



COST Action CA16103
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Biomarkers for Chronic Kidney Disease (PARENCHIMA)
Minutes
1st Management Committee Meeting
COST Association, 149 avenue Louise, 15th Floor, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
04-april-2017 from 09:30 to 17:00



Photography: Marcos Wolf

Present (not in order): Marcos Wolf, Sven Loncaric, Georgios Menikou, Irene Polycarpou, Monika Dezortova, Christoffer Laustsen, Jens Dam Jensen, Nicolas Grenier, Frank Zoellner, Thoralf Niendorf, George Kagadis, Dimitrios Karnabatidis, Caitriona Lally, Dario Longo, Anna Caroli, Valerie Said-Conti, Cyril Moers, Jarle Rorvik, Eli Eikefjord, Andrzej Materka, Olivera Nikolic, Peter Rogelj, Felix Navarro, Andres Santos, Paul Hockings, Per Liss, Jean-Paul Vallee, Harriet Thoeny, Nicholas Selby, Steven Sourbron.

Apologies: Siegfried Trattinig, Pamela Zolda, Andrea Fekete, Tim Leiner.

Morning session: minutes and slides will be circulated by COST scientific officer.

Project start: PARENCHIMA has officially started on 4 april 2017 with 22 countries having accepted the Memorandum of Understanding. Until the action website goes live all key information can be found via http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16103.

Grant holder: University of Leeds, approved FSAC 15%

Core group: The MC approved the following candidates for the core management group of the action:

- Chair: Steven Sourbron, Leeds, UK, MRI physics (s.sourbron@leeds.ac.uk)
- Vice Chair: Valerie Said-Conti, Msida, Malta, Nephrology (valerie.said@gov.mt)
- STSM coordinator: Olivera Nikolic, Vojvodina, Serbia, Radiology (nikolic.olivera@gmail.com)
- Lead of WG1 (Standardisation and Reproducibility): Christoffer Laustsen, Aarhus, DK, MRI physics (cl@mr.au.dk).

- Lead of WG2 (R&D Toolbox): Frank Zoellner, Mannheim, GER, Computer science (frank.zoellner@medma.uni-heidelberg.de).
- Lead of WG3 (Clinical studies): Anna Caroli, Bergamo, IT, Applied mathematics (acaroli@marionegri.it).
- Lead of WG4 (Training programs): Thoralf Niendorf, Berlin, GER, MRI physics (thoralf.niendorf@mdc-berlin.de).
- Lead of WG5 (Dissemination and exploitation): Marcos Wolf, Vienna, AUS, Radiology (wolfmarcos@gmail.com).

Dissemination: The WG5 lead (Marcos Wolf) is also the designated dissemination manager of PARENCHIMA. He will liaise with the communications officer at COST (silvia.alexe@cost.eu) for all relevant updates on outputs, meetings etc. A press release will be prepared and disseminated via COST.

Mailing list: renalmri@googlegroups.com is currently up to 140 members, all of whom have expressed an active interest and constitute the wider pool of potential participants. This mailing list will be the main medium for dissemination of PARENCHIMA-related news and all members are free to post relevant news items.

Aims for the first year:

- WG1: prioritise key MRI modalities and biomarkers (eg DWI, DTI, BOLD, Volumetry, ...) and for each develop a task force to develop a consensus on a work-horse methodology including imaging sequences, image analysis methods, patient/animal preparation – with implementations on scanners of different vendors. Conclusions will be published as white papers in relevant journals, via the website and/or via expert bodies. It was generally agreed that the successful consensus/position statements of SCMR can act as a template: <http://scmr.org/?page=guidelines>. Chris emphasises that the aim initially is NOT to agree on what is an *optimal* method, but instead on what is a reasonable baseline or benchmark for future work. Consensus formation will be guided by existing evidence and data. In cases where no consensus is possible on this basis, the focus will shift to developing new study proposals aiming to collect the necessary evidence to reach a consensus in the future.
- WG2: Aim (1) collect data from past studies by the participants and gather them in a database that can be used for secondary research and as a basis for consensus formation; Aim (2) collect image processing algorithms from participants and construct an open-source library to be used as a basis for a renal MRI image analysis package that implements the consensus methods formulated in WG1. Regarding database the suggestion was made to use XNAT and link up with existing resources such as UK biobanking, UK dementia platform, German national cohort.
- WG3: Aim (1) facilitate the setup of future clinical studies by setting up a repository of documents used in past clinical studies (multi- or single centre), including SOPs, training, site accreditation, quality assurance, ethics applications etc. (2) Collect available data from these studies and use those to help populate that database in WG2. (3) Develop multi-centre study proposals and co-ordinated funding strategies. WG3 will start with listing and detailing past and ongoing clinical studies by participants, identify and prioritise clinical lines of most current interest.
- WG4: The core aim for this grant period is to develop a proposal for a Marie-Curie Integrated Training Network (“renalis”). Call will open september 2017 and close around 2 jan 2018. RENALIS will be led by Thoralf Niendorf in Berlin and a detailed proposal outline was presented. Title: Renal Imaging and Spectroscopy: where Physiology, Nephrology, Biomedical Imaging and Physics Meet. Training activities are in the focus of this work package. To fully meet this goal right from the beginning a COST co-organised international meeting will be held during October 11th-13th. This meeting will cover presentations and training sessions on the principles of renal physiology, on the basics of renal diseases and pathophysiology, an overview to quantitative physiological measurements and in-depth insights into state-of-the-art renal imaging techniques with the ultimate goal to train the field and to connect physiology, nephrology, pathology, imaging sciences, radiology, MR physics and biomedical engineering.
- WG5: Marcos proposed plans for website through company suggested by EIBIR. He proposes the following sections: Design & Logo, Project description, News (newsletter, social media),

actions (meetings, STSM's, Blog/summary), Forum (communication of WG, modality discussions), Sponsors, interface to database/software/repositories. He also emphasises the need to identify dissemination meetings and highlights the option of an EIBIR session on ECR. The MC also enthusiastically approved the following PARENCHIMA logo proposal by Andreas Pohlmann, Berlin. Andreas will forward a high-resolution version to be used in dissemination materials.



Pre-clinical work: it was emphasised that preclinical work is very much within the scope of PARENCHIMA. At proposal preparation a separate working group around preclinical work was not included as preclinical studies tend to be single-centre. However, WG1, 2, 4 and 5 will equally focus on preclinical as clinical methods.

Work and budget plan. Budget for this year is 121.000 euros, which will be invested in the following (detailed cost distribution to be decided):

- PARENCHIMA kick-off meeting (all WGs). Preferred location is Malta (Valerie Said-Conti) but this requires confirmation. Alternatives are Prague (Monika Dezortova), Croatia (Sven Loncaric) and Brussels (COST). Time; june – early july to be decided by majority vote in a doodle poll after location is confirmed. Purpose of this meeting will be to bring together all participants and start developing detailed plans for each WG. Current budgeting assumes ~50 participants to be reimbursed.
- Co-organised international meeting in Berlin, including MC meeting and one afternoon of parallel WG sessions. Time 11-13 oct 2017. This follows up on the 2015 meeting in Bordeaux and will be organised by Thoralf Niendorf in the Max Delbruck Centre. The meeting will include 40 invited oral presentations, 20 poster pitches, poster hall, technical exhibitions, COST meetings (WG, MC), social event on thursday and Saturday. Speaker invitations will be sent out by 15 april, website goes live 15 april, deadline for abstract submission early june. The meeting has been circulated to the COST network but a wider campaign will follow.
- Final ITN proposal writing meeting: this will be a smaller WG4 meeting shortly before the submission deadline (end november, early december) to finalise the proposal. Preferred location in an ITM country participating in the ITN proposal – to be determined. Backup plan is Berlin.
- STSMs: budgeted for 8 short STMS (1-week) mainly to support WG2 and WG3 in collection, centralisation and harmonisation of resources.
- Dissemination: the maximum allowed budget is allocated to the website development.

What happens next?

- Finalise budget plan and grant agreement (**Chair**)
- Build WGs – identify participants through renalmri mailing list and assign responsibilities (**WG leads**)
- Decide location and dates of kick-off and start planning ASAP (**Chair + Vice chair**)