

***Minutes of the Core Group Meeting of COST Action CA17118: Identifying Biomarkers Through Translational Research for Prevention and Stratification of Colorectal Cancer***

***Barcelona, Spain***

***3/12/2018 and 4/12/2018***

**3rd December 2018**

**1. Welcome to participants**

The Local Organizer and Chair of the Action (Sergi Castellví-Bel) welcomed all the participants. They were reminded to sign the attendance list of the meeting.

**2. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda of the meeting was explained by the Chair of the Action and approved without changes or additions by the participants of COST Action BM1206 that attended. He also informed about the minutes of the kick-off minutes in Brussels in 01/10/2018.

The participants were the following:

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Committee</b>
Italy	Davide Barberio	SME
Austria	Stefanie Brezina	Research funding
Malta	Romina Briffa	WG3
Croatia	Tamara Cacev	Meetings and workshops
Spain	Jordi Camps	WG3
Netherlands	Beatriz Carvalho	WG3
Spain	Sergi Castellví-Bel	Chair
Spain	Javier de las Rivas	Science communication
Netherlands	Noel de Miranda	WG4
Netherlands	Richarda de Voer	Vice-Chair
Macedonia	Aleksandar Dimovski	Training schools
Israel	Eitan Friedman	Science communication
Spain	Toni Gabaldon	WG1
Spain	Merixell Gironella	WG2, local

France	Fabienne Hermitte	WG4, SME
Ireland	David Hughes	Research funding
Netherlands	Bart Janssen	WG3
Norway	Magnus Loberg	WG2
Spain	Victor Moreno	WG1
Italy	Alessio Naccarati	WG1
Serbia	Aleksandra Nikolic	Science communication
UK	Claire Palles	WG1
Spain	Clara Ruiz-Ponte	STSM
Germany	Regine Schneider-Stock	WG4
Greece	Andreas Scorilas	WG3
Norway	Wenche Sjursen	Science communication
Poland	Lukasz Skalniak	Training schools
Germany	Nikolas Stoecklein	WG2
Portugal	Manuel Teixeira	Meetings and workshops
Spain	Laura Valle	WG4
Netherlands	Tom van Wezel	Meetings and workshops
Czech Republic	Pavel Vodicka	Research funding
Czech Republic	Veronika Vymetalkova	WG2

There were 6 additional local participants from the host institution. In summary, 37 participants attended the first day and 39 joined the second day.

### 3. Update of the Action (13-13:30h)

The Chair briefly updated the participants about the Action including main objective, working groups, management roles, implementation of COST policies, main strategies, participants, effective interaction, expectations from participants, 1<sup>st</sup> grant period, work and budget plan, and EU general data protection regulation. Afterwards, the different executive management committees proceeded to make their presentations.

### 4. Working group 1. Disease risk profiling applied to the optimization of current screening programs. Claire Palles (13:30-14:30h)

Claire represented this WG and reminded about the main objectives and tasks to be developed. She also commented about the possibility to apply for additional funding (e.g. Accelerator award). It was also commented that metabolomics was included in WG1 and some groups were interested in it. Regarding this point, it was reminded that COST Action CA16113 is more focused in proteomics whereas our Action is more dedicated to genomics data. Finally, Claire also suggested to look for the involvement of gastroenterologists in order to further succeed in our objectives.

Alessio Naccarati made a brief presentation of the miTOS project, which aims at improving colorectal cancer screening programs through detecting miRNAs in stool.

### 5. Working group 2. Non-invasive biomarkers for early detection and disease follow-up. Veronika Vymetalkova (14:30-15:30h)

Veronika represented this WG and reminded about the main objectives and tasks to be developed. She commented on the fact standard operating procedure (SOP) are one of the important objectives to be achieved by this WG and that there are some SOP already available for circulating tumor DNA. She also mentioned that there still no clear training school envisioned for this WG. One possibility was to co-organize one with the International Society of Liquid Biopsy (<http://isliquidbiopsy.com/>).

- 6. Working group 4 scientific talk. Colorectal cancer immunity: neoantigens and beyond. Noel de Miranda (Leiden University Medical Center, <https://www.lumc.nl/org/pathologie/research/90708043159185/1709335/>) (16:00-16:45h)**

- 7. SME committee. Fabienne HERMITTE-HalioDX (16:45-17:15h)**

Fabienne represented this committee and proposed its main objectives and tasks to be developed. It was agreed that this committee will work to provide a successful integration of SME within the Action. She also proposed that all SME involved sent a short presentation about them and their envisioned participation in the consortium to be available at our website.

Short presentations about SME were made by HalioDX (Fabienne Hermitte), Bioclarma (Davide Barberio) and GenomeScan (Bart Janssen).

- 8. Summary of the day by the Action Chair and close up (17:15-17:30h)**

#### **4th December 2018**

- 9. Working group 3 – Tumor profiling to identify biomarkers with prognostic and predictive value for patient stratification – Jordi Camps (9:00-10:00h)**

There are 160 participants in working group 3. The working group will focus on the genomic, epigenomic and transcriptional profiling of colorectal adenomas and carcinomas. Four areas of interest are specified: 1. Omics, such as mutational profiling, methylation patterns, RNA sequencing and whole-genome sequencing; 2. The applicability of –omics technologies; 3. Cross-talk with other working groups: WG1 germline predisposition; WG2 non-invasive biomarkers; WG3 xenografts and single-cell sequencing. 4. Transferability of knowledge to companies.

