

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

Venue:

University of Medicine Building, Multimedia Hall,
8, Victor Babes Street,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

November 5, 2015, from 9 am to 4:35 pm

Participants:

Nuria Malats (Chair), Bill Greenhalf (WG1), Carlo La Vecchia (WG1), Esther Molina (WG1, WG2, WG3, WG4), Paulina Gómez (WG1, WG3), Traian Sorin Barbu (WG4), Audrius Sileikis (WG4), Andrea Szentesi (WG1), Görgülü Kahyaoglu (WG4), Kristel van Steen (WG2), Denis Horgan (WG4)

Connected via skype: Filipe Silva (WG3, Dissemination), Chris Michalski (WG3)

1. Welcome and Update from the Action Chair

Chair: Núria Malats

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).

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 led 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 being currently 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.

Esposito I, Segler A, Steiger K, Klöppel G. Pathology, genetics and precursors of human and experimental pancreatic neoplasms: An update. *Pancreatol.* 2015;pii: S1424-3903(15)00632-8.

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:

- Collaborations with other Pancreas Cancer Research initiatives to investigate the application of newly developed integrated data analysis method within WG2 on their data
- Discussions with organizations such as EORTC, to involve them in the network
- Building a compendium of data with the databases
- Training school: "Statistical Interactions/Interactome" jointly organized with the Belgian Society of Statistics" (April 2016)

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:
 - o Four Newsletters highlighting news of the Action and related topics have been circulated
 - o e-Library as a documentation repository for pancreas cancer research
 - o Activation of twitter and LinkedIn.
 - o Some webinars are planned for the next training schools.
 - o 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 STSM 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:

Beneficiary	Original centre	Hosting centre	WG	Period
D Vangala	Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany	CNIO, Spain	WG3	October 2013
A Maziukiene	Lithuanian university of health sciences, Lithuania	TUM, Germany	WG3	Nov-Dec 2013
JM Mazarico	CNIO, Spain	Imperial College of London, UK	WG4	Jan-April 2014
F Gadaleta	ULg, Belgium	Integromics, Spain	WG2	Febr-March 2014

S Pineda	CNIO, Spain	ULg, Belgium	WG2	Feb-March 2014
V Rosato	Mario Negri, Italy	ICO Barcelona	WG1	April-May 2014
M Jansen	U Maastricht, Netherlands	EAPM, Belgium	WG4	April-May 2014
P Gomez	CNIO, Spain	Mario Negri, Italy	WG1	November 2014
V Rosato	Mario Negri, Italy	ICO Barcelona	WG1	Nov- Dec 2014
K Van Steen	ULg, Belgium	CNIO, Spain	WG2	January 2015
N Cieplik	Hannover Medical School, Germany	UCL, Medical School, UK	WG3	Feb-April 2015
I Sangrador	Fundació Clinic, Spain	Barts Cancer Institute, UK	WG3	February 2015
S Benitz	Technical University of Munich, Germany	CNIO, Spain	WG3/4	April 2015
V Rosato	Mario Negri, Italy	CNIO, Spain	WG1	March-May 2015
New: A Gulbinas	Lithuanian University of Health	DKFZ, Germany	WG1	October 2015
New: N Meyers	Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium	CNIO, Spain	WG4	January 2016

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

Close