**Minutes of the Paul Ehrlich Network Meeting on 28th September 2013 at 18.30 in Pula (Cagliari, Italy) on the occasion of the 3rd Meeting of the Paul Ehrlich MedChem Euro-PhD Network, 27th-29th September, 2013, Pula, Italy**

**Participants:** Stefano Alcaro (University of Catanzaro, Italy); Fernanda Borges (University of Porto, Portugal); Angelo Carotti (University of Bari, Italy); Simona Distinto (representing Elias Maccioni, University of Cagliari, Italy); Athina Geronikaki (University of Thessaloniki, Greece); Norbert Haider (University of Vienna, Austria); Katarzyna Kiec-Kononowicz (University of Krakow, Poland); Beatriz de Pascual-Teresa (University San Pablo CEU, Madrid, Spain); Tihomir Tomašić (representing Danijel Kikelj, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Jarmila Vinsova (Charles University of Prague, Czech Republic);

Due to an unvoreseen inability of the network coordinator to be present at the network meeting, D. Kikelj asked Norbert Haider to chair the meeting.

**1 Application of new Network Members**

The chairman introduced the applications for membership received from the University of Szeged (Hungary), the University of Brno (Slowakia) and the University of Porto (Portugal). Formal letters of intent were sent to Network coordinator from the University of Szeged and the University of Brno and the interest of the University of Porto to join the network was expressed by Professor Fernanda Borges who was present at the meeting .

The majority of coordinators who were not present had sent their agreement on acceptance ot the three new by e-mail to the network coordinator. All participants agreed to welcome the Universities of Brno, Porto, and Szeged as new members of the network provided they submit accession letters signed by the rector to the network coordinator. Their membership wil start with the date of receipt of signed accession letter by the network coordinator.

The chairman informed the participants about a letter of Professor Gloria Cristalli to the network coordinator announcing termination of the membership of the University of Camerino in the network. An attempt had been made by the network coordinator in contact with Gloria Cristalli to nominate a new coordinator due to her retirement but this initiative was not successful. One more attempt should be done by the coordinator and other network members in contact with the colleagues from the University of Camerino.

It was also suggested by the chairman to advertise the Network to other Universities especially the ones from western European countries because they are less represented in the Network.

**2 Connection between Paul Ehrlich Network and EFMC**

 The coordinator had been in contact with EFMC president dr. Uli Stilz and introduced to him the Paul Ehrlich Network. The EFMC president is encouraging the Network and he is asking how the EFMC can be supportive to the Network.

 From the discussion it was suggested to introduce in the EFMC web site the link to Paul Ehrlich Network web page as well as advertisement of our meetings.

**3 Applications for funding**

 Prof. Stefano Alcaro suggested to apply as a Network to European programs, e.g. COST action. Prof. Fernanda Borges highlighted that in the next EU Framework Programme there should be a specific call for education, so it is a great opportunity for the Network. It was also discussed the opportunity to apply for other European projects, however Prof. Angelo Carotti pointed out that one of the most common cause of rejection is the number of participants, then it appears important to select between the members the best CVs in order to perform a common strategy in favour of the Network and applicants.

**4 Erasmus Program**

 An Excel file with existing Erasmus agreements between the network members was presented. The importance of the new edition 2014-2020 Erasmus program (Erasmus Plus) was discussed. The program gives the opportunity to mobility at all levels: undergraduate and PhD students, researchers and professors. In the Erasmus Plus program there is the chance for mobility to other countries without any specific agreement between Universities.

It has been pointed out that the student mobility, required to apply for the Paul Ehrlich certificate, should not necessary involve a network institution. From now on other qualified institutions can be chosen.

**5 Paul Ehrlich Network web page**

 The importance of the Paul Ehrlich Network web page was pointed out and the participants paid tribute to Julio Alvarez Builla for succesfully setting it up. A discussion was continued in terms of who should be in charge for updating it and adding contents.

Many suggestions came from the auditorium:

* Link to each University / group of the Network;
* Small description of Universities and groups;
* Information regarding people that received the PE Award, eventually with small CV, in order to give them visibility;
* Advertise LinkedIn and other tools to find jobs in the Medicinal Chemistry field
* Advertise publication of the Network members and local initiative of each member

**6 Formal changes in PhD courses**

It was brought to discussion that many PhD courses changed their names. The participants deliberated that there is no need to start any formal procedure within the network (*i.e.* send a letter signed by the dean) but in such a case the local coordinators should send an e-mail to the network coordinator to inform the network about the changes.

**7 Next meeting**

 The next meeting will be held in Hradec Kralove near Prague, most likely end of June 2014. The organizer Jarmila Vinsova extended her invitation to all network members to participate to the 2014 meeting.

 Katarzyna Kiec-Kononowicz and Barbara Malawska proposed to organize the 2015 Meeting in Kracow.

**8 Amenment of Rules and conditions for awarding the Paul Ehrlich MedChem Euro-PhD certificate**

 The rules as amended by coordinators in September 2013 via e-mail procedure (regarding foreign host institution at which a PhD student spends at least a 3-month research stay) are attached to this document.

Written by

Simona Distinto

Danijel Kikelj