

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

9th October 2014, Ghent, Belgium

1. Welcome to participants

The participants were welcomed by Prof. Andreas Papapetropoulos, who chaired the meeting. Prof. Papapetropoulos thanked Prof. Brouckaert on behalf of all attendees for organizing the meeting.

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 (Messina) meeting were approved unanimously without amendment.

4. Update from Action Chair

a. Status of the Action, including participant count

The Action now consists of 24 countries, with a further, recent expression of interest from Cyprus. 17/24 countries were represented at the meeting (UK, BE, GR, FI, IT, AU, PT, PL, TR, NL, NO, SE, ES, DE, FR, SL, SI).

b. Action budget status

The Action will end on 5th May 2015 and the budget for the final year (2014-2015) has been set at €136,000, which is a pro rata figure reduced to account for the end occurring prior to the completion of the full financial year. The budget for year 3 (2013-2014) was overspent by €4-5k, which was accounted for predominantly by the cost of the Capri training school (budgeted at €23500, actual cost €29870).

Prof. Papapetropoulos noted that the COST central office had refused payment to some members who had submitted TRRs later than the 60 day cut-off period. The Messina meeting local support was lost because of the same issue.

This (and all) COST Action is now under the remit of the Horizon 2020 funding scheme. This will continue to fund current Actions but nothing else further has

been announced or committed in the future. There are no longer scientific rapporteurs assigned to each Action because funding has ceased. In light of this change, it remains to be determined how the final evaluation of the Action will take place.

c. STSM status and new applications

1 STSM has been planned and approved within the current financial year (Fleming-Hobbs) with a further 5 budgeted for (6 in total) in year 4.

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

Prof. Brouckaert reported that 6 ESRs presented work at the meeting with an excellent gender balance (2 males: 4 females). Moreover, when considering the entire set of speakers at the meeting, the gender balance was maintained (10 males: 7 females). It was also noted by Prof. Papapetropoulos that the previous meeting in Messina was dedicated to ESRs.

6. Update from the COST office

A representative from the COST Office was not present.

7. Update from the DC rapporteur

Since the transfer of the COST network to the Horizon2020 scheme there has not been a DC rapporteur assigned.

8. Annual progress conference

Feedback from the annual progress report was provided by Prof. Papapetropoulos at the Messina meeting. BM1005 was considered to have made excellent progress. The DC has now been disbanded.

9. Follow-up of MOU objectives

This was considered to be good. The structure of the final progress report, on which the Action will be judged, was discussed. Common grants and publications were a central theme and Prof. Papapetropoulos will contact members in the New Year to request data.

10. Scientific Planning

a. Scientific strategy

Participants discussed options for maintaining the network at the end of the Action. Several ideas were proposed including applications for Horizon 2020 support from smaller groups within the membership (e.g. Innovative Training Networks). There are currently 170-200 individuals from 24 countries within the Action and this was deemed too large as one consortium for further funding (the average Horizon 2020 funding is 4-7 PIs). Greater potential was agreed for 3-4 networks along gas transmitter lines (i.e. NO, CO, H₂S), which should liaise with International Societies that already exist. At present, one is being discussed on H₂S and another on cyclic nucleotides. It was suggested that the Human Frontiers Science Program might offer a good funding mechanism. Alternatively, running a Masters program to continue the

interaction might be tractable or possibly web-based meetings if funding is not forthcoming (feasibility and cost were thought as key considerations). This will be discussed in greater depth and finalized at the next Action meeting (Athens, May 2015), with an MC vote on proposals. Prof. Papapetropoulos indicated that he was happy to step down as chair and allow others to coordinate the network. It was felt that the CO field was underrepresented in the Action.

b. Action budget planning

The budget for year 4 (2014-2015) was agreed at the Messina meeting.

c. Long-term planning (subsequent meetings)

The final meeting must be held before 5th May 2015. This will be held in Athens, around the same time with the European H₂S conference.

d. Dissemination planning

A themed issue in the British Journal of Pharmacology will be published in the final quarter of 2014 or the first quarter of 2015. This contains 18 papers co-authored by Action members.

Dissemination: funds are available from COST to produce a final book, journal, or web-based publication (€10000). This needs to be published within 12 months of the end of the Action. Possibilities include a articles in the NO journal (discussions underway with Elsevier), Redox Signaling & Antioxidant Research Signaling. Clearly, a special issue needs to be negotiated ahead of time with appropriate journal/publisher. Prof. Papapetropoulos will email the MC members to gauge interest since a deadline at the end of October is in place.

A brochure/news article highlighting the successes of the Action is about to appear in 'EU Researcher' within a dedicated issue on Pharmacology (paid for by dissemination funds; €3000).

The BM1005 website will remain active for 5 years.

11. Request for new members

A request to join the Action has been received from Cyprus. However, the MC deemed it meaningless for a new country to join the Action at this late stage (only one further meeting planned). If colleagues from Cyprus wishes to attend the final meeting (Athens, May 2015) they could be invited as special guest speakers and reimbursed through that mechanism.

12. Non-COST applications to the Action

None.

13. AOB

None.

14. Location and date of the next meeting

The next Action meeting will be in Athens, 1st-3rd May 2015 (local organizer: Prof. Andreas Papapetropoulos).

15. Summary of MC decisions

These were discussed and agreed unanimously by the MC.

16. Closing remarks

Prof. Papapetropoulos thanked the members for their participation



