

Activities & projects with COST network colleagues (9.4.2009-15.1.2010)

COST network meetings

1. 09/04/2009: **1st MC meeting**, Brussels, Belgium (organised by the COST office)
2. 13-16/05/2009: Joint **Extended Steering Committee meeting** and 38th Annual Meeting of the European Histamine Research Society (EHRS), Fulda, Germany (host: Prof. Friedhelm Diel, University of Applied Sciences HS, Fulda, DE). Action members made numerous contacts with representatives from the pharmaceutical industry and histaminologists from all over the world during the meeting, where the presentations on the histamine H₄R exceeded 30% of the total scientific contributions (the scientific report appears in Annex 5).
3. 5-6/10/2009: **WG4 meeting & Workshop on 'BioMedChem on Histamine H₄ Receptor: New Compounds for Translational Steps'**, Frankfurt, Germany (Host: Prof. Holger Stark, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universitaet, DE). This inspiring event was an excellent starting point for histamine H₄R-related co-operations. The meeting was attended by 72 participants, including numerous doctoral and post-doctoral fellows, from 11 countries, reflecting the high level of the 8 lectures, 4 selected short presentations and the discussion on this topic. The workshop was mainly focused on the evaluation and the therapeutic potential of H₄R ligands in allergy and asthma (the full program and the scientific report of the meeting appear in Annexes 6 & 7).
4. 06/11/2009: **Open Forum 'Scientific networking in the service of biomedicine and society'**, Athens, Greece (hosts: Prof. Dimitrios Kyriakidis, National Hellenic Research Foundation & Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Dr. Ekaterini Tiligada, University of Athens Medical School, GR). This very stimulating presentation of the COST programme by Action members and the Senior Science Officer Dr. Kaliopi Kostelidou was attended by about 100 students, scientists, researchers, media representatives and the general public. It was followed by discussion on a number of issues raised by the audience (the scientific report of the meeting appears in Annex 4)
5. 17/12/2009: **2nd MC meeting** and Joint **WG1 & WG3 meeting & Symposium of the British Pharmacological Society on 'The histamine H₄ receptor: new multi-use therapeutic target'** London, United Kingdom (host: Dr Paul Chazot, Durham University, UK). At this first joint WG1 & WG3 workshop a total of 5 plenary and 6 short lectures were presented. The speakers within the symposium were either active Action members or affiliates of this Action, from Europe, North and South America. Affiliated BPS peer-reviewed oral communications were also presented. Pfizer disclosed for the first time a structure of one of their lead series, whereas Novartis showed new pharmacology of JNJ777120. Furthermore, preclinical evidence for a role of H₄R drugs in itch, allergic airway conditions and cancer was presented. Key therapeutic arenas in which H₄R is expected to impact were discussed in this symposium, including chronic inflammatory disorders, itch, ulcers, neuropathic pain and cancers (the program and the scientific report of the meeting appears in Annexes 8 & 9)
6. 29-30/1/2010: **1st WG2 meeting & workshop on 'Histamine H₄ Receptor: Where we are and where we are going...'** Florence, Italy (host: Prof. Emanuela Masini, University of Florence, IT). The program of the meeting appears in Annex 10.
7. 21-25/4/2010: **Joint Working Groups Conference and EHRS Annual meeting** Durham, UK (host: Dr Paul L Chazot, Durham University, UK). The meeting will offer oral presentations and posters, while a Training Workshop on H₄R dedicated to ESRs will give the opportunity to young researchers to present and discuss their work on the H₄R. It will make possible for the first time for all participating members to meet and discuss collaboration opportunities. A Core Group meeting will also be organized on this occasion (see announcement in Annex 11)

Projects with COST colleagues

1. *Role of the H₄ histamine receptor in pain transmission and chronic pain states*, BJA/Royal College of Anaesthesia Prize studentship (George Lees, University of Otago, NZ & Paul Chazot, Durham University, UK) - Approved
2. *Consequences of histamine receptor H₄ inhibition in a murine model of the autoimmune CNS inflammatory disease multiple sclerosis (MS): experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE)*, Abbott Laboratories (B. Passani & P. Chazot) - Submitted
3. *The H₄ histamine receptor: potential in acute and chronic pain*, BBSRC/CASE Pfizer studentship (P. Chazot & S. Liu) - Submitted
4. *H₄R in intercalated duct progenitor cells and acinar secretory cells in healthy mice and human compared to NOD Sjögren model and Sjögren syndrome patients* (Y. Konttinen, A. Falus, E. Buzas, V. Timasi, H. Stark, P. Chazot & P. Panula)
5. *Preclinical evaluation of histamine H₃ and H₄ receptor ligands on the levels of inflammatory mediators in experimental arthritis*, Bilateral exchange program DAAD IKYDA 2010 Germany-Greece (E. Tiligada & H. Stark) – Submitted
6. *Investigation of the immunomodulatory role of histamine H₄ receptor in experimental arthritis* Bilateral exchange program Plato 2010 Greece-France (E. Tiligada & E. Schneider) – Submitted
7. *H₄Rs in a female-dominant and common autoimmune disease, Sjögren's syndrome* (Y. Konttinen) Academy of Finland - To be submitted 29.01.2010
8. *Identification of novel H₄ antagonists*, (A. Rayan & S. Guccione) - To be submitted