

Research Networking Programme

Aims and objectives

Since 1st of July 2010 the European LeukemiaNet (ELN) is funded through a Research Networking Programme (RNP), initiated by the European Science Foundation (ESF), which is called ESF-ELN RNP. The ESF RNPs bring together nationally funded research activities, to address a major scientific issue or a science-driven topic of research infrastructure, at the European level with the aim of advancing the frontiers of science.

Key objectives are:

1. Support of health related sciences and research as well as improving medical care in acute and chronic leukemia
2. Expansion of common information and communication structures of the ELN, reaching out to countries that do not yet participate in the ELN
3. Performance of clinical trials on an European level and improvement of the related trial infrastructure
4. Establishment of European leukemia registries for each leukemia entity
5. International exchange and training of young scientists
6. Development of internationally accepted guidelines and meta-analyses
7. Spread of excellence

Timeframe

The ELN-ESF RNP is funded for 5 years (07/2010-06/2015) with an annual budget of 84220 € for networking activities.

Achievements and benefits of the ESF-ELN-RNP

Envisaged achievement of the ELN-ESF RNP will be the continuation of the international ELN activities, which improve and enhance cooperation among network members and will in addition update and inform the public. Expected benefits of the programme will be a comprehensive prognostic model to optimize treatment of acute and chronic leukemia on a European scale and enhanced performance and comparability of trials across Europe leading to better synergies and improved outcomes in leukemia research and patient care.

Activities

The project will foster current and envisaged internationally visible ELN-activities, promote implementation of ELN management recommendations and improve understanding and treatment of the different leukemia entities in Europe. The major sponsored ELN event will be the annual symposium with workshops, scientific symposium, educational activities, progress reports, novel proposals and collaborations and extensive networking opportunities.

in 2010

The first Steering Committee meeting was held on July, 1, 2010, in Mannheim (DE).

Dr. Maria M. Nogueira initiated the project on behalf of ESF. After initiation of the project Dr. Kirsten Steinhausen will now be the responsible science officer for the ELN-ESF RNP on behalf of ESF. Dr. Steinhausen formerly represented the BMBF in Germany related to clinical trial activities.

At the launch meeting questions regarding project organisation, Steering Committee, financials and deliverables of the Programme were settled.

in 2011

The ELN Annual Symposium will be supported by the RNP, taking place on February, 1-2, 2011 in Mannheim (DE) with a joint ESF-ELN Steering Committee meeting and joint working group meetings. Reports on the outcome and discussions of this symposium predominantly by member countries of the ESF_ELN_RNP will be submitted to ESF.

Countries financially contributing to the ELN-ESF RNP:

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. Austria | Austrian Science Fund (FWF) |
| 2. Czech Republic | Czech Leukemia Study Group for Life (CZ-CELL) *
& Haimaom Foundation * |
| 3. Finland | Academy of Finland, Research Council for Health (AKA) |
| 4. Germany | Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) |
| 5. Norway | Research Council of Norway |
| 6. Romania | Consiliul National al Cercetarii Stiintifice din
Invatamantul Superior (CNCSIS) National University
Research Council |
| 7. Sweden | Swedish Research Council (VR) |
| 8. Switzerland | Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) |

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|-----|-----------------|--|
| 9. | The Netherlands | Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) |
| 10. | United Kingdom | Medical Research Council (MRC) |

*not an ESF Member Organisation

Steering Committee Members

The Steering Committee of the Programme consists of one representative of each financially contributing country.

Chair

1. Professor Rüdiger Hehlmann
Medizinische Fakultät Mannheim der Universität Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany

Members

2. Professor Günther Gastl
Department of internal Medicine, University of Innsbruck, Austria
3. Professor Tapani Ruutu
Helsinki University, Central Hospital, Hus, Finland
4. Professor Henrik Hjorth-Hansen
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway
5. Professor Daniel Coriu
Fundeni Clinical Institute, Department of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, Bucharest, Romania
6. Professor Bengt Simonsson
Uppsala University Akademiska Sjukhuset Department of Medical Sciences, Hematology, Uppsala, Sweden
7. Professor André Tichelli
Universitätsspital, Departement Zentrallabor, Leitung Hämostase-Labor, Basel, Switzerland
8. Professor David Grimwade
Guys Hospital, Kings College London, Division of Genetics & Molecular Medicine, London, United Kingdom
9. Professor Karel Indrak
Fakultní nemocnice Olomouc, Clinic of Hemato-Oncology, I.P.Pavlova, Olomouc, Czech Republic

Professor Jiří Mayer, Department of Internal Medicine, Hematology and Oncology, University Hospital Brno, Czech Republic

10. The SC member for The Netherlands will be nominated.

Contact person at ESF:

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More information on the ELN-ESF RNP can be found on the ESF website:

for ESF	http://www.esf.org/
for ESF-ELN RNP	http://www.esf.org/esf-eln
on the ELN Website:	www.leukemia-net.org

ESF

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an independent, non-governmental organisation, the members of which are 79 national funding agencies, research performing agencies, academies and learned societies from 30 countries.

The strength of ESF lies in the influential membership and in its ability to bring together the different domains of European science in order to meet the challenges of the future.

Since its establishment in 1974, ESF, which has its headquarters in Strasbourg with offices in Brussels and Ostend, has assembled a host of organisations that span all disciplines of science, to create a common platform for cross-border cooperation in Europe.

ESF is dedicated to promoting collaboration in scientific research, funding of research and science policy across Europe. Through its activities and instruments ESF has made major contributions to science in a global context. The ESF covers the following scientific domains:

- Humanities
- Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Physical and Engineering Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Marine Sciences
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Nuclear Physics
- Polar Sciences
- Radio Astronomy
- Space Sciences

EMRC

The European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) is the membership organisation for all the medical research councils in Europe under the auspices of the ESF. EMRC's mission is to promote innovative medical research and its clinical application towards improving human health. EMRC offers authoritative strategic advice for policy making, research management, ethics and better health services. In its activities, EMRC serves as the voice of its Member Organisations within the European scientific community. EMRC disseminates knowledge and promotes the socio-economic value of medical research to the general public and decision makers.

RNP

Research Networking Programmes (RNPs) are the platform for nationally funded groups to address major scientific and research infrastructure issues with the goal to advance the frontiers of science. Successful proposals, selected following an open call and an international peer review process, must deal with high-quality science and demonstrate a clear added value of being carried out at the European level. RNPs are funded *à la carte* by ESF Member Organisations interested in funding such proposals recommended by ESF.