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BeTheCure Newsletter - for collaborators and interested external parties - 3/2013

Annual meeting in Prague, Sept 15-17



September 15-17, we had our 2nd annual BTCure scientific meeting and the project Steering Board meeting in Prague. This year the number of participants had increased to almost 130 attendants who all contributed to a very fruitful and collaborative atmosphere where a lot of old and new contacts were made between individuals and different research groups and resulting in suggestion for next interesting BTCure workshops of mutual interest. In addition to all the internal partners we also had representatives from IMI, the EULAR patient organization PARE and our external ethical advisory board. We also had a very interesting and well-attended biobank workshop as part of the program to learn from experiences from other existing national or non-RA biobanks. During this year's scientific meeting, sessions as well as offline meetings were planned in a way to foster collaborations between groups and WPs on specific BTCure topics and goals. Each session started with a scientific debate of BTCure key opinion leaders on the respective question, including for the first time talks and perspectives of industry speakers of our EFPIA partners, which was very well perceived. In the following sessions, selected BTCure researchers had the chance to present topic related BTCure work and there was also a poster session to give everybody the opportunity to present new and interesting data, resulting in a huge interest and participation.



Further bullets from the meeting:

- The Project Steering Board representing one representative per BTCure partner (Principal Investigator) met on Sunday to discuss the IMI reviewer feedback and recommendations of our interim review, to hear recommendations of our independent Ethics Board and Patient Advisors and to decide on new partners and budget questions.

The Board unanimously decided to decrease the 2nd interim payment and ENSO payment by 3% in favor of creating a central account for supporting workshops and travel exchange. Forms and information on how to apply for funding from this central account can be found in the internal platform (additional information see below under

heading Presentations from annual meeting 2013 available in the internal platform.)

- The PSB also decided to include new SMEs Redoxis and Firalis. Firalis has acquired SME partner TCLand, which will consequently be excluded as formal partner.

- Maarten de W was invited to share his personal experience from many years of working with patient involvement in research. Within EULAR they have produced a set of information cards where the tasks, responsibilities and opportunities for both the patient and the researcher are very well summarized: [Click here to see the information cards.](#)

For other details please review our PSB minutes available in the internal platform.



Presentations from annual meeting 2013 available in the internal platform

All (almost) presentations from the annual meeting can now be found in the internal platform together with plenty of other useful and helpful documents.

To get access to the platform, please follow the instructions below:

- Go to www.btcure.eu
- Click the "members" heading
- On top of all listed partners you find the "internal platform for members" link - click it
- Follow the BTCure internal platform link
- Enter your e-mail address in the user field
- Click *password request, retrieve password or forgotten password*

You will then receive an e-mail with login instructions.

Once logged in, to get access to all documents just follow the steps below:

- Click Select workplace
- Choose your preferred WP
- Choose document management in the left menu field
- Click documents
- Then you can browse the documents as you wish.

All presentations from the Prague meeting can be found under [WP10-Management/Prague annual meeting 2013](#). The forms for applying for funding from the central account for workshops and travel exchange can be found under [WP10-management/Central funding for workshops and travel exchange](#)

If you do not have any login to the platform, please contact susanne.karlfeldt@karolinska.se

BTCure colleagues - Medical University Vienna

We continue to present our BTCure colleagues also with this newsletter. This time you meet the group from Vienna, represented here by Günter Steiner, Silvia Hayer and Paul Studenic.



**Professor Günter Steiner &
Dr Paul Studenic**



Dr Silvia Hayer

The Medical University Vienna (MUW) is the largest medical organisation in Austria and is also one of the most important top-level research institutions of the country. MUW employs a staff of 5,000, of which 1,800 are actively involved in clinical, translational and basic science research. Each year 100,000 patients are treated as inpatients at 31 university clinics, 605,000 outpatients receive initial treatment in the day-clinics. MUW is also Austria's largest medical training centre where some 8,000 students are currently completing their studies in human medicine and dentistry. As one of the largest research centres in Europe, MUW concentrates on a total of four Research Clusters and five Clinical Fields of Research.

The Division of Rheumatology of the Medical University of Vienna (head: Prof Josef Smolen) has a long-standing expertise in clinical and translational arthritis research. The focus of clinical research is on very early and pre-disease phases of inflammatory joint disease (pre-RA), development of instruments for prediction of rheumatoid arthritis and disease outcome, assessment of therapeutic responsiveness (group leaders: Daniel Aletaha and Josef Smolen) and the patient perspective in rheumatic diseases (group leader Tanja Stamm). The group has established a biobank and a large clinical database and coordinated international, investigator driven clinical trials, such as Stop Arthritis Very Early (SAVE) and Definitive Intervention in New Onset Rheumatoid Arthritis (DINORA).

The basic and translational research groups focus on the molecular and cellular pathways to arthritis which includes autoimmune research, investigations on inflammatory pathways and mechanisms of joint destruction (group leaders: Günter Steiner, Kurt Redlich, Silvia Hayer, Stefan Blüml, Clemens Scheinecker and Hans Kiener). To investigate these issues several experimental arthritis models are used which reflect various aspects of human disease including collagen-induced arthritis, serum transfer arthritis, pristane-induced arthritis and TNF α transgenic mice. Additional experiments are performed with patient derived cells such as peripheral blood cells and synovial fibroblasts the latter forming one of the key research topics of the group. Another issue of great importance is development of novel therapies based on data obtained in animal models of RA.

Upcoming events and workshops

- * **IBD sample management workshop**, Paris Dec 4-5 2013 - Organizer: FHR, for details contact Stefania.Vetrano@humanitasresearch.it
- * **microRNA workshop**, Zurich Apr 8-10 2014 - Organizer: UZH, for details and questions contact: Georgina.Mathis@usz.ch or renate.gay@usz.ch
- * **Next animal workshop**, Vienna May 14-16 2014 - Organizer: MUW: for details contact Silvia.hayer@meduniwien.ac.at
- * **Tolerance/Therapeutic intervention workshop**, Sweden, Sigtuna: May 19-20, 2014. Organizers: KI/LUMC. For organizational details contact susanne.karlfeldt@karolinska.se and for questions and comments on the program contact Marieke Bax m.bax@lumc.nl and pia-maria-blaas@ki.se
- * **BTCure 3rd annual meeting**, Prague Sept 14-16, Andel's hotel. Organizer: BTCure management team. For details contact susanne.karlfeldt@karolinska.se

Next internal telecons and deadlines

* **SAB Telecon** (for WP leaders): **Nov 20 2013** (agenda and dial in details will follow)

* Next **reporting deadline Jan 25 2014** – instructions will be distributed during December

Other upcoming scientific or RA related conferences, where BTCure partners will be present

* PARE (patient organisation) meeting in Iceland, Nov 14-17

* EULAR registers meeting, Prague Nov 14 2013

* EWRR, Lisbon Feb 20 2014

* EULAR Conference, Paris June 11-14



For input and comments on the newsletter, please contact editor Susanne Karlfeldt

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