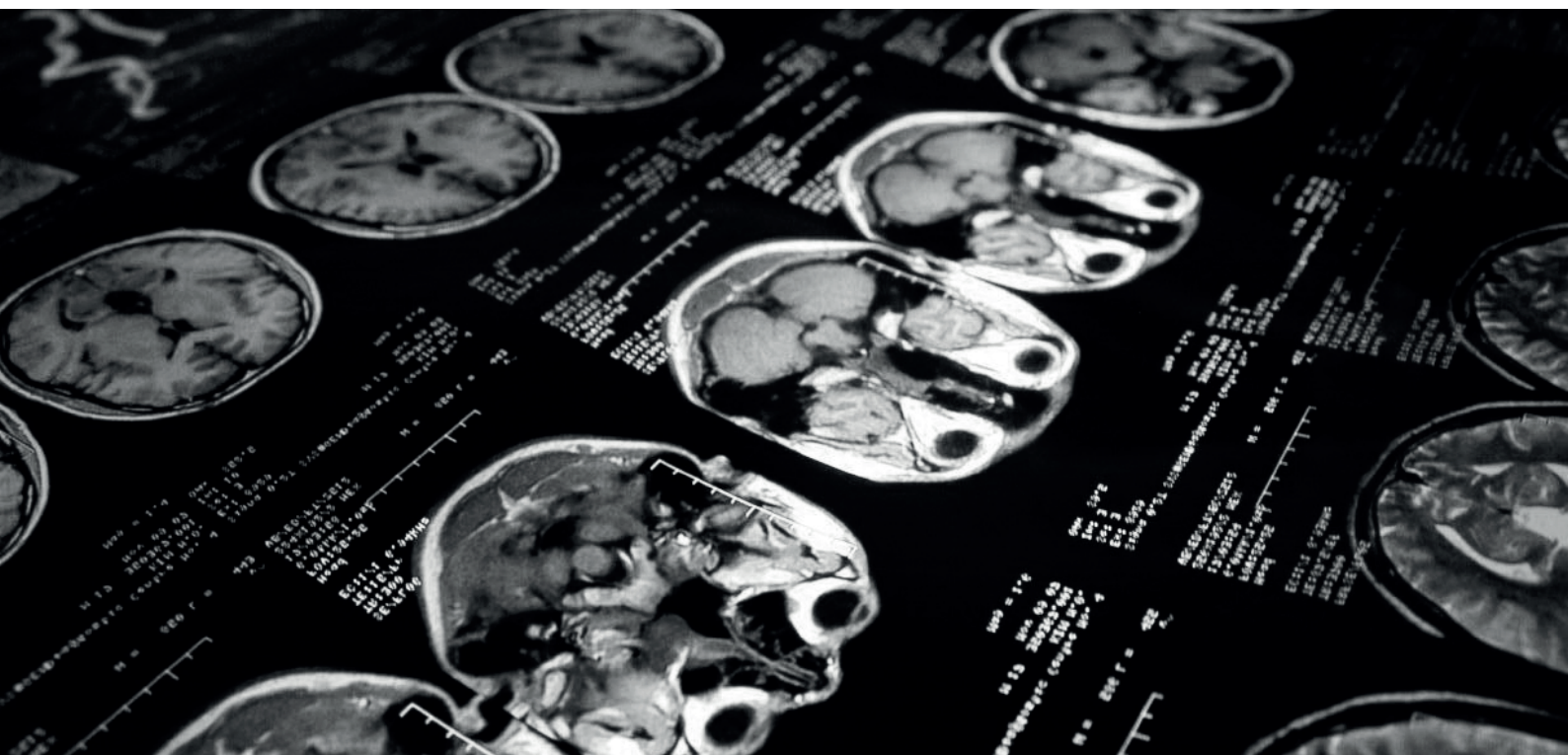




EUROPEAN INSTITUTE
FOR BIOMEDICAL
IMAGING RESEARCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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COVER IMAGE

Computed tomography scans.

Courtesy of Alisher Hasanov.

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EDITORIAL

Dear EIBIR Partners, Colleagues and Friends,

I am pleased to present the Annual Scientific Report of the European Institute for Biomedical Imaging Research (EIBIR) for the year 2017. It has been another busy and eventful year for EIBIR, with seven Horizon 2020 projects currently in its portfolio. These projects range from developing ground-breaking PET/MRI technology to enhancing eHealth interoperability across Europe, which truly reflects the multidisciplinary nature of the scientists we support. Within these projects, EIBIR has varied roles as it leads project management & dissemination and, in the case of two projects, also acts as project coordinator.

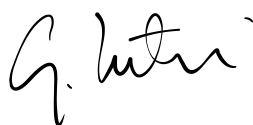
The past year also saw the successful conclusion of the final two 7th Framework projects in which EIBIR was a consortium partner, namely the MITIGATE project and VPH-DARE@IT. All proposals for these projects, both in the 7th Framework and in Horizon 2020, also benefitted from EIBIR's support, which just goes to show the level of experience being gained by the office team in Vienna and the success that this has brought to research within the field of biomedical imaging.

Despite our large portfolio of running projects, we are as committed as ever to providing our partners and the biomedical imaging community with services to help them succeed within the landscape of European research funding. In 2017, we decided to further enhance our service packages, offering our partners updates on expected funding call topics ahead of official release in our Members' Bulletin. We also introduced our Electronic Data Capture Platform, which can be used to collect and manage a wide range of different types of digital data.

As a non-profit organisation, EIBIR relies on its industry partners and shareholders as their continued backing is what allows EIBIR to offer proposal preparation and project management services to biomedical imaging researchers at a fraction of the cost charged by similar entities in the private sector. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our industry partners for their great support again in 2017. On behalf of the entire EIBIR team, I can say that we all look forward to seeing this collaboration flourish for years to come. I would also like to express gratitude to all of EIBIR's shareholder organisations for their continued support over the past year. Our shareholders represent a wide range of interrelated disciplines within the field of biomedical imaging. Their foresight and solidarity in coming together to invest in EIBIR has paid dividends for research in this field over the past decade, with more than €79 million in European research funding secured with EIBIR support since 2006.

I hope you enjoy reading our Annual Scientific Report and that you are left inspired and encouraged. If you also want to be a part of this success, I encourage you to contact us so we can assist you towards a successful research proposal submission and guide you through your European research project.

Sincerely,



Gabriel Krestin



Prof. Gabriel Krestin
EIBIR Scientific Director

OUR SERVICES

EIBIR supports researchers and industry partners in the coordination of biomedical imaging research throughout Europe and beyond.

We offer expert advice, professional project management and coordination, dissemination and exploitation services for international collaborative research projects and clinical studies. Navigating the rules and regulations of Horizon 2020 while carrying out innovative research with partners from across Europe can be challenging. Multidisciplinary and multinational consortia require professional project management to ensure the successful accomplishment of the project's goals. By providing non-scientific coordination and management services as a full partner in your consortium, EIBIR relieves you of the administrative burden, allowing you to focus on the scientific aspects, and ensuring the best possible outcome for your project.

