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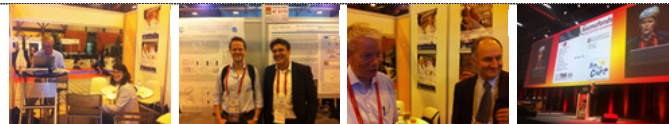
BTCure - Newsletter 2 2013

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BeTheCure Newsletter - for collaborators and interested external parties - 2/2013

BTCure at EULAR, Madrid June 11-15



As last year, BTCure was presented at the EULAR congress in Madrid, June 11-15. We had a very well visited exhibition booth in the so called EULAR village. Above you can see (from the left) Lars Kreskog and Pia-Maria Blaas (Karolinska), Stephan Blüml (Vienna) and Karl Skriner (Paris). Below you can see Danielle Gerlag showing various situations possible.

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For a summary and report on the congress, please follow [this link](#).

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Animal Workshop Athens June 2013

Between the 5th and the 7th of June, the 2nd BTCure workshop on Animal Models took place in Athens, Greece. The second workshop was organized by BTCure in partnership with Fleming with financial support of UCB, could attract nearly 60 participants of highly motivated researchers and experts in the field, including numerous academic partners and EFPIA colleagues from UCB, GSK and Novo Nordisk.

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To read the full report from the workshop, please follow [this link](#).

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General feedback from the Midterm review

The BTCure interim review was held in Brussels May 7. All WPs were presented before an external review panel of MI representatives. The written report from this review is available in the internal system, but below is a bullet point list on the feedback summarised by Pia-Maria Blaas). In the full report you can also see suggested actions to be taken:

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- First impressive results after only 2 years
- Almost all planned deliverables achieved (85%)
- Project could catch up with the delay in the project start
- Progress towards main objectives achieved for more than 90%
- Challenges have been identified and strategies for projects being behind schedules have been outlined
- Project risks have been reasonably assessed
- A new partner (GSK) and additional ENSO funding could be gained
- Good publication record
- Excellent academic collaborations, and collaboration with EULAR
- Superb Management and excellent governance and project oversight
- Our priorities on infrastructure and adaptive immunity were welcomed in order to stay focused

The following success stories were highlighted by reviewers:

- Major achievements in the field of adaptive immunity and with immunoassays for antibodies
- Relationships of the adaptive system, T and B cells, with the innate system and fibroblasts
- As particular interesting project the interplay of adaptive immunity with the bone was mentioned

Highlighted dissemination achievements

- Good patient relations, contact to EULAR/PARE has been productive

Innehåll  



Innehåll 

- New nomenclature for RA risk groups (with EULAR and patients)
- Established standardized procedures, as for animal models, other protocols, databases of access for BTCure participants, imaging techniques, etc.
- Monoclonal RA antibodies produced by UCB, utilized by partners
- New standardized multiplex assays, utilized by partners

BTCure colleagues

We continue to present our BTCure colleagues also with this newsletter. This time you meet Florence Apparailly from Montpellier, and also our new EFPIA-contacts at Janssen Biologics and Pfizer Ltd. With this newsletter we want to welcome Ian Anderson and Martin Hodge to the BTCure network.

Florence Apparailly, Montpellier

My team performs a research program on the host immune response in vivo with the goal to better understand how the deregulation of the immune system leads to rheumatoid arthritis. In particular, we are studying the expression pattern and function of microRNAs in the context of monocyte heterogeneity in arthritis using human

patient materials and mouse models of arthritis to identify genes and immune cell subsets mediating pathogenic functions, and study how they are involved in disease. This approach gives opportunities for the discovery of novel key players and mechanisms acting in the progression of inflammation and bone destruction, new biomarkers useful for diagnosis and prognosis, and novel targets for therapeutic interventions.



We are thus involved in WP1, establishing SOPs for the mouse model of collagen-induced arthritis, implementing omics database with miRNAs signatures of human and mouse monocyte subsets from healthy and arthritic individuals, evaluating responses to drugs in animal and man, identifying new candidate genes and validating strategies for innovative therapies in arthritis.



Ian Anderson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals

I have had a long-standing interest in the application of antibody based therapeutics for the treatment of chronic respiratory and autoimmune diseases. I have worked in the biopharmaceutical industry for over 20 years. During my time as Head of Respiratory, Inflammation and Autoimmunity at Cambridge Antibody Technology (and subsequently MedImmune) I have led the discovery and development of antibody therapeutics for RA, SLE, asthma, COPD and IPF. I have a particular interest in GM-CSF and IL-13 and developed therapeutic antibodies that prevent signalling of these cytokines. These antibodies are currently in phase II trials in RA and asthma, respectively.

In March 2014 I joined Janssen Pharmaceuticals as VP Immunology Scientific Innovation and am based at the Johnson & Johnson Innovation Centre in London. I represent the Immunology Therapeutic Area in UK and Europe. In this role I identify innovative approaches for the treatment of autoimmune and respiratory disease and nurture these projects in collaboration with the academic or biotech partners.

BTCure is an excellent consortium of expertise in RA and I am convinced that this interaction will liberate innovative biologic approaches and therapeutic solutions for RA patients. I am delighted to join the WMB.

Martin Hodge, Pfizer

I have a long-standing interest in immune regulatory mechanisms and their role in the pathology and treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory disorders. Since my post-doctoral training in T cell development and activation I have been focused on the identification of new therapeutics based on adaptive and innate immune mechanisms. My 17 years

of biopharmaceutical industry experience includes positions at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Boehringer Ingelheim and Biogen Idec where I have led the discovery and development of immune modulators for the treatment of immune disorders including RA, lupus, IBD, MS and asthma.





Since joining Pfizer in January 2013, I have been leading the development of a clinical stage cytokine signaling inhibitor. In addition as Head of Translation, I am working to leverage more extensive human disease biology data and patient samples to increase the success of immune directed therapies in the clinic. BTCure represents an excellent opportunity to participate in a consortium of expertise and more comprehensive biologic approaches to solutions for RA patients.

Annual meeting September 15-17, 2013

The meeting venue for our upcoming annual meeting **September 15-17** in Prague is now set. We will meet and stay at the NH-hotels, Mozartova 261/1, 150 00 Prague, www.nh-hotels.com. The preliminary agenda has been distributed for input, and the invitation and registration form has also been sent out. If you did not receive it, please contact Susanne Karlfeldt.

The BTCure Management team wishes you all a very nice summer!



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