

Minutes of the 4th Management Committee meeting
COST Action BM1005
Gasotransmitters: from basic science to therapeutic applications
(ENOG: European Network on Gasotransmitters)

18th October 2012, Budapest, Hungary

1. Welcome to participants

The participants were welcomed by Prof. Andreas Papapetropoulos, who chaired the meeting. 13 countries were represented at the MC meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda

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

3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting

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

4. Report from the Action Chair

Prof. Papapetropoulos noted that Sweden had applied to join the COST Action; the two representatives are Prof. Eddie Weitzberg and Prof. Jon Lundberg (both Karolinska Institute, Stockholm). The MC unanimously voted in favour of their inclusion. In addition, MR agreed to contact the COST National Coordinator (CNC) in Portugal to change the MC representatives, since one individual had indicated they were no longer interested in attending. Prof. Carlos Romao will replace Dr. Nuno Arantes-Oliveira. Also Prof. Frédéric Bouillaud was decided to be the second representative of France on the MC and that Prof. Stefan Chlopichi will be the second representative of Poland. Prof. Papapetropoulos emphasised

the need for at least one MC member from each country to attend each MC meeting. Also Dr. Tamas Csont requested that he becomes a substitute MC member for Hungary. The MC decided that he will be replaced by Dr. Peter Nagy as the second representative for Hungary.

It was agreed that the process underpinning new member recruitment would remain unchanged (WG leaders that are approached will make the final decision, with Prof. Papapetropoulos notified by email).

5. Annual progress conference

This COST Action was considered in a positive light at the annual progress conference, with the caveat that it had returned almost €20,000 in the previous financial year. This was deemed to be due largely to the lack of STSMs.

New dates were identified and confirmed for the first training school (*in vivo* models of disease). This will now be held on 11th/12th April 2013 in Maastricht. The program will be finalised before the Christmas break and emailed to MC members. The training school will cater for 10-12 individuals and the vast majority (if not all) will be reimbursed (depending on number of STSMs taken up). Details of this training school, and the application process, will be made available on the website. It was agreed that the Chair, Co-Chair, and WG leaders would decide which applicants would be nominated to participate (considering gender balance), and which would be reimbursed. The applicants would be asked to provide a CV and short statement outlining why they would benefit from attending the training school.

6. Report from the grant holder

Professor Papapetropoulos presented the final total expenses that incurred during the first year of the Action and introduced again the plan for the second grant period 2012-13. The expense balance for the first year have been approved by the COST Office.

The COST Action was actively advertised at the H₂S meeting in Atlanta (September 2012) and at the NO conference in Edinburgh (July 2012). This had resulted in a number of additional enquiries as to membership.

It was also unanimously agreed that up to 40 participants would be reimbursed for travel to the Budapest meeting. Prof. Papapetropoulos would send a revised budget to MC members for approval to reflect this change.

7. Information from the COST office

MR confirmed that the COST office has a good opinion of this Action, although funds returned in the first year were excessive. The Action has a good gender balance, but greater numbers of STSMs and support for ESR was required, The

COST office will closely scrutinise the spending in this financial year to optimise use of funds.

MR also noted that the reimbursement process has now gone live online. She has sent an email to MC members containing instructions on how to complete this form. MC members that have already downloaded the hardcopy of the reimbursement form, could complete this as before. Anyone who encounters difficulty in this regard, can contact MR directly.

8. Scientific planning and follow-up of MoU objectives

The MC voted in favour of aligning the MC meetings, whenever possible, with other international conferences that would be of interest to members. It was decided that the WG meeting in the third grant period will be held at the same time as the second European H₂S conference (Exeter, UK, September 2013).

Recruitment of individuals with expertise in Chemistry, as proposed at the last MC meeting, has been very successful. This included registration of 2 scientists from Italy and 2 from the UK.

JP re-affirmed his willingness to provide the CSE^{flox/flox} mice to anyone in the group who is interested in making a tissue-specific CSE KO mouse. IF is working together with JP and they are already making a conditional endothelial KO and conditional global KO. PB also indicated that EUComm had ES cells available for the development of a *cbs* conditional KO, which the University of Ghent had the capability to generate, provided some supporting funds could be leveraged.

PB also highlighted a not-for-profit plasmid collection held at the University of Ghent (www.bccm.belspo.be/about/lmbp.php).

9. STSM status and new applications

Prof. Papapetropoulos stated that 2 STSM applications have been received and WG leaders outlined several others that are in the planning stage to be undertaken in the current financial year.

10. Promotion of gender balance and ESR

This COST Action was considered to have a good gender balance by the COST office. However, it was agreed that more could be done to encourage female participants and/or ESR (particularly younger post-doctoral fellows) to attend future meetings. The MC decided that every effort would be made to reimburse the attendance of such individuals, provided sufficient funds were available.

11. Dissemination planning

Prof. Papapetropoulos noted that only 3 joint papers from COST members had been published to date, although MC members suggested more would be published shortly. This could be improved upon greatly in the coming year. As stated earlier, the COST Action had a presence at two International meetings in the last year, and further events were planned at appropriate conferences in the next 12 months.

The website now has >8000 visits in total.

12. Request for new members

Prof. Papapetropoulos listed the new members and confirmed the process for joining would remain unchanged (please see point 4 above). Since the last MC meeting the following members have joined the Action as participants and/or MC substitutes: Ianaro, Bucci, Pfeilschifter, Beck, Peiro, Santagada, Antonio Martinez-Ruiz, Caliendo, Wood, Perry, Weiger, Mancardi.

13. Non-COST applications to the Action

It was suggested that specific individuals from Argentina & Australia might be interested in joining this COST Action, but the MC questioned whether they would attend the meetings based on distance and cost. The MC thought that guest lectures from individuals from non-COST countries would be valuable in the future. Such individuals would be invited as expert speakers rather than to join the COST Action formally.

14. AOB

MR highlighted the new online reimbursement process (please see point 7 above). The next meeting of the Management Committee would be held in Bratislava in April 2013. There was no other business.

15. Summary of MC decisions

Prof. Papapetropoulos summarised the decisions made in the MC meeting, which are outlined herein.

16. Closing

Prof. Papapetropoulos thanked the members for their participation. A special note of appreciation was given to Prof. Ferdinandy & Eszter Bizilya for their excellent organization of the meeting.