EIBIR provides a range of support services to research institutions which can be accessed via three service package categories at affordable annual fees. These service packages cover your entire institution and all interested departments can benefit from the EIBIR services.

As a non-profit organisation, EIBIR does not charge any success fees to institutions participating in proposal preparation, instead it aims to boost the success of biomedical imaging research in the European funding landscape by providing crucial support services at a low cost.

Service packages and annual pricing per institution

Service package fee per calendar year per institution	Active €1000	Regular €200	Associate €100
EIBIR Proposal Preparation support, consortium building and project management (full proposals, stages 1 and 2)	✓		
EIBIR Proposal Preparation support, consortium building and project management (first stage only)	✓	✓	
EIBIR Network Consortium Building	✓	✓	✓
EIBIR Electronic Data Capture Platform	✓	✓	
EIBIR Joint Initiatives	✓	✓	
EIBIR Scientific Advisory Board ¹	✓	✓	
EIBIR Dissemination Support ²	✓	✓	✓
EIBIR Members Bulletin	✓	✓	✓
EIBIR Network Database	✓	✓	✓

1: Please note that this support is conditional on the approval of EIBIR's shareholders

2: Please note that EIBIR cannot guarantee that every update or news item sent to it can be published via its dissemination & communication channels.

OUR SERVICES

Service	Description
EIBIR Proposal Preparation Support, Consortium Building and Project Management	<p>Proposal Preparation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submission of project idea and pre-proposal check • Consortium formation and communication • Proposal writing and budget planning • Document polishing & editing • Submission via EC online portal <p>Project Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant and consortium agreement preparations • Regular European Commission project reporting • Financial management of your project • Communication and dissemination
EIBIR Electronic Data Capture Platform	The EIBIR Electronic Data Capture (EDC) Platform can be used to collect and manage almost any type of digital data that is part of your biomedical research — from numerical values or text, to DICOM images.
EIBIR Joint Initiatives	Participate in EIBIR's interdisciplinary groups that work towards a biomedical imaging research goal or start a new joint initiative related to your field.
EIBIR Scientific Advisory Board	Have your institution represented on our Scientific Advisory Board and help shape the future of biomedical imaging research (candidates are subject to approval procedure by the current EIBIR shareholders before appointment).
EIBIR Dissemination Support	Send us updates and news from your research and we'll share it via our online and social media channels.
EIBIR Members Bulletin	Regular updates on expected funding calls to give you a head start on your proposal preparation. This service gives our members an early indicator of the funding opportunities available to them, which also gives them a crucial advantage in proposal preparation.
EIBIR Online Members Database	Search our database of member institutions to find new research partners. Take the latest clinical and fundamental biomedical imaging research, multiply it with top-quality biomedical imaging research laboratories and academic imaging departments, add many more talented, senior scientists and you will have an extensive, high quality research network.

THE EIBIR NETWORK

The EIBIR Network has established itself as a vital link for its participating organisations.

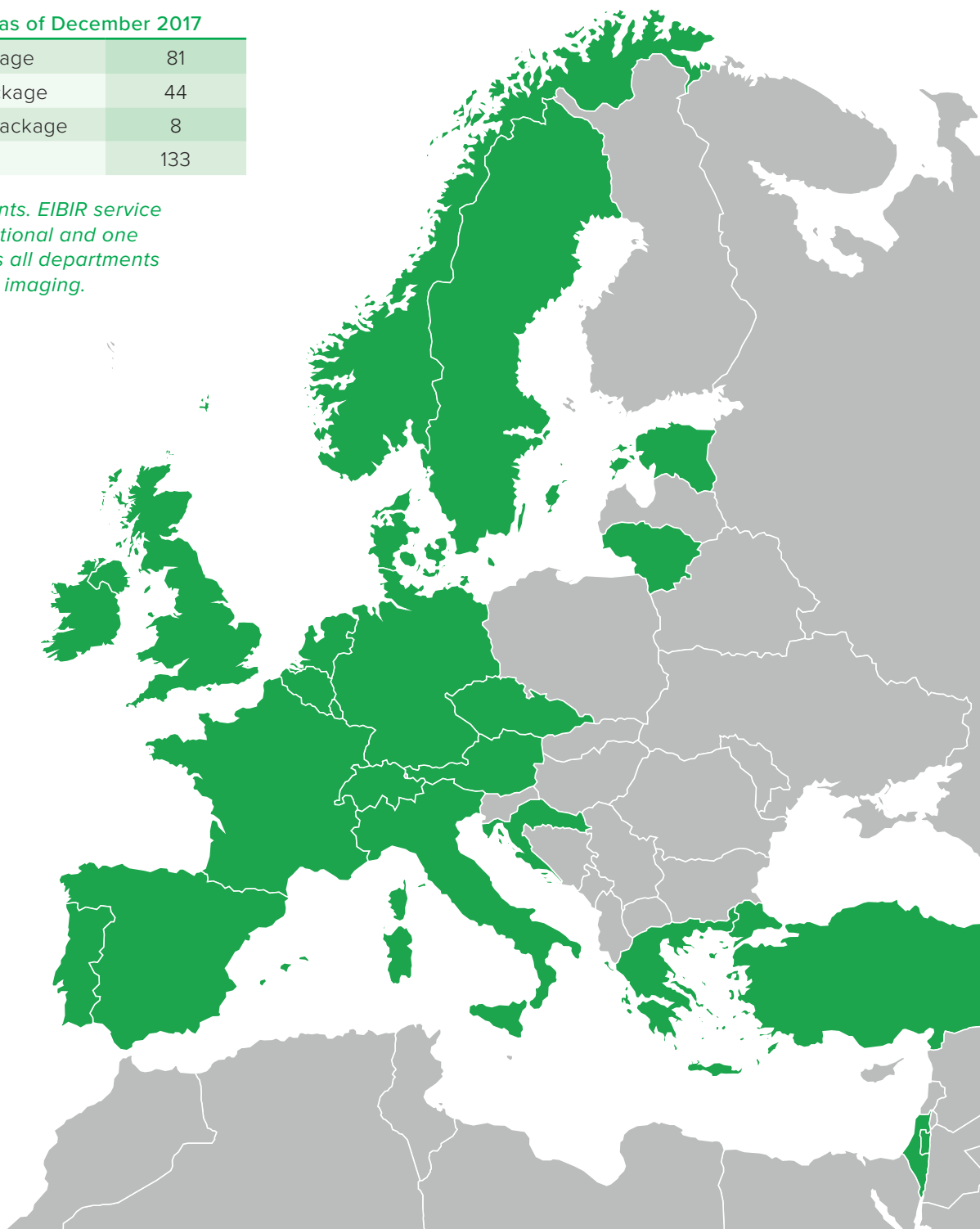
Our Network is open to institutions from all disciplines with an interest in biomedical imaging and welcomes bottom-up initiatives and active involvement. Our Network represents 133 departments from a variety of different imaging-related fields from 22 countries.

The EIBIR Network is built upon the strength of its partners, and we would like to thank all organisations and individuals who have recognised the importance of becoming involved.

