

**Minutes of the 5th Management Committee meeting
COST Action BM1005
Gasotransmitters: from basic science to therapeutic applications
(ENOG: European Network on Gasotransmitters)**

11 April, Smolenice, Slovakia

1. Welcome to participants

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

15 countries were represented at the MC meeting.

No representatives from the COST central office were present.

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 (Budapest) meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.

4. Update from Action Chair

a. Status of the Action, including participant count

The chair advised that two members had resigned due to other work commitments. These were Prof. Harald Schmidt (University of Maastricht, Netherlands) and Prof. Gary Baxter (Cardiff University, UK). Prof. Schmidt was noted to have withdrawn completely from the Action, whereas Prof. Baxter would leave the MC, whilst remaining active within the group.

These departures left vacancies for WG2 leader, MC member for the Netherlands, and MC member for the UK. The MC voted unanimously to appoint Prof. Amrita Ahluwalia (Barts & The London School of Medicine) as the new MC member for the UK, with Dr. Matt Whiteman (University of Exeter) replacing her as substitute. Dr. Whiteman was also appointed as

WG2 leader, at least on an interim basis; this position will be discussed again at the next MC meeting in October.

Prof. Papapetropoulos extended his congratulations to Prof. Roberto Motterlini & Dr. Helena Vieira on the award of a collaborative grant.

b. Action budget status

The Action returned approximately €20k last year. The group is again in surplus this year (largely due to loss of the training school; see below). The MC approved measures to increase spend up to budget limit (e.g. more STSMs, reimbursement of ESRs, dissemination etc; see below).

c. STSM status and new applications

Four STSMs have been approved since the last MC meeting, with a further application in process waiting approval from WG leaders. Members of the MC declared an interest in 5 new STSMs to be completed before the end of June 2013.

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

A special ESR lecture was included in the scientific programme. Prof. Lamas suggested that ESRs should be actively encouraged to attend future Action meetings, present data, and that they should be reimbursed. This was agreed unanimously by the MC. Gender balance was promoted by the appointment of Prof. Amrita Ahluwalia & Dr. Roberta Foresti to the MC.

6. Update from the COST office

The COST Office was not represented at this meeting as the SO joined the previous meeting in Budapest. The COST Office does not join all the Action meetings and COST representatives usually take part in a first and second MC, mid-term and a final MC meeting. Dr Magdalena Radwanska communicated the update to the Chair by e-mail before the MC meeting indicating that the Action will have 124 000 EUR for next 12 months and that MC approved work and budget plan is expected to be submitted to the COST Office by 01 May 2013. Dr Ilias Papadopoulos will take up an appointment of SO BMBS as Dr Magdalena Radwanska accepted another position

7. Update from the DC rapporteur

None.

8. Annual progress conference

The annual report meeting will be held in Latvia this year. The annual report for this COST action must be submitted by 20th April 2013. Prof. Papapetropoulos will populate this document and send it to the MC and WG leaders for 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 stated that due to the withdrawal of Prof. Schmidt, the planned training school in Maastricht would no longer go ahead. Prof. Hobbs suggested that he may be able to hold a similar training school at his institution. However, the MC agreed that training in in vivo models would be best supported by individual-specific STSMs, rather than a unified/central event. The MC proposed an alternative training school on gasotransmitter measurement techniques, which will likely run in the Spring of 2014. This will be complemented by specialized lectures from experts in each field.

b. Action budget planning

The budget for 2013-2014 remained unchanged compared to the current financial year. Prof. Papapetropoulos intimated that the budget for 2013-2014 would be approximately €124k.

c. Long-term planning (subsequent meetings)

WG 2 and WG 3 agreed to meet before year end since areas covered by these WGs were progressing rapidly. WG 2 will meet during the 2nd European Conference on the Biology of Hydrogen Sulfide (8th-11th September 2013, University of Exeter). WG 3 meeting is to be announced.

The next MC meeting would be included within the 3rd Workshop meeting, possibly 24th & 25th October 2013, Lisbon. The Local organizer will be Dr. Helena Viera. At this meeting, molecule-specific discussion groups will identify outlines for reviews/consensus statements and potential contributors. Prof. Peter Brouckaert will lead a review on transgenic models across the gasotransmitter fields.

The subsequent MC/WG meeting will take place in Sicily, May 1st & 2nd 2014. Salvatore Cuzzocrea will be the local organizer.

d. Dissemination planning

It was agreed that methodological consensus papers should be published by the COST Action to represent the expertise of its members. Joint reviews and development of common tools were also advocated. It was also agreed to support open access publication of joint papers more proactively from the Action budget. The Action will be represented during the 6th cGMP meeting in Germany (June 2013) both

by its Chair and Co-Chair and by setting up a booth to promote the Action.

11. Request for new members

Prof. Ulf Simonsen (University of Aarhus, Denmark) had been electronically 'appointed' to the MC by central COST administration, despite the rule that outside the first year, appointments to the MC must be approved by the Chair, Vice-Chair and MC. Prof. Simonsen has not replied to several emails from Prof. Papapetropoulos, so the MC voted to make no movement on that front, unless a reply is received.

The CVs of three new applicants to the MC were emailed to all members. These individuals are Dr. Roberta Foresti (University of Paris Est; France, substitute), Prof. Viktor Kozich (Charles University, Prague; Czech Republic), and Prof. Harry van Goor (University of Groningen; Netherlands). They were approved unanimously. Roberta Foresti was appointed MC substitute for France and Prof. Viktor Kozich and Prof. Harry van Goor as full MC members for the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

This brings the total number of participating countries in this Action to 19.

12. Non-COST applications to the Action

None.

13. AOB

The next meeting of the MC will be held in Lisbon in October 2013. There was no other business.

14. Closing remarks

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



