BENEFICIARY:

Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IEMPAM-BAS)

PROJECT TITLE:

Mast Cells and Basophils - Targets for Innovative Therapies

http://www.mastcell-basophil.net

ABSTRACT:

Mast cells and basophils have long been recognized for their detrimental role in the elicitation of allergic diseases. In recent years, scientific results revealed both cell types as versatile effector cells that exhibit far more complex functions beyond their role in allergy. Mast cells and basophils have been shown to be critically involved in various innate and adaptive immune responses and, thereby, providing beneficial host protecting immunity. In contrast, they also contribute to the development and maintenance of several chronic inflammatory diseases which, even at the present time, lack sufficient treatment options. The diversity of important mast cell and basophil functions places these cell types into promising therapeutic targets. The Action will create a network of European experts to foster a multidisciplinary approach for the identification, characterisation, and development of such targets and their translation into novel therapeutic strategies.

Objectives:

(i) Biological agents that specifically modulate mast cell/basophil function and activity. (ii) Mimic or prevent the action of specific mast cell/basophil mediators and their biological activity. (iii) Control mast cell and basophil trafficking to primary and/or secondary target organs in relevant diseases.

In order to reach the objectives of the Action, immunologists, pharmacologists and biomedical scientists will contribute to a better understanding of pharmacological properties of mast cell and basophil targets and the use as selective agents in various preclinical investigations. Newly discovered targets with additional properties will be tested as pharmacological tools and disseminated to the members for novel experiments.

ACRONYM: EMBRN

PROJECT NUMBER:

COST Action BM1007
FUNDING SCHEME:

Collaborative project

WORK PROGRAMME TOPICS:

Domain: Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences

DURATION:

Start of Action: 16/03/2011
End of Action: 15/03/2015

TOTAL BUDGET:

108 000 euro.

Partners

Austria  Prof. Alexander ROSENKRANZ
Belgium  Prof. Didier EBO
Belgium  Mr Chris BRIDTS
Bulgaria Prof. Angel VODENICHAROV
Bulgaria Prof. Dimitar KADIYSKY
Czech Republic  Dr Petr DRABER
Czech Republic  Dr Pavel DRABER
Denmark  Prof. Hans Jurgen HOFFMANN
Denmark  Prof. Per Stahl SKOV
Denmark  Prof. Lars K. POULSEN
Finland  Prof. Ilkka HARVIMA
Finland  Prof. Petri KOVANEN
Finland  Dr Leena ACKERMANN
Finland  Dr Kari EKLUND
France  Dr Ulrich BLANK
France  Dr Salah MECHERI
France  Dr Nicolas CHARLES
Germany  Prof. Stephan C. BISCHOFF
Germany  Dr Frank SIEBENHAAR
Germany  Dr Axel LORENTZ
Germany  Dr Martin METZ
Greece  Dr Ekaterini TILIGADA
Greece  Dr Michael MAKRIS
Greece  Ms Ioanna KOTI
Hungary  Dr Ralph RUHL
Hungary  Dr Daniel TOROCSIK
Ireland  Dr Maria O'SULLIVAN
Ireland  Dr Sandra O'NEILL
Israel  Prof. Ronit SAGI-EISENBERG
Israel  Prof. Francesca LEVI-SCHAFFER
Italy  Prof. Carlo Ennio Michele PUCILLO
Italy  Prof. Gianni MARONE
Italy  Prof. Amato DE PAULIS
Netherlands  Dr Hanneke OUDE ELBERINK
Netherlands  Dr Frank REDEGELD

COORDINATOR:

Prof. Marcus MAURER
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin
Dpt of Dermatology, Charitéplatz 1
10117 Berlin German
Tel. +49 30 450 518 043
marcus.maurer@charite.de

GROUP LEADER IN IEMPAM:

Professor Dimitar Kadiysky, MD, PhD, DSci
Phone: 00359 2 979 37 38; Fax: 00359 2 8710107;
dimkad@bas.bg