

COST Grant workplan

I. ACTION PROFILE

Domain: Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences (BMBS)

Action no. and title: BM1206 - COOPERATION STUDIES ON INHERITED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO COLORECTAL CANCER

Chair: Dr. Sergi Castellví-Bel

START date: 30/04/2013

END date: 29/04/2017

Number of signatories: 19

Number of non-COST members: 0

Number of COST country entities (institutes, etc.) currently participating: 42

Number of non-COST entities (institutes, etc.) currently participating: 0

Number of MC Members: 29 (+9 MC Substitutes)

Working Groups with numbers, titles and approximate number of members:

Working Group 1 (WG1): Genetic Association Studies, 34 members

Working Group 2 (WG2): Functional Genomics, 22 members

Working Group 3 (WG3): Next Generation Sequencing, 28 members

Working Group 4 (WG4): Statistical Modeling, 26 members

II. DETAILED BUDGET

(1) MEETINGS

Management Committee and Working Groups Joint Meeting

Location: EDINBURGH

Date: 21-23/10/2013

Number of participants to be reimbursed: 40 (+14 local participants)

Travel costs: 23,352.9€

Organisational support: 2,860€ (room, technical equipment rental and coffee breaks for 2 days)

Management Committee and Working Groups Joint Meeting (see TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS IN BIOMEDICINE workshop)

Location: BARCELONA

Date: Beginning of March/2014 (one day before workshop)

Number of participants to be reimbursed: 35 (4 local participants)

Travel costs: 34,960€

Organisational support: see Workshop below

Workshops and Conferences

Title: TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS IN BIOMEDICINE

Location: BARCELONA

Date: Beginning of March/2014 (2 days)

Number of participants to be reimbursed:

Travel costs:

Organisational support: 10,000€

(2) SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSMs)

Number: 4 grants

Cost: 7,000€

(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS

(not in the first year)

Location:

Date:

Number of Trainees to be reimbursed:

Trainees Grants:

Number of Trainers to be reimbursed:
Travel costs:
Organisational support:

(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH, WEBSITE

Title: Publication fees (open-access journal)
Cost: 1,986.86€

Title: Action-specific website
Cost: 3,987€

Title: Action's brochure
Cost: 2,050€

**(5) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)
(e.g. bank charges)**

Title: Bank charges
Cost: 200€

Financial/scientific administration and coordination manager in Host Institution (max. of 15% of total science expenditure)
Cost: 11,120€ (part-time contract)

III. WORK PLAN

(1) **OBJECTIVES**

Please describe the objectives to be achieved during the grant period and their relationship to the goals of the Action as laid down in the MoU or as modified by the Management Committee.

The main objective of this Action is to comprehensively understand the impact of inherited susceptibility in CRC for profiling individual disease risk and performing early screening and treatment monitoring. By doing so, new molecular biomarkers will be implemented and validated for personalized CRC medicine.

The following specific objectives will be pursued **during the first year** in order to achieve the previous general aim:

1. IDENTIFICATION OF NEW CRC SUSCEPTIBILITY VARIANTS: A polygenic model of inherited susceptibility to CRC implies the co-inheritance of multiple risk variants. So far, 30 common, low-penetrance genetic variants for CRC susceptibility have been identified by GWAS. This Action will permit to boost sample size and statistical power (participating cohorts sum up more than 50,000 cases and 50,000 controls) and, therefore, it is very likely that additional genetic variants linked to CRC will be identified. Large-scale meta-analyses of existing and newly generated GWAS data will be performed and replication of initial GWAS findings in additional cohorts will be used to robustly confirm those genetic variants that participate in CRC susceptibility.

3. GENETIC VARIANTS INVOLVED IN CRC SURVIVAL AND TREATMENT TOXICITY: CRC genetic susceptibility variants could also act as biomarkers for CRC survival and treatment response. For instance, inherited genetic variants can modulate the pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics of drugs used in CRC treatment by substantially affecting individual response and toxicity to chemotherapy. Therefore, GWAS data will be analyzed regarding CRC survival and treatment toxicity in order to identify genetic variants linked to differential prognosis and adverse drug reactions.

4. GENETIC VARIANTS ENRICHED IN CRC SUBGROUPS: The impact of CRC susceptibility genetic variation will not be universally generic and some of the risk variants will impact preferentially on CRC subtypes, such as early-onset or microsatellite-unstable CRC (MSI+ CRC). If some of the CRC genetic susceptibility variants appear to be associated with some clinical and familial features, it could have potential important implications for screening and surveillance strategies for this disease.

5. NEW PREDISPOSITION GENES FOR CRC IN FAMILIES WITH UNKNOWN GENETIC BASIS: Next generation sequencing will be useful to identify new CRC predisposition genes in selected high-risk and early-onset families with unknown genetic basis from the participating cohorts.

(2) **ACTIVITIES**

Please describe the contents of the activities listed in the budget, their relationship to each other (if any) and to the objectives stated above.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

There will be 2 meetings during the first year of the Action. The first meeting will permit to lay the grounds for the Action's development, advise on the direction which research work should take, coordinate the contributions of participants and discuss collaboration with other related consortia. The second meeting will allow to monitor first results on objectives 1, 3, 4 and 5, determine how research work should be continued for those objectives and settle on the work plan for the second year, when research work for objectives 2, 6 and 7 is expected to start.

