

Infect-ERA
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NEWSLETTER 6

Young scientists networking workshop in Budapest: Become a part of the Infect-ERA family

One of the important missions, of Infect-ERA is to support young scientists in the field of infectious diseases. To fulfill Infect-ERA's mission it is essential that the younger generation of microbiologists, molecular biology clinicians and biotechnologists have access to the best possible training and career development opportunities at all stages of their professional life.

*You are invited to use the
Infect-ERA
seeking collaboration and
seeking training modules.*

A young scientist training and networking workshop will take place on October 14, 2015 at the Hotel Gellert, Budapest

The workshop will include talks from top-tier speakers as well as hands-on training in scientific writing. The workshop will highlight various career opportunities and will focus on issues pertaining to intellectual property and the commercialization of innovations arising from scientific research.

This workshop is open to all scientists (no age restriction), free of charge, but requires prior registration. A complete agenda and registration form can be found at <http://www.infect-era.eu/news/young-scientists-training-and-networking-meeting>

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Kickoff meeting of the Joint Transnational Call (JTC)-2014 funded projects

The JTC-2014 kickoff meeting consisted of eight presentations delivered by the coordinators of the funded projects. Following a brief introduction and review of JTC statistics by MINECO, Spain, which served as the 2014 call secretariat, the coordinators presented their work plans for the upcoming 3 years.

The projects include: [AMOEBAC](#), [BactInfectERA](#), [eDEVILLI](#), [ERASE](#), [ESCential](#), [FunComPath](#), [The Nice bug](#) and [CampyRNA](#). Worth noting, [CampyRNA](#) is a consortium composed entirely by young scientists. More details on the funded projects can be found at: <http://www.infect-era.eu/sites/infect-era.eu/files/attachment/NL5-18-02.pdf>. The coordinators were introduced to additional Infect-ERA activities, such as the upcoming young scientists networking meeting scheduled for October 14, 2015 in Budapest and the extensive database compiled on the available infrastructure in infectious disease research.

Facts and numbers JTC-2014:

| | Number of projects | Number of research groups | Requested Budget M € |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Pre-proposals | 118 | 525 | 106 |
| Full proposals | 34 | 106 | 35 |
| Funded | 8 | 38 | 9 |



Dr. Anabela Isidro, from FCT, Portugal, presented the European infrastructures related to Infectious diseases.

Infect-ERA External Advisory Board (EAB) meeting

The third EAB meeting was convened to articulate the general outline and sub-topics of the Infect-ERA Strategic Research Agenda (SRA), scheduled to be published by the end of 2016. For this purpose, committees representing four fields of infectious disease research were established:

- Host-pathogen relationship
- Human microbiota
- Diagnosis and epidemiology
- Development of new treatments.

Each committee presented the areas of greatest interest in their respective field, the current state of the art, existing challenges and possible means to address them and recommendations to support the development of specific areas of inquiry within the field. Regarding the human microbiota, the need to better understand the relation between gut microbiome and non-gut microbiome for example, blood and other mucosal microbiome was discussed.



Prof. Huberus Haas from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, in the External Advisory Board meeting.

In the context of host-pathogen interaction, the development of new in-vivo models may prove crucial. The next generation of animal models should aim at avoiding the use of overly simplified models. Personal aspects, involving the immune system should be addressed as well; and the implications for personalized treatments and vaccinations should be specified and analyzed.

The diagnosis and epidemiology of infectious diseases engender important issues for public health systems. With a few exceptions, such as personalized kits and subtyping diagnostic tools, early diagnosis still remains a formidable challenge. Point-of-care early diagnosis kits for viral diseases and life-threatening infections for both primary and secondary care facilities are important. Finally, the development of new treatments with high clinical relevance should be encouraged.

Joint seminar with sister initiatives

The EAB meeting was followed by a joint seminar with the officers of sister EU initiatives. These included: [NORFACE](#), [ECRIN](#), [EDCTP](#), [JPI-HDHL](#), [ORA](#) and a talk on synchronization of calls between organizations.

The representatives of the sister initiatives – primarily the respective administrative and financial officers – presented their initiatives and related activities. Especially interesting were the models employed to secure the sustainability of Infect-ERA after the program's scheduled conclusion in 2016. The administrative and financial officers of the various initiatives were invited to share their experience regarding planning and management for the future. The seminar was moderated by the ISCI, the Infect-ERA partner responsible for exploring various sustainability models for the ERA-NET.



Joint seminar with sister initiatives.

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