

**Minutes of the Management Committee meeting
COST Action BM1005
Gasotransmitters: from basic science to therapeutic applications
(ENOG: European Network on Gasotransmitters)**

24th October 2013, Lisbon, Portugal

1. Welcome to participants

The participants were welcomed by Prof. Andreas Papapetropoulos, who chaired the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda for this Management Committee (MC) meeting was adopted.

3. Approval of the minutes and matters arising for the last meeting

The minutes of the previous (Smolenice) meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.

4. Update from Action Chair

a. Status of the Action, including participant count

22/23 countries represented (19 pre-existing plus 4 intentions from CH, IE, FI, SI). The Action now consists of 23 countries, with 5 joining since June.

b. Action budget status

The budget for 2013-2014 will increase pro rata with respect to the larger number of countries participating. The Action spent most of its budget in last financial year, leaving only about 5K€ unused (final number still pending). This was noted to be a significant improvement (greater % of

total) on the first year of operation, in which ~20K€ was returned. It was also stated that the University of Patras had undergone an administrative shutdown so processing of COST payments and other reimbursements has stalled. This should recommence in 2 weeks.

c. STSM status and new applications

In the 2nd year 5 STSMs were completed and one cancelled. No STSMs have been submitted yet for approval in the third year. The Action members were encouraged to submit STSM applications as soon as possible since this is one area in which funds are being underutilized.

5. Promotion of gender balance and Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

Prof. Papapetropoulos reported that there is a 60:40 male:female ratio in the new recruits and the research of 4 ESRs was promoted at this meeting (each as an oral presentation).

6. Update from the COST office

Gabriela Cristea represented the COST office and provided an update:

- Inge Dadeshidze is the new Scientific Officer for this Action.
- The next annual meeting will be in Malta, April 28th-29th, 2014.
- The COST Office is now recruiting scientists for evaluation of ending COST Actions. Interested individuals should refer to the appropriate COST website (www.cost.eu/experts).
- The MC were made aware of funds available for 'Dissemination meetings' enabling the Action to send 2 participants/year to any meeting to disseminate findings of the group.
- The COST office has also simplified the local organizer support (LOS).
- The Action webpage needs to be updated to include the new Scientific Officer contact details.
- Training schools & STSMs are only permitted during the lifetime of Action. No other activities permitted after the final meeting. Thus, all these activities must be concluded prior to the end of the Action.
- A final publication detailing the achievements of the Action, if appropriate, is reimbursable from the central COST budget (not Action).
- Members of this and other Actions had reported not receiving official eInvites from the COST office. Spam filters should be checked in this instance.

7. Update from the DC rapporteur

The Rapporteur (Maija Dambrova) was not present.

8. Annual progress conference

The annual report meeting will be held in Malta this year (28th-29th April). Prof. Papapetropoulos will populate the annual report and send to the MC and WG leaders for comments and approval.

9. Follow-up of MOU objectives

This was considered to be good. Measures agreed by the MC in this meeting would help facilitate this process.

10. Scientific Planning

a. Scientific strategy

Prof. Papapetropoulos informed the group that Drs. Beck & Pfeilschifter (Frankfurt) have developed and made available a floxed CSE mouse line and would be happy to receive expressions of interest to collaborate using these mice. Prof. Fleming reported that she has developed an endothelial-specific CSE KO from this same strain.

b. Action budget planning

The budget for 2014-2015 will be increased pro rata when the MOU has been signed by the new recruits. Once this final budget is known, each expenditure item will be increased proportionately. A final budget will be agreed by email if necessary.

c. Long-term planning (subsequent meetings)

The final meeting must be held before 5th May 2015. This will be held in Athens, possibly combined with the next European H₂S conference. The Vice Chair (Prof. Hobbs) is involved with the organization of an NO/CO/H₂S Forum in the UK, with links to the international NO society, and it was agreed that Prof. Hobbs would enquire as to whether this might represent a mechanism to maintain the network at the end of the Action.

d. Dissemination planning

A total of 7 joint papers have now been published by members of the Action. A themed issue in the British Journal of Pharmacology is to be published shortly (approx. 30 papers).

11. Request for new members

There were two requests for new MC/MC substitute membership of the Action (Drs Joles and Loboda). CVs were distributed to WG leaders & MC. It was agreed unanimously to accept the application from each of these additional members.

One further request was received from a researcher not in the gasotransmitter field Danina Muntean (Romania), whose interests lie in cardiac protection, monoamine oxidases, and oxidative stress. She wishes to join the Action to learn more about the gasotransmitter field. The MC reviewed her CV and unanimously agreed to accept her request.

12. Non-COST applications to the Action

None.

13. AOB

A question asked to Gabriela Cristea if it was possible to re-apply to continue the COST Action. This is permitted, but the application would be in direct competition with new proposals.

Horizon 2020: A working group, including the Chair, Vice-Chair and WG leaders (and possibly other interested parties) is to be formed to plan how to exploit the new funding call. This group will meet separately in February 2014 to discuss the best approach.

14. Location and date of the next meeting

The next Action meeting will be a training school held in Capri, March 27th-30th 2013. The next MC meeting will be during the 3rd Working Group Meeting held in Messina, Italy (1st-2nd May 2014; Local organizer: Salvatore Cuzzocrea).

15. Summary of MC decisions

These were discussed and agreed unanimously by the MC.

16. Closing remarks

Prof. Papapetropoulos thanked the members for their participation. A special note of appreciation was given to Dr. Vieira & Dr. Romão for their excellent organization of the meeting.



