



EWRR
Lisbon, February 20-22



BTCure was also present at the European Workshop for Rheumatology Research in Lisbon in February.

The major topics of the workshops were:

- New Perspectives on Immunomodulation
- Brain, Psychology and the Immune System
- Looking at the Future (Funding Opportunities)
- Understanding the Sexist Distribution of Auto-Immune Diseases
- Scleroderma
- Regenerative Medicine
- Innate Immunology
- Rising Stars in the Biology of Inflammatory Rheumatic Disorders



Besides scientific talks and lectures, the EWRR is featured by topic-based study groups, which are trying to drive certain questions forward in a collaborative effort. Some BTCure groups and tasks played a considerable role in some representative EWRR study groups. At the meeting of animal study group currently lead by Georg Schett (Erlangen), Margriet Vervoordeldonk (ArthroGen) presented outcomes of animal SOP validations, current issues and plans, ethical issues with regard to animal experiments on behalf of Rikard Holmdahl (KI). Furthermore, Günter Steiner (MUW) informed the group about the next animal workshop and its goals. EWRR's cell therapy study group meeting was coordinated by Christian Jorgensen (Inserm, WP1C lead) in concordance with related WP1C goals. At the autoantibody study group at the EWRR, Johan Rönnelid (KI/Uppsala) was one of the key players as he is involved in the development of the ISAC/ThermoFisher chip and analysis. At this group meeting

the exchange of experiences with regard to reliability, reproducibility, usefulness and needs of current and future RD diagnostics was discussed.

Pia-Maria Blaas (Scientific Coordinator, KI) further organized a spontaneous Work Management Board breakfast meeting with some of the present Work Management Board members and Principal Investigators of BTCure. Topics discussed at this meeting were up-coming BTCure workshops, if and how to involve external participants to increase dissemination of key results, bioinformatics questions, new funding opportunities and feedback of BTCure's industry partners. One important decision of our WMB in this context was, that instead of actively fostering external participation in BTCure internal workshops, it was decided that Lars Klareskog (BTCure Managing Entity, KI) and Tom Huizinga (LUMC, BTCure co-coordinator) will contact Georg Schett (Erlangen, leading SC on investigative rheumatology) to decide how BTCure topics could become even more systematically part of EULAR Standing Committee meeting agendas or if own EULAR/ BTCure meetings could be arranged.

Work of younger BTCure researchers was also represented at the EWRR with several posters acknowledging BTCure, in particular of partner LUMC, AMC and Leeds.