. The topic was again discussed and it was

planned to ask Julia Mayerle as associate editor if this kind of paper would be of interest for the readers of Pancreatology. Irene will take care of that.

WG1: Activities for the 2nd year (all participants)

In the last part of the meeting the activities for the second year were discussed.

The following aspects were addressed:

1. Standardization of epidemiological and clinical questionnaires: partly done, Nuria/Carlo/Cristina will take care of it.

How to do it: list the relevant epidemiologic topics regarding PDAC, decide which are the “core” ones, then develop questionnaire. The questionnaires will be uploaded on the homepage of EU-Pancreas.

2. Development of protocols for patient enrolment and monitoring: criteria for inclusion of patients in studies.

This planned deliverable raised numerous questions concerning its meaning. It mostly refers to the general issue of misclassification prior to the inclusion of patients in studies, due for example to the lack of histological confirmation of diagnosis for not resected cases, lack of standardization in classifications, and so on. No clear plan was formulated concerning this point, since it mostly represents a common aspect of all other deliverables of WG1.

3. Standardization of biological sample collection, processing and storage protocols

It was suggested that Malte gets in contact with Aldo Scarpa (Verona), who is an internationally recognized expert on this topic, in order to acquire information and possibly protocols.

All WG1 members are requested to contribute to this aspect by sharing information/protocols from own institutions.

A STSM could be organized.

Finally, a few organizational aspects were discussed:

-Invitations to meetings have to be sent earlier, in order to allow travel plans

-E-COST has to be improved

-Nuria underscore the importance of periodically checking the webpage and update it, for example with the running epidemiological studies.

- Next call STSM: open mid. June and close end of July

See you in Liege on Nov. 24th-26th for the next WG1 meeting!