Beatrice Carvalho made Scientific talk related to this WG. Example of tumor profiling, studies that focus on copy number changes in the adenoma to carcinoma sequence. Research focus on the phosphoproteomics, by studying tyrosine kinases in 136 adenomas and 126 carcinomas. Studies focus on knock-down of tyrosine kinases in human derived adenoma organoids (biobank at Dutch Cancer institute). Can CNV analyses of advanced adenomas contribute to improved guidelines on surveillance strategies in the Netherlands, to study the risk of developing metachronous CRC. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29685877>

This working group has many participants, it will therefore be a challenge to divide tasks and to keep focus. Designated meetings are needed for success of the working group. Potentially parallel sessions can be held at the first meeting. A questionnaire will be circulated to gather information for topic and to set-up first collaborations.

- 10. Short-term scientific missions (STSM) - Clara Ruiz-Ponte (10:00-10:30h)**

Short stays of for researchers are exchange visits between researchers involved in the COST Action, allowing researchers to visit an institution or laboratory in another COST Member state. These scientific missions may last up to six months in another COST Member/Cooperating Member or Near-Neighbour Country. The first STSM is already submitted, a researcher from Regine Schneider-Stock's laboratory has plans to visit Javier de Las Rivas in Spain. Other STSMs are still possible for this grant period. In addition, conference grant for young researchers from ITC are available, one already submitted for a meeting in Paris. Several researchers/groups indicated that researchers are planning for STSMs. Route for submission and approval explained, slides will be made available through the website.

- 11. Science communication committee – Aleksandra Nikolic (11:00-12:00h)**

Science communication is an official COST goal and needs to be reported on in the progress reports.

Website is online: [TRANSCOLONCAN.eu](http://TRANSCOLONCAN.eu)

We need to disseminate the results of our action to the general public. Target groups need to be defined, such as patient groups, clinical centers, companies. The question is raised on how to reach these target groups, i.e. by webinars and info leaflets with our aims. The action will make a twitter account and linkedin page to communicate to a greater audience and to create visibility for the action. Furthermore, a leaflet/slide will be made that actin participants can show when they are attending a meeting, of use as a final slide after a presentation. Some journal provide advertisements for COST actions for free. We should publish in open access journals and anything related to dissemination of the COST action needs to be reported for the progress report. The European Researchers Night might be an interesting opportunity for the action to organize a seminar or other event.

**12. Working group 1 scientific talk (SKYPE). An atlas of genetic associations in UK Biobank. Albert Tenesa (University of Edinburgh, <https://www.ed.ac.uk/mrc-human-genetics-unit/research/tenesa-group>) (12:00-12:45h)**

Albert Tenesa presented his recent work on genetic associations in the UK Biobank. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30349118>, their data is available on <http://geneatlas.roslin.ed.ac.uk>

**13. Working group 4. Functional genomics and new therapies. Regine Schneider-Stock (13:45-14:45h)**

This working group will functionally validate candidate genetic variants from germline or tumor studies using cutting-edge approaches such as CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing. One aim will be to circulate appropriate protocols for gene editing. Potential review interest for a PhD student, to summarize current protocols, experiences and literature reports.

A questionnaire was circulated to inventory all interests. Current focus is less on immunotherapies, the action should try to attract more researcher is this area. Furthermore systems biology is currently missing in the working group.

**14. Training schools committee. Aleksandar Dimovski (14:45-15:15h)**

The first training school is planned for January 21st to 23rd of January in Barcelona. The topic is 'Risk modeling in colorectal cancer'. Around 15 researchers have already signed up, several spots still open. Training schools will be organized once a year. Other suggestions for training schools are proteomic analysis in CRC (can be organized in Skopje). Other focuses may be a CRISPR-Cas9 training school (potentially in Leiden) or a training school on ctDNA, although the latter may also be more suitable for a workshop, than a training school.

**15. Research funding committee. David Hughes (15:15-15:45h)**

This committee will focus on funding opportunities for our COST Action. Grants submitted under the umbrella of a COST Action have been successful in obtaining funding. Multiple funding opportunities may be applicable, such as single calls, network calls and multi country calls (such as the EJP). Of interest may be [wordwidecancerresearch.org](http://wordwidecancerresearch.org) and [wcrf.org](http://wcrf.org)

Opportunities

- innovative medicine initiative <https://www.imi.europa.eu/>
- ERA-NET on personalised medicine <http://www.erapermed.eu/> pre-announcement on joint transnational call 2019
- research professional accounts to keep up to date on new funding calls
- [www.ecd.edu/research](http://www.ecd.edu/research)

#### **16. Meetings and workshop committee. Tom van Wezel (16:15-17:00h)**

Committee is responsible for focus of meetings and workshops, location and dates, preparation of the agenda and minutes.

We need at least one Management committee meeting each year, which can be combined with a half a day workshop on a topic from the working groups. First meeting will be in Skopje in February. We will try to have two meetings each year, one end of winter/early spring and one late summer/early autumn. Options are:

Malta – October 2019

Belgrade – Spring 2020

Other options are Greece, Porto and Poland for October 2020 and beyond.

#### **17. Summary of the day by the Action Chair and close up (17:00-17:15h)**

