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BeTheCure Newsletter - for collaborators and interested external parties - 2/2014

BTCure 3rd annual meeting

September 14-16 the BTCure network met for the third annual meeting in Prague. The meeting was comprised of different meetings; first the annual Principal Investigator meeting, in which the important decision to set a side 0,5% of our total budget in support of the central fund was made. The central fund makes it possible to arrange focused workshops in different areas and also to visit partners within BTCure. If you are interested in organising a workshop or to visit one of our partners you can address the Work Management Board with a request for financial and organisational support or apply for travel exchange support. Templates for both workshop support as well as for travel are available in our internal platform.

For more information on the central fund, please contact Susanne K.

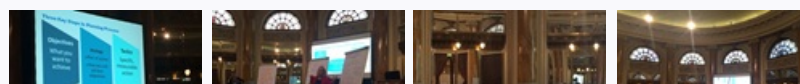


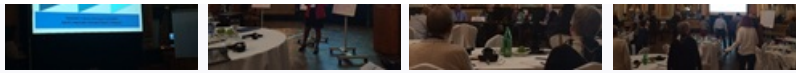
The second part of the meeting was the general research meeting where all the workpackages were presented and nice summaries from meetings and workshops during the year were presented and discussed. After this we had break-out meetings and off-line meetings and we wrapped it all up with a nice poster session and dinner. The full report from the meeting can be found [here](#)

Prolongation of BTCure?

In November the Management team submitted an official request to prolong the project duration by 12 months, i.e. new end date would then be March 31 2017. The reason for this request are several but to summaries, a prolongation would:

- allow us to **achieve the objectives of the ENSO grant**; using new tools and materials that have been developed during the course of the project. A multiplex antibody analysis system: a platform that now provides the consortium with the world's best diagnostic system for antibody analysis in RA.
- make it possible to **fully exploit our assembled biobanks and cohort information**, for example with more detailed studies on specific antibodies used in the platform, or surveillance of treatment responses and longitudinal studies.
- allow us to combine these data with existing genetic and clinical data and provide us with new possibilities to **predict disease onset** as well as disease course, and possibly also to predict response to different therapies. The development of this informatics platform is ongoing, but we cannot use until we have the results from the multiplex antibody analysis.
- allow us to use new techniques that have made it possible to **use single cell transcriptomics** for the analysis of synovial tissues.
- allow several academic as well as industrial partners to make **use of the new monoclonal antibodies** that has been generated in BTCure. The experiments that will be possible include **a series of functional experiments** with the various monoclonal antibodies on human cells in vitro (osteoclasts, fibroblasts, chondrocytes), transfer experiments to mice in vivo, as well as experiments with modified (mainly with changes in glycosylation) antibodies which may also possibly be used as blocking agents for potentially pathogenic antibody-mediated effector functions.
- help us to continue and **expand our collaboration with patient organisations.**

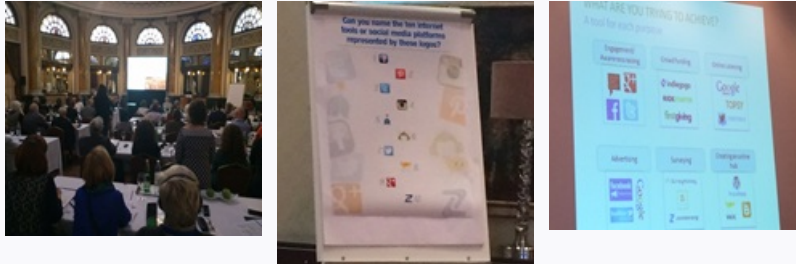




EULAR PARE meeting

Our collaboration with the European patient organisation PARE has deepened and expanded and the development of new means for communication between scientists, health care and patients receives constantly more attention. This has been an explicit goal of BTCure from the beginning and we have gradually expanded our collaboration with the patient organisation in Europe (EULAR/PARE). One thing that has contributed to a better mutual understanding is the active participation in the annual meetings of the two organisations as well as contributing with articles in the newsletters of the same.

Some of the workshops at this years' PARE meeting were on communication and how the use of social media can increase the public awareness about rheumatic diseases and all the research that is ongoing within the area. Hopefully this will help us in communicating our work and results better in the future.



EFPIA support available

There are still many possibilities to receive EFPIA-support for both ongoing and new projects. EFPIA partners within BTCure have expressed their interest in continued support but generally do not know which projects that are available. So please bring forward your ideas and suggestions for projects that would benefit from EFPIA support and funds! Contact Neil Gozzard at UCB, and/or Martina Johannesson (WPs 1-5) or Marieke Bax (WPs 6-9) for more information



Upcoming events and workshops

Suggestions for workshops discussed, but not decided on. Please contact the BTCure management if you have any ideas or suggestions for workshop topics. Suggested so far:

- * **Tolerance/biomarkers/technologies** - 2015
- * **PAD inhibitors** - spring 2015
- * **Functional genomics** - February 2016
- * **BTCure 4th annual meeting**, Prague Sept 20-22 2015,

We thank you all for yet a fantastic and productive year with great collaborations and we look forward to continue this successful work next year!

*Merry Christmas & a
Happy New year from
the BTCure management
team*



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

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