

## Rapporteur Report

Partnership:	ESF/EMBO
Conference Title:	<i>Interaction between the immune system and nanomaterials: safety and medical exploitation</i>
Dates:	4 – 9 October 2015
Chair:	Chair: Prof. <b>Diana Boraschi</b> , National Research Council, Italy Co-chair: Prof. <b>Albert Duschl</b> , University of Salzburg, Austria
Rapporteur:	<b>Giovanni Pacini</b> , ESF SRG-MED

### General Comments

The aim of the Symposium was to promote scientific excellence in the field of Nanoparticles and their relationships with elements proper of immunology. Leading scientists in the field were invited, but the symposium was also attended by several post-docs and young researchers, who had the possibility to present and discuss in a friendly environment their recent scientific achievements. The main aspects of the current research projects in pure and applied nanotechnology were covered in details and everyone could take part in the discussion and work for tightening possible networking. The organization was spotless and the venue appropriate. The scientific quality was high level. In conclusion, it is worth affirming that this workshop is certainly able to give impulse to the research in the promising field of nanomaterials used in immunology.

### Quality of the Scientific Programme, Presentations and Discussion

The organizers (Diana Boraschi and Albert Duschl) put up an exhaustive program. Presentations and discussions covered all the areas related to nanotechnologies: from immunology to nanomedicine, from bioengineering to biotechnology, from biochemistry to physics, from safety issues to regulations and even social aspects and career opportunities (in industry or academy, which were very interesting for the several young PhD students and post-docs who attended the symposium).

All presentation (oral and posters) were delivered very professionally and stimulated long and detailed discussions.

### Informal Networking and Exchange; Atmosphere

The informal atmosphere, the closed environment and the frequent meals and coffee breaks facilitated contacts among all the participants, allowing – especially for the young ones – conversations with the more experienced colleagues.

### Balance of Participants

There was a good balance in terms of gender, age, country of origin and affiliations (industry and academy).

### Outlook, Future Developments and Follow-up

A sort of networking in this area already exists (at least judging from the scientific “relationships” among some of the plenary lecturers); this event will probably strengthen the links among the main centres operating in the *nano*-field and hopefully will allow new subjects to communicate with the existing network.

The organizers are working to gather selected presentations to be published in a specialized journal issue; therefore, a collection of short articles (kind of conference proceedings) or even a review editorial in an appropriate journal will emerge from this event.

During the Round Table and the Forward-Look discussion, several issues were debated as to how innovations in nanotechnology and nanomedicine could interact with the immune system. Points of view related to entrepreneurship and career development were talked over as well.

Moreover, it emerged the need of focussing specifically in particular areas: characterization of disease-oriented nanoparticles, more attention to the environmental issues and new assays and a clear standardization. A question arose: is there a need to create a network in Europe such as, for instance: European Nano-Immune Characterization Laboratory?

### Organisation and Infrastructure

The Venue was appropriate. The Pułtusk “castle” and the village nearby did not offer distracting activities during the day and the attendees were always all present at the sessions. The conference facility was suitable; the hotel bed rooms showed their age (in the furniture and appliances), but were in general fine. Food was plenty and with a good variety to satisfy both meat eaters and vegetarians. The free beer and wine at dinner was really a greatly appreciated benefit.

Marie-Laure Schneider of ESF organized the event very professionally; no complain whatsoever occurred; her continuous presence helped in solving all the small problems that naturally arose. All the attendees were well satisfied. The two supporting ladies, Justyna Sawa and Joanna Uniłowska (who assisted translating from Polish, hosted the guests upon their arrival at the airport and helped with possible needs in loco), together with Mr. Adam Jaworski (who took care of the conference room set-up and the audio-visual facilities) were also very proficient in their jobs.

### Summary & Overall Assessment

The overall judgement is therefore very positive in all aspects.