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS:

There will be also 2 meetings jointly with the MC meetings. Although WG1 and WG3 will be active during the first year, the first meeting will be attended by all participants since it would be very important for creating the conditions for this Action to develop successfully. Also, WG2 and WG4 are planned to start activities during the second year of this Action. Therefore, the second meeting will be attended again by all WGs in order to supervise WG1 and WG3 development and to plan activities for WG2 and WG4 for the second year.

TRANSLATIONAL GENOMICS IN BIOMEDICINE WORKSHOP:

This workshop will be the first of the 3 scientific meetings organized by the Action. It will be useful to increase visibility of this Action, disseminate knowledge and results, and promote interaction with non-participating specialists. It will take place jointly with the second MC/WG meetings (day 1 MC/WG meetings, days 2-3 workshop). A preliminary program is available at the end of this document. This workshop would preferentially seek participation of early-stage researchers, both as speakers and attendants. Reimbursement will be restricted to MC, WG members, early-stage researchers and DC rapporteur, and subject to available funds.

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS (STSMs):

Exchange visits will strengthen the existing collaborations among the institutions participating in this Action: They will permit especially early-stage researchers to learn a new methodology not available at their host institution in a different institution from another participating COST country. Their duration can be from 1 week to up to 3 months and grants will cover travel and subsistence. A call will open at the beginning of the first year and it will be circulated to participants. Candidates will be assessed by the MC and a panel of 3 participants led by an STSM coordinator in the MC and WGs first Joint Meeting in Edinburgh. 4 STSMs will be awarded to take place in 2014 according to scientific criteria and budget availability.

WEBSITE, BROCHURE AND PUBLICATIONS

These tools will permit to disseminate and transfer knowledge and results of the present Action to its target audience (scientific and medical community, regulatory bodies and policy makers, patients, general public and industry).

An Action-specific website will be built and dedicated to communication and promotion of information on on-going research, seminars, publications and other activities. Part of the website will be accessible to the general public, whereas a section will be password-protected for the exchange of specific information and unpublished data between partners. The website will also contain information on the Action's activities (meetings, workshops), proceedings of meetings, links to publications of participants, links to related institutions and organizations, job announcements as well as material and presentations from the didactic activities.

A brochure will be generated at the beginning of Action describing its objectives and planned activities. This will be distributed to scientists, representatives from the industry, policy and society in major international conferences and meetings.

Scientific publications may be produced in the first year in specialized and high-level peer-reviewed journals. Publication fees for open-access will permit to broaden its availability.

FINANCIAL/SCIENTIFIC ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION MANAGER IN HOST INSTITUTION

Subject to the COST Office approval of the annual Workplan and Budget plan as proposed by the MC, the Grant Holder can be entitled to receive a fee of up to 15% of the actual science expenditure in order to cover financial and scientific administration and coordination. This will permit to have a manager with a part-time contract dedicated to administrative and coordination tasks in the host institution.

(3) **OUTPUTS PLANNED FOR YEAR**

(Including final reports, technical documents, publications and other forms of output.)

The outputs of Action BM1206 for the first year are delineated below:

- Action's brochure
- Action-specific website
- MC and WGs first Joint Meeting in Edinburgh (October 2013)
- MC and WGs second Joint Meeting in Barcelona (March 2014)
- *Translational Genomics in Biomedicine* workshop in Barcelona (March 2014)
- Financial report on 15 January 2014
- Scientific report (6 weeks before the Annual Progress Conference in mid 2014)
- Scientific publications

COST Grant budget plan

Action no. and title: BM1206 - COOPERATION STUDIES ON INHERITED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO COLORECTAL CANCER

Grant period: 01/06/2013 – 31/05/2014

Allocated budget: 86,000€

A. SUMMARY BUDGET

(1) MEETINGS	€ 71,172.93
(2) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS	€ 7,000
(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS	€
(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH	€ 8,023.86
(5) OERSA	€ 200

B. TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE (sum of (1) to (5)) **€ 86,396.79**

C. Financial & Scientific Administration and Coordination
(max. of 15% of B.) **€ 12,811.52**

D. TOTAL EXPENDITURE (B+C) **€ 99,208.31**

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

- Written justification by Chair of the Action for top-up in second installment
- List of current participants in COST Action BM1206

Written justification by Chair of the Action for top-up in second instalment

Our need for a top-up in our second instalment is due basically to an increase in the number of participating countries in our COST Action. Right before our kick-off meeting (30/04/13), there were 11 countries agreeing to participate. Nowadays, we are 19 in total. Alongside with the country increase, there is also an increment in the number of actual participating groups. Right before our kick-off meeting, there were 23 institutions agreeing to participate. Nowadays, we are 42 in total. As a clear example of these figures, I am attaching below a list of current participants that includes right now 90 researchers.

Therefore, in order to be able to maintain an adequate level of attendance for our second meeting in Barcelona, I am demanding for a top-up that corresponds mainly to the "Meetings" part of the budget and a small part to STSMs.

Also, budget has been updated accordingly to reflect actual and real expenses from our first meeting in Edinburgh, as well as those dedicated to dissemination or OERSA that have been already completed.

Please, do not hesitate to contact us in case you need further clarifications.

Best regards,



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Chair for COST Action BM1206
<http://www.eucolongene.eu/>

List of current participants in COST Action BM1206

(TOTAL=90)

Name	Category/Position	Country	Email
Lauri Aaltonen	MC Member	Finland	lauri.aaltonen@helsinki.fi
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