Network statistics* as of December 2017

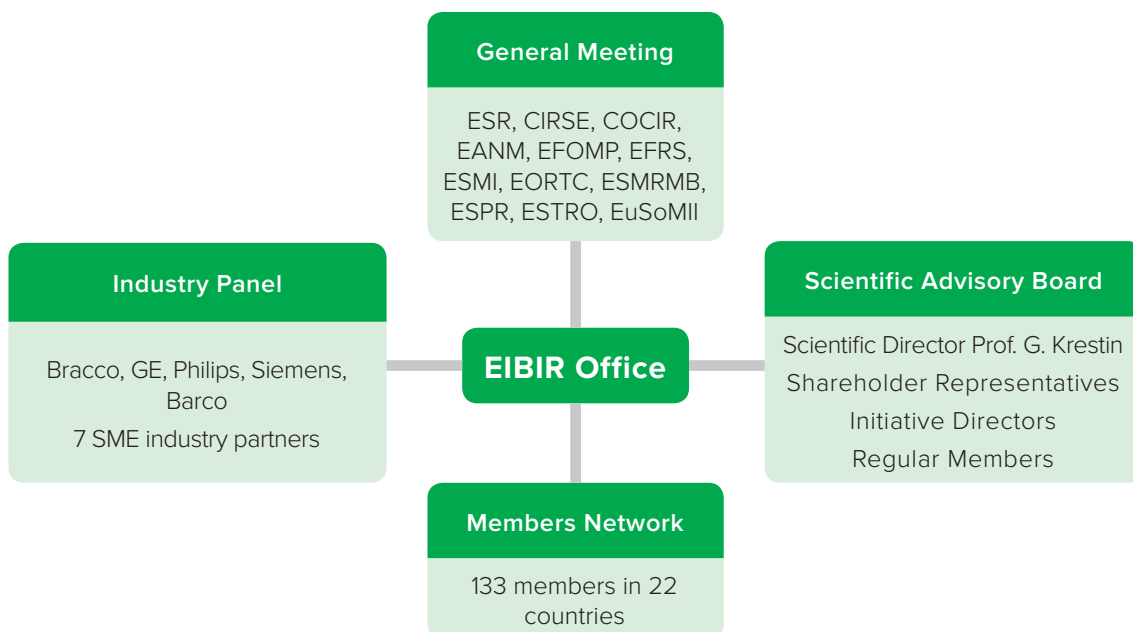
Active Service Package	81
Regular Service Package	44
Associate Service Package	8
Total	133

**including departments. EIBIR service packages are institutional and one subscription benefits all departments related to biomedical imaging.*



ORGANISATION

Combining the expertise of our Scientific Advisory Board, advice from our multi-disciplinary shareholder groups, input from the European Society of Radiology Research Committee and recommendations from the Industry Panel, EIBIR benefits from the guidance and support of a multi-faceted organisational structure that ensures EIBIR and biomedical imaging are at the forefront of research activities in Europe.



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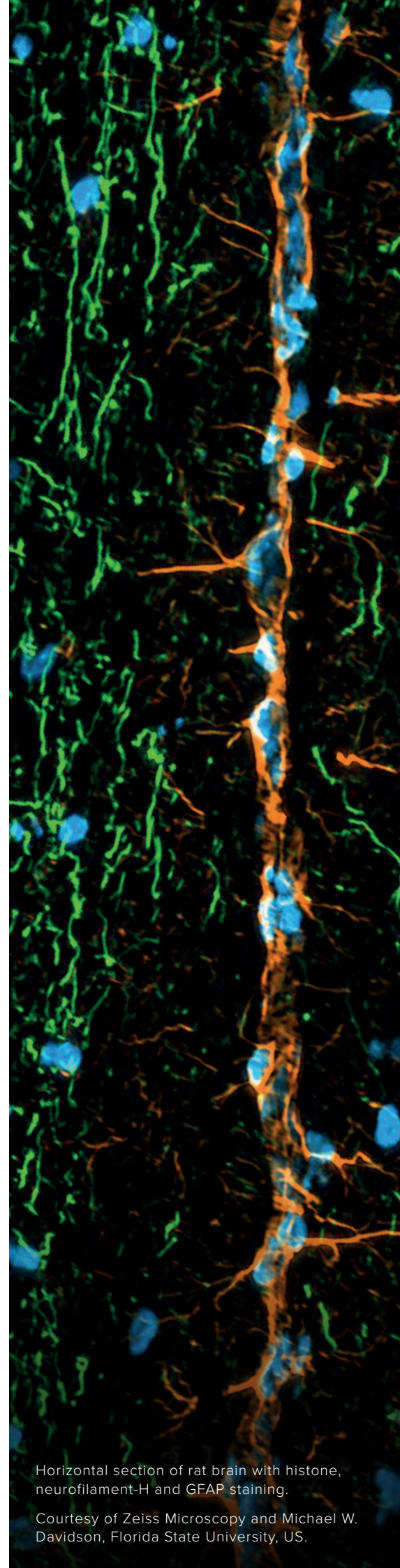


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Horizontal section of rat brain with histone, neurofilament-H and GFAP staining.

Courtesy of Zeiss Microscopy and Michael W. Davidson, Florida State University, US.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

EIBIR's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) sets and guides the organisation's long-term strategies and goals for biomedical imaging research. It also provides invaluable expert advice and feedback to researchers on their proposals.

Over the course of the year, the members of the SAB met twice to discuss EIBIR's strategy for future research calls and to brainstorm on new ideas that can better serve researchers and further promote the role of biomedical imaging in European research. Many of the SAB members are also actively involved in EIBIR's joint initiatives and were busy preparing a range of scientific events such as summer schools and publishing results from studies and reviews.

Scientific Director

Gabriel P. Krestin is full professor of Radiology and Chairman of the Department of Radiology at Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam, the Netherlands. His main areas of research are: imaging of abdominal organs and of cardiovascular diseases, molecular imaging and population imaging. His research is supported by numerous grants from European and national research organisations, charities and industry. He is a member of the recently established Scientific Panel for Health of the European Commission and member of the scientific advisory boards of Erasmus Medical Center in Rotterdam, the Netherlands Technion University in Haifa, Israel and Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) of Munich, Germany.

Shareholder Representatives

- Philippe Pereira, Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe (CIRSE)
- Casper Garos, European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry (COCIR)
- Kristoff Muylle, European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM)
- Virginia Tsapaki, European Federation of Organisations in Medical Physics (EFOMP)
- Jonathan McNulty, European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS)
- Yan Liu, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
- Fabian Kiessling, European Society of Molecular Imaging (ESMI)
- Matthias Günther, European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology (ESMRMB)
- Owen Arthurs, European Society of Paediatric Radiology (ESPR)
- Olivier Clément, European Society of Radiology (ESR)
- Vincenzo Valentini, European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO)
- Emanuele Neri, European Society for Medical Imaging Informatics (EuSoMII)

Joint Initiative Directors

- Wiro Niessen (Biomedical Image Analysis Platform)
- Michal Neeman (Cell Imaging Network)
- Silvio Aime (Chemistry Platform)
- Siegfried Trattnig (European Imaging Biomarkers Alliance)
- Christoph Hoeschen (European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research)
- Francesco Sardanelli (EuroAIM)
- Oliver Speck (Euro-BiolImaging)
- Karen Rosendahl (Paediatric Radiology)
- Vincenzo Valentini (Image Guided Radiotherapy)

Regular Members

- Hakan Ahlström
- Henryk Barthel
- Carlo Catalano
- Vincent Dousset
- Alejandro Frangi
- Michael Fuchsjäger
- Vicky Goh
- Xavier Golay
- Jürgen Hennig
- Myriam Hunink
- Luis Marti-Bonmati
- Konstantin Nicolaou
- Anders Persson
- Katrine Riklund
- Steven Sourbron

SHAREHOLDERS

EIBIR's shareholder organisations exemplify the importance of a multidisciplinary approach in biomedical imaging research. Their support is vital to EIBIR's decision making.



European Society of Radiology
www.myesr.org



Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe
www.cirse.org



European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and Healthcare IT Industry
www.cocir.org



European Association of Nuclear Medicine
www.eanm.org



European Federation of Organisations in Medical Physics
www.efomp.org



European Federation of Radiographers Society
www.ehrs.eu



European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer
www.eortc.org



European Society for Molecular Imaging
www.e-smi.eu



European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology
www.esmrmb.org



European Society of Paediatric Radiology
www.espr.org



European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology
www.estro.org



European Society of Medical Imaging Informatics
www.eusomii.pro

INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The Industry Panel allows EIBIR and its member industry organisations to identify shared interests and opportunities for collaboration.

The cost for membership packages range from €10,000 for Gold, €5,000 for Silver and €1,000 for SMEs. Industry Partners benefit from EIBIR services according to their varying financial commitment. The longstanding commitment of EIBIR's industry partners have allowed projects such as the MIPA study, and EIBIR looks forward to enhanced cooperation in the coming years.

GOLD PARTNERS



GE Healthcare



PHILIPS

SIEMENS

SILVER PARTNERS



SME PARTNERS

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are actively encouraged to participate in Horizon 2020 programmes through new dedicated SME measures. These aim to fill gaps in funding for early-stage, high-risk research and innovation by SMEs as well as stimulating breakthrough innovations. EIBIR helps its SME members take advantage of SME-targeted funding opportunities by identifying suitable calls and connecting the right partners from within our Member Network.



Future Composites
www.futuracomposites.nl



Linkverse
www.linkverse.com



NORAS MRI Products
www.noras.de



Novaura
www.novaura.com



Vernon
www.vernon.com



Quantib Imaging Biomarkers
www.quantib.com



Quibim
www.quibim.es

JOINT INITIATIVES

EIBIR's eight joint initiatives represent interdisciplinary groups working towards a common bioimaging-focused research goal.

Each joint initiative undertakes activities best suited to realising the individual objectives in their respective fields. The current EIBIR joint initiatives are:

- Biomedical Image Analysis Platform
- Cell Imaging Network
- Chemistry Platform
- European Network for the Assessment of Imaging in Medicine (EuroAIM)
- European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED)
- European Imaging Biomarker Alliance (EIBALL)
- Image Guided Radiotherapy
- Paediatric Radiology

If you are interested in participating in one of EIBIR's joint initiatives, establishing a new initiative or have any questions about the current joint initiatives please don't hesitate to contact the EIBIR Office at office@eibir.org.

EURAMED: the European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research

EURAMED is a non-profit society established by 5 medical associations involved in the application of ionising radiation in medicine, namely the EANM, EFOMP, EFRS, ESTRO and the ESR. EURAMED's goal is to improve medical care and its radiation protection issues through sustainable research efforts. EURAMED originally started as an EIBIR Joint Initiative, however, as of November 1, 2017 it became a non-profit society registered in Austria. This now makes it eligible to participate in European and international projects, allowing it to lead research activities in medical radiation protection and assume an umbrella function for the harmonisation of practice within Europe's medical radiation safety culture.

EIBIR will continue to provide management services and support to EURAMED as a Joint Initiative.



EURAMED

European Alliance for Medical
Radiation Protection Research

EIBALL: the European Imaging Biomarkers Alliance

EIBALL set up an imaging biomarker task force for MR arterial spin labelling to achieve standardisation of image acquisition and analysis, implementation of quality assurance measures.

More information on this is available on page 13.

EIBALL

EUROPEAN IMAGING
BIOMARKERS ALLIANCE

HIGHLIGHTS IN 2017

H2020 project MEDIRAD awarded grant

The MEDIRAD project on implications of medical low dose radiation exposure was granted by the European Commission to a multidisciplinary consortium of 33 partners from 14 countries led by EIBIR in the beginning of 2017. MEDIRAD is the first Horizon 2020 project in the field of medical radiation protection research coordinated by EIBIR.

It formally started in June 2017 and will be concluded after four years in May 2021. The €10m project aims to enhance the scientific base and clinical practice of radiation protection in the medical field and thereby addresses the need to better understand and evaluate the health effects of low-dose ionising radiation exposure from diagnostic and therapeutic imaging and from off-target effects in radiotherapy.

To achieve this, MEDIRAD has three major operational objectives: to improve organ dose estimation and registration; to evaluate and understand the mechanisms of the effects of medical exposures, focusing on two outcomes of public health relevance: cardiovascular effects of radiotherapy in breast cancer treatment, and cancer risks following CT scanning in children and adolescents; and to develop science-based recommendations for the effective protection of patients, workers and the general public.

MEDIRAD is supported by the five European medical associations – the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM), European Federation of Organisations for Medical Physics (EFOMP), European Federation of Radiographer Societies (EFRS), European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the European Society For Radiotherapy And Oncology (ESTRO) – and builds upon their partnership with the European Alliance for Medical Radiation Protection Research (EURAMED), the Multidisciplinary European Low Dose Initiative (MELODI) and the European Radiation Dosimetry Group (EURADOS).

European Congress of Radiology 2017

EIBIR has become an established presence at the European Congress of Radiology's Joint Session programme each year, helping to highlight and showcase the latest EU-funded research in biomedical imaging while informing the wider scientific community of how EIBIR can support them. This presence continued at ECR 2017, with three EIBIR sessions dedicated to projects in several fields from its portfolio of FP7 and Horizon 2020 projects. The Session 'EU Research on Cancer Imaging' took place on March 3, 2017 and featured speakers from EIBIR-supported Horizon 2020 projects related to cancer, including Xavier Golay from the GLINT glucoCEST imaging project and Christiane Kuhl from the HYPMED hybrid PET/MRI technology project. In addition, EIBIR hosted dedicated sessions for the FP7 projects MITIGATE and VPH-DARE@IT. The speakers at the MITIGATE project session presented its innovative solutions for diagnosis and treatment concepts for gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST) patients and included a patient representative from GIST Support Austria. The VPH-DARE@IT Session focused on the novel biomarkers identified by its researchers while also presenting its patient care platform to facilitate earlier diagnosis of dementia. All three sessions proved popular with good discussion between speakers and attendees. The EIBIR Team are proud to have organised these sessions at the ECR, providing a strong dissemination platform for European research.

EIBIR Electronic Data Capture Platform

In 2017, EIBIR launched its Electronic Data Capture Platform (EDC). The EDC can be used to collect and manage virtually any type of digital data that is part of your biomedical research, ranging from numerical values to DICOM images. A user-friendly, web-based interface puts researchers in control of their work and data. All data is transmitted through encrypted connections and securely stored on servers with continuous data protection through daily, off-site backups.

Access to the EIBIR EDC is complimentary for EIBIR service package holders (regular and above).

We can support you in setting up your research and the data collection tools for your study, ranging from electronic case report forms (eCRFs) to file uploads. During your study, EIBIR can monitor data entry ensuring required data is submitted on time. Reports can be periodically exported in the format best suited for further analysis by the principal investigators.

We can also support study communication and the dissemination of results to a larger audience.

Furthermore, the EIBIR Virtual Clinical Trial Unit is able to help design your clinical study. The focus and specific expertise lies on studies for the clinical evaluation of diagnostic imaging tests. Diagnostic imaging evaluation includes studies assessing the technical or diagnostic performance, clinical usefulness, benefits, effectiveness and cost-effectiveness.

Strategic Research Agenda for Biomedical Imaging

In collaboration with its shareholder organisations and Scientific Advisory Board members, EIBIR started the preparation of a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) for Biomedical Imaging. The document will provide a broad strategic view of the most important research topics of the next ten years and aims at strengthening the position of biomedical imaging in the upcoming EU research and innovation programmes. In particular the SRA will outline the importance of imaging in addressing a number of societal challenges e.g. the prevention of disease by precision medicine; a better understanding of the placenta to ultimately improve the health of mothers and children ("healthy start"); targeted therapies with theranostics and image guided interventions; assessing the impact of environment and lifestyle on health by metabolic imaging. Also the cross cutting themes of image data management (machine learning and artificial intelligence), imaging biobanks as well as imaging research infrastructures will be highlighted. The document will be published in spring 2018 and brought to the attention of national and European decision makers as well as to the imaging community at large.

EIBALL QIBA taskforce on arterial spin labelling

The European Imaging Biomarkers Alliance (EIBALL), in part an EIBIR Joint Initiative, set up an imaging biomarker taskforce for standardisation of MR arterial spin labelling (ASL) to achieve standardisation of image acquisition and analysis, implementation of quality assurance measures.

This EIBALL ASL taskforce operates within the RSNA Quantitative Imaging Biomarkers Alliance (QIBA) PDF-MRI Biomarker Committee, and is led by Xavier Golay (UCL, London/UK). The taskforce is currently working on a document detailing MR ASL as a biomarker in various use-cases.

Such documents (profiles) describe a specific performance claim related to the biomarker and include details on how clinical trials should be structured to achieve reproducible quantitative endpoints when the biomarker in question is used. The EIBALL ASL taskforce builds on prior work done by the COST Action "ASL initiative in dementia" (also supported by EIBIR) and the ASL Network. EIBIR supports the taskforce in the writing process.

EIBIR AT ECR 2018

At ECR 2018, EIBIR will host a special research session on Thursday March 1, 2018 (16:00-17:30, Room L8, Austria Center Vienna). The session will feature expert speakers from three Horizon 2020 research projects and information on how EIBIR can help researchers submit proposals and manage collaborative projects.

EIBIR Research Session: European imaging researchers united in diversity

Presentation title	Speaker
Chairperson's introduction	G. Krestin; Rotterdam/NL
Laser and Ultrasound Co-analyser for Thyroid Nodules (LUCA) Project: latest results	U. Weigel; Barcelona/ES
Testing hybrid MR/PET (HYPMED) device for enhanced breast diagnosis in a multicentre clinical trial	T. Helbich; Vienna/AT
Smart Optical and Ultrasound Diagnostics of Breast Cancer (SOLUS) Project: aims and objectives	P. Taroni; Milan/IT
EIBIR's role in imaging research projects	P. Zolda; Vienna/AT

PROJECTS

Since its establishment in 2006, EIBIR has helped to secure over €79 million in funding for biomedical imaging research. This is testament to our effectiveness in promoting and supporting biomedical research.

In 2017, EIBIR was involved in seven ongoing Horizon 2020 projects, a European research infrastructure project, two concluding FP7 projects and two ongoing industry-funded clinical studies.

We are proud to support more than 140 partners from 30 countries working together on projects and studies researching various forms of cancer and neurological disorders, and developing novel imaging technologies.

Sign up to our mailing list if you would like to stay up to date with EIBIR activities, upcoming research funding calls of relevance to biomedical imaging and the latest results from several EIBIR-supported research projects and clinical studies.

[Click here to sign up](#)

EURO-CAS

EUROPEAN EHEALTH INTEROPERABILITY CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME FOR EUROPE

The European eHealth Interoperability Conformity Assessment Scheme for Europe (EURO-CAS) is a two-year project to develop a sustainable Conformity Assessment Scheme for Europe (CASforEU). The CASforEU will promote the adoption and take-up of interoperability testing of eHealth solutions against eHealth standards and profiles defined in the eHealth European Interoperability Framework (eEIF). It will also help European health systems assess the conformity of eHealth products and solutions with international standards, and will enhance vendors' visibility by offering public recognition of products' conformity. This will not only advance eHealth interoperability, it will boost the European Digital Single Market in the health and care domain, and facilitate the sharing of information for better and more person-centred healthcare.

EIBIR is responsible for the overall project management of EURO-CAS and serves as project coordinator, with IHE Europe as scientific coordinator. They are joined by fourteen national and regional government bodies, competence centres and associations from 11 different European countries. So far they have assessed the interoperability requirements of European health systems and analysed the existing testing and certification schemes. Work is now focused on developing the CASforEU and formulating an exploitation plan to ensure the scheme is sustained after the project ends in November 2018. The partners will also work to deploy the CASforEU by working with countries and regions represented in the consortium, as well as with the advisory board of additional experts and policymakers.

The EURO-CAS project will build on the findings and results of a series of EU-funded projects that have advanced eHealth interoperability within and between Member States in the last years, and will provide a scheme consistent with the Refined eHealth European Interoperability Framework endorsed by representatives of all 28 European Member States in 2015.



Current Status

Active until November 30, 2018

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 727028

€995,287.50

Website and social media

www.euro-cas.eu

@EURO_CAS

Consortium

Coordinated by EIBIR, AT

IHE Europe, BE

Medcom, DK

Offis, DE

COCIR, BE

eSANTÉ, LU

Arsenal.IT, IT

ASIP, FR

Continua Health Alliance, BE

Lombardia Informatica, IT

European Hospital and Healthcare

Federation, BE

Hrvatski zavod za zdravstveno
osiguranje, HR

Ilektroniki Diaktyvernisi

Koinonikisasfalis, EL

Stichting Nationaal ICT Instituut in de
Zorg, NL

Serviços Partilhados do Ministério da
Saúde, PT

Centrum Systemów Informacyjnych
Ochrony Zdrowia, PL

The EURO-CAS project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 727028



HYPMED

DIGITAL HYBRID BREAST PET/MRI FOR ENHANCED DIAGNOSIS OF BREAST CANCER



Current Status

Active until December 31, 2019

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 667211

€5,861,957.50

Website and social media

www.hypmed.eu

@HYPMED_eu

Consortium

Coordinated by EIBIR, AT

Universitätsklinikum RWTH Aachen, DE

Forschungszentrum Jülich, DE

Medical University Vienna, AT

Delft University of Technology, NL

University Hospital Münster, DE

NORAS MRI products, DE

Futura Composites, NL

Intrasense, FR

Philips, NL

HYPMED is developing and evaluating a new device for breast PET/MRI hybrid imaging. The project integrates a fully digital MRI-transparent PET-detector directly into a fully PET-transparent breast MRI surface coil. The resulting PET-RF insert will allow precision imaging of breast cancer by combining high-resolution and ultra-low dose dedicated breast PET with highest level structural and multi-parametric functional MR imaging.

In the first period work focussed on the mechanical design of the PET-RF insert, the development of the required software implementations, preparatory work for the clinical validation of the device and initial studies for tissue biomarkers. Additionally, dissemination activities were performed to raise awareness for HYPMED's innovative solutions and to engage with the end user community.

The design of the insert mechanics was completed and served as a solid basis for the design of the high sensitive radiofrequency coil and the development of the MR-compatible PET detector modules. In terms of software implementations all required system adaptations and software changes for MR fingerprinting were established and a first MR-based attenuation correction was computed. The exploration of the clinical use of the PET-RF insert will be done by multi-centre study starting in the third year of the project. In 2017 drafts of the documents needed for ethical approval were prepared. In terms of tissue-based biomarkers a control series of different breast lesions was generated to define different types of immune infiltrate and other

components of the tumour microenvironment. Dissemination activities embraced the establishment of information material and its distribution at major medical imaging conferences. Overall the HYPMED project is on good track and consortium partners are confident to achieve the project's objectives in the forthcoming periods.

The HYPMED project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 667211



MEDIRAD

IMPLICATIONS OF MEDICAL LOW DOSE RADIATION EXPOSURE

The four-year MEDIRAD project led by EIBIR kicked off in June 2017. It comprises a multidisciplinary consortium of 33 partners from 14 European countries representing a variety of disciplines: radiology, nuclear medicine, radiotherapy, dosimetry, epidemiology, biology, bioinformatics, modelling, radiation protection and public health.

MEDIRAD aims to enhance the scientific bases and clinical practice of radiation protection in the medical field and thereby addresses the need to better understand and evaluate the health effects of low-dose ionising radiation exposure from diagnostic and therapeutic imaging and from off-target effects in radiotherapy.

The MEDIRAD Project consists of six interdependent work packages (WPs), each of which contains tasks and deliverables vital to the project's success. EIBIR in its role as MEDIRAD project coordinator is in charge of the project management, as well as communication and dissemination activities of the project. EIBIR is supported by ISGlobal (scientific coordination), and the Paris Descartes University (clinical coordination).

The first months of the project have particularly focused on preparatory work for the MEDIRAD studies related to the impact of low dose radiation exposure from I-131 radioiodine (NaI) ablation of thyroid cancer, breast radiotherapy and secondary cardiovascular risks, as well as possible health impacts of paediatric scanning (e.g. study protocols, ethical approvals, patient recruitment, etc.). In addition, the set-up of the project governance and management has been a high priority to overcome the complexity of the project and to facilitate the successful execution of the MEDIRAD project.

The ambitious MEDIRAD project is still at the start phase. However, the consortium is confident to carry out all tasks as envisaged and therewith to significantly improve the science base and practice of radiation protection in the medical field.



Current Status

Active until 30 November, 2020

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 755523

€9,995,145.75

Website

www.medirad-project.eu

Consortium

Coordinated by EIBIR, AT

Barcelona Institute for Global Health
ISGlobal, ES
Paris Descartes University, FR
University of Crete, EL
Royal Marsden Hospital, UK
University Medical Center Groningen, NL
Institut de radioprotection et de sûreté
nucléaire, FR
Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg, DE
Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, PT
Sahlgrenska University Hospital, SE
Polytechnic University of Catalonia, ES
Nofer Institute of Occupational Medicine, PL
B-COM, FR
Universitätsmedizin der Johannes
Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, DE
University of Geneva, CH
Helmholtz Zentrum Munich, DE
Belgian Nuclear Research Centre, BE
Ghent University, BE
University Hospital Würzburg, DE
University Hospital Marburg, DE
French National Institute of Health and
Medical Research INSERM, FR
Associação para Investigação e
Desenvolvimento da Faculdade de
Medicina, PT
University Hospital Rechts der Isar,
Technical University Munich, DE
Sapienza University of Rome, IT
University of Bristol, UK
VU University Medical Center, NL
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK
Netherlands Cancer Institute, NL
Autonomous University of Barcelona, ES
Istituto Superiore di Sanità, IT
University College Dublin, IE
Institut Claudius Regaud, FR
Catalan Institute of Oncology, ES

The MEDIRAD project has received funding from the Euratom research and training programme 2014-2018 under grant agreement No. 755523



COSTREAM

COMMON MECHANISMS AND PATHWAYS IN STROKE AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



CoSTREAM

UNDERSTANDING STROKE AND ALZHEIMER

Current Status

Active until 30 November, 2020

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 667375

€5,100,372.50

Website and social media

www.costream.eu

@CoSTREAM_H2020

Consortium

Coordinated by Erasmus MC, NL

EIBIR, AT

King's College London, UK

University of Cambridge, UK

Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, DE

Karolinska Institutet, SE

MIMETAS, NL

Institut Pasteur de Lille, FR

Leiden University, NL

University of Geneva, CH

University of Bordeaux, FR

Stroke and Alzheimer's disease (AD) are known to co-occur frequently and have overlapping pathogenesis. The Horizon 2020 project CoSTREAM aims to improve our understanding of this co-occurrence.

The project particularly focuses on common underlying mechanisms and investigates when and how these mechanisms diverge into causing either stroke, or AD, or both (sequentially).

CoSTREAM exploits and links various available and novel large international datasets, and incorporates new analytical strategies with emerging technologies in the field of genomics, metabolomics, epidemiology and brain imaging.

The multidisciplinary consortium includes epidemiologists, geneticists, radiologists, neurologists with a longstanding track record in the aetiology of stroke and AD.

In 2017, year 2 of CoSTREAM, the project focused on the overlaps between stroke and AD by investigating the underlying genetics and establishing metabolomics methods, as well as first analyses. Several promising candidate genetic loci and metabolites possibly linking the two pathologies were identified.

Two clinical studies focused on visualising structural and functional changes in brains affected by stroke or AD using 3T MRI, and amyloid and tau PET. Additional brain imaging using 7T MRI and amyloid PET is expected to start in early 2018.

The project also continued the development of an organ-on-a-chip model of the neurovascular unit. This in vitro model system now successfully combines

neurons, astrocytes, pericytes and endothelial cells forming a vessel in a 3D cell culture with perfusion. This enables high-throughput analyses of metabolites and therapeutics in a relevant setting.

The CoSTREAM project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 667375



GLINT

GlucoCEST IMAGING OF NEOPLASTIC TUMOURS

The GLINT project is developing a new diagnostic tool and a set of technologies for cancer imaging which will allow for earlier, more accurate and more reliable cancer diagnosis. The partners aim to combine native glucose and a non-metabolizable glucose derivative (3-O-methyl-glucose) in a combined examination to characterise and image glucose delivery, uptake and metabolism in cancer. Once successful, the GLINT method will provide a cheap, widely available, more comprehensive, non-invasive, radiation-free complementary method to nuclear medicine techniques currently used for cancer assessment.

During the first project period, work focused on the development and validation of glucoCEST MR sequences and the optimisation for detection of the glucoCEST signal as well as on the assessment of the sources of the GlucoCEST signal for native and methylated glucose analogues and the evaluation of the detection thresholds at various field strengths. Major results include a new data acquisition technique called a snap-shot CEST, a tool for data evaluation and visualization, and a detailed multi-compartment model of the glucose pathway. The partners developed imaging techniques and optimised protocols, established a quantitative data analysis pipeline, and successfully carried out the first-in-man studies in head and neck carcinoma patients.

In 2018, the partners will continue their efforts to develop, optimise, and validate GlucoCEST MRI as an innovative in vivo metabolic imaging technique, which will benefit the global cancer population by improving the diagnostic accuracy of MRI and providing early readouts of treatment efficacy, leading to improved clinical decisions and outcomes.



Current Status

Active until December 31, 2019

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 667510

€6,454,612

Website and social media

www.glint-project.eu

@GLINT_H2020

Consortium

Coordinated by University College
London, UK

EIBIR, AT

Tel Aviv University, IL

University of Torino, IT

Max Planck Society, DE

University of Zurich, CH

Olea Medical, FR

Bracco Imaging, IT

The GLINT project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 667510



LUCA

LASER AND ULTRASOUND CO-ANALYZER FOR THYROID NODULES



Current Status

Active until January 31, 2020

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 688303

€3,628,845.75

Website

www.luca-project.eu

Consortium

Coordinated by The Institute of Photonic Sciences, ES

EIBIR, AT

Politecnico di Milano, IT

IDIBAPS, ES

HemoPhotonics, ES

VERMON, FR

Echo Control Medical, FR

University of Birmingham, UK

The 4-year LUCA project develops an innovative multi-modal device for thyroid nodule screening and an improved, more accurate diagnosis of thyroid cancer. As a trans-disciplinary project, LUCA brings together clinical endocrinologists, radiologists, physicists, engineers and industry players from five European countries. Together, they work towards a common objective: producing a novel, point-of-care, low-cost, screening device that combines two photonics systems (near-infrared diffuse correlation spectroscopy (DCS) and time-resolved spectroscopy (TRS)) with a clinical ultrasound (US) system and a probe that enables multi-modal data acquisition. Once successfully implemented, the LUCA solution will reduce the number of unnecessary surgeries and related socio-economic costs. The device can also potentially be applied to other types of cancer diagnosis, screening and therapy monitoring.

During the first 18 months, partners developed new components (lasers, detectors, and electronics) for TRS and DCS, a combined optical US probe, new analysis methods plus the corresponding software suite and protocols for the control and communication of different modalities. These were tested and validated ex vivo on phantoms and standards and translated into new clinical protocols for validation in real-settings through in vivo measurements. The aims and progress of the project were widely disseminated and communicated, detailed exploitation plans were established for individual components as well as for the final multi-modal system. Overall, the LUCA project is progressing according to plan and in 2018 will enter its crucial second phase in which the multi-modal demonstrator will be built and tested for in vivo use.

The LUCA project is an initiative of the Photonics Public Private Partnership, and has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 688303.



SOLUS

SMART OPTICAL AND ULTRASOUND DIAGNOSTICS OF BREAST CANCER

The SOLUS project aims to develop a new imaging system which can detect and classify breast lesions in a non-invasive manner, and significantly improve the ability to differentiate between benign and malignant tumours. Invasive procedures, such as biopsies, are currently carried out in an unnecessarily high number of cases. SOLUS can help avoid such unnecessary biopsies by improving the characterisation of lesions in the breast.

The project's main objective is to develop an innovative, multi-modal tomographic system, combining diffuse optical tomography and ultrasound/shear wave elastography to support the in vivo diagnosis of breast cancer. This will achieve a substantially improved in-depth diagnosis of breast lesions with higher specificity and more effective treatment of breast cancer.

SOLUS is a four year project which brings together engineers, physicists and radiologists of nine partners from five European countries.

In the past year, the project focused on the development of components and subunits for the SOLUS system prototype. The detector and laser drivers were designed, and are currently being integrated into the smart optode. Additionally, procedures and phantoms for testing were developed. First steps for the clinical validation were also taken, as the clinical study protocol was defined.

In the coming year, integration of components and manufacturing will continue, and first validation efforts will be started.



Current Status

Active until October 31, 2020

Funding

Horizon 2020

Grant Agreement 731877

€3,815,260

Website and social media

www.solus-project.eu

@SOLUS_H2020

Consortium

Coordinated by Politecnico di Milano, IT

EIBIR, AT

CEA-LETI, FR

SuperSonic Imagine, FR

Vernon, FR

University College London, UK

Micro Photon Devices, IT

Ospedale San Raffaele, IT

iC-Haus, DE

The SOLUS project is an initiative of the Photonics Public Private Partnership. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 731877.

MITIGATE

CLOSED-LOOP MOLECULAR ENVIRONMENT FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC GASTROINTESTINAL STROMAL TUMOURS



MITIGATE

Current Status

Active until September 30, 2017

Funding

Framework Programme 7
Grant Agreement 602306
€4,494,253

Website

www.mitigate-project.eu

Consortium

Coordinated by Ruprecht-Karls
Universität Heidelberg, DE

EIBIR, AT
Medizinische Universität Innsbruck, AT
Università Degli Studi di Torino, IT
Fraunhofer IPA, DE
Cage Chemicals, IT
Advanced Accelerator Applications, FR
Rapid Biomedical, DE
Stemcell Technologies, FR
Hochschule Mannheim, DE

During the last 4 years MITIGATE partners worked towards the development and validation of a targeted, personalised and integrated closed-loop concept to effectively treat patients with metastatic Gastrointestinal stromal tumour (GIST), who are resistant to tyrosine-kinase inhibitors.

In 2017 MITIGATE fulfilled one of the most important milestones: the opening of the clinical trial to evaluate safety, biodistribution, dosimetry and preliminary diagnostic performance of ^{68}Ga -NeoBOMB1 in patients with advanced TKI-treated GIST using PET-CT.

NeoBOMB1 is a new generation bombesin analogue, which binds with high affinity/specificity to the gastrin release peptide receptor expressed in GIST. So far, several patients were enrolled in the trial and showed a high safety profile and promising results in specific molecular targeting of GIST tumours. Accordingly, MITIGATE partners already look to continue their collaboration in the development of nuclear medicine tracers for the diagnosis, and eventually treatment, of GIST.

In terms of minimally invasive treatment a strategy and tools to integrate the newly developed markers for PET-CT imaging into the combination treatments were developed. The evaluation of the developed assisting device for minimally invasive treatments showed promising results in terms of precision and intervention time.

Furthermore dedicated ^{23}Na -MRI and multimodal ($^{23}\text{Na}/^1\text{H}$) coil were produced and tested. A multimodal protocol was tested in animal experiments following imatinib treatment and several imaging modalities (PET, DCE-MRI, DWI-MRI, pH-MRI) were capable to detect the early response to imatinib treatment. MITIGATE officially concluded at the end of September 2017. The project has been highly successful in achieving its goals and there are clear strategies for the future exploitation of MITIGATE results.



VPH-DARE@IT

VIRTUAL PHYSIOLOGICAL HUMAN: DEMENTIA RESEARCH ENABLED BY IT

Virtual Physiological Human: Dementia Research enabled by IT (VPH-DARE@IT) is a major integrated research project funded through the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme. The project aimed to provide a systematic, multifactorial and multiscale modelling approach to understanding dementia onset and progression while enabling more objective, earlier, predictive and individualised diagnoses and prognoses of dementias to cope with the challenge of an ageing European society. Some of the key results of the project include new platforms for researchers, clinicians and patients which aim to facilitate further research and early diagnosis of dementia.

As a partner in the project's management & dissemination work package, EIBIR supported the project coordinator, the University of Sheffield, in disseminating the results of the project to the scientific community, particularly biomedical imaging scientists, and other stakeholders such as patient groups like the European Federation of Neurological Associations. The project's outreach and dissemination, in which EIBIR was a key partner, were appreciated by the European Commission's evaluators due to the communication with patient groups and regular publications. EIBIR also ensured that the project featured prominently at ECR 2016 and 2017, with its own dedicated sessions and exhibition booth.

The project officially concluded in September 2017 following a six-month extension. Overall, the European Commission reviewers were impressed with the achievements of the project, especially with regard to integrating lifestyle and environmental factors into the project's patient care platform. The consortium sought to make further progress on incorporating these factors during the final period by adopting specific scenarios for the patient care platform and biomarkers based on the selected lifestyle and environmental factors.



VPH-DARE@IT

Current Status

Active until March 31, 2017

Funding

Framework Programme 7
Grant Agreement 601055
€13,393,565

Website and social media

www.vph-dare.eu
@VPHDareIT

Consortium

Coordinated by University of Sheffield, UK

EIBIR, AT
ASD Advanced Simulation & Design, DE
Empirica, DE
Engineering Systems International, FR
Erasmus MC, NL
ETH Zurich, CH
Hirslanden Klinik, CH
Imperial College London, UK
INSERM U773 Paris, FR
Philips Medical Systems, NL
Philips Innovative Technologies, DE
Sheffield Teaching Hospital Trust, UK
Tomorrow Options Microelectronics, PT
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, ES
University College London, UK
University of Eastern Finland, FI
University of Maastricht, NL
University of Oslo, NO
VTT Technical Research Centre, FI

The VPH-DARE@IT project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no FP7-ICT-2011-9-601055.



EURO-BIOIMAGING

EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR IMAGING TECHNOLOGIES IN BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



Current Status

Interim phase (supported by Interim Board Members)

Website

www.eurobioimaging.eu

Interim Phase Secretariat

EIBIR, EMBL

Interim Board

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Finland
France
Hungary
Israel
Italy
The Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovakia
Spain
United Kingdom
EMBL

Euro-BioImaging (EuBI) is currently in the process of being established as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). In 2017 Euro-BioImaging (EuBI) reached a key milestone, when the Interim Board (IB) unanimously approved the ERIC draft statutes of the future infrastructure and when the complete set of application documents was handed to the European Commission. The IB currently consists of 16 countries and EMBL. The draft ERIC statutes visualise Euro-BioImaging as a distributed research infrastructure coordinated by a tripartite Hub with the legal seat at Turku University (Finland), management of the biological imaging community at EMBL Heidelberg (Germany) and management of the medical imaging community at Torino University (Italy). EIBIR supports the operation of the Interim Board and, with partner Torino University, is involved in activities that aim at taking the final steps to start full operation.

To date also 28 Node Candidates offer access to 36 imaging technologies via EuBI's Web Access Portal. Node Candidates provide expert technical assistance, support for project planning, additionally required instrumentation, animal facilities, wet lab space, server space, etc. Consultation and expertise by highly trained experts is provided during all stages of the user project. In 2017, 56 user access requests have been processed. The web portal also offers the opportunity to suggest additional imaging technologies to be included in the infrastructure. Technology developers, technology providers or EuBI users are invited to online propose technologies that are either completely new or new to EuBI.

The portal also offers the opportunity to suggest additional technologies to be included in the infrastructure. Technology developers, technology providers or EuBI users are invited to propose technologies that are either completely new or new to EuBI using the portal.

CLINICAL STUDIES

In the past year, EIBIR continued to provide support to multicentre clinical studies investigating or evaluating diagnostic imaging methods.

Currently, two clinical studies are supported:

- The **SPECIFIC** study: Dynamic Stress Perfusion CT for Detection of Inducible Myocardial Ischemia
- The **MIPA** study: Preoperative Breast MRI in Clinical Practice: Multicentre International Prospective Meta-Analysis of Individual Data

EIBIR Virtual Clinical Trial Unit

The EIBIR Virtual Clinical Trial Unit offers extensive support for both the design/preparation phase, as well as the execution phase of clinical studies. By leveraging the knowledge from international expert consultants from radiological subspecialties, image processing, clinical epidemiology, biostatistics, data management, medical ethics, decision modelling and economic evaluation, EIBIR can maximise a study's potential.

Electronic Data Capture Platform

Furthermore, in the past year, EIBIR has launched its Electronic Data Capture (EDC) platform. This platform can be used to collect and manage almost any type of digital data that is part of clinical studies, including DICOM images. The platform uses a secure web application for building and managing study databases with great flexibility and ease-of-use. EIBIR can assist in setting up the data collection tools for your study.

Currently, two clinical studies are using the EDC for their data collection:

The **Open CT-derived fractional flow reserve (FFR) registry**, which aims to improve the knowledge and user experience of on-site CT-derived FFR, and **European Study on Clinical Diagnostic Reference Levels for X-ray Medical Imaging (EUCLID)**.

SPECIFIC

The SPECIFIC study is a global clinical study investigating myocardial perfusion imaging funded by Siemens and Bayer. It is sponsored by Erasmus University Medical Center (Rotterdam, the Netherlands).



Cardiac CT provides accurate assessment of the coronary arteries and detects significant coronary stenosis with high diagnostic accuracy. This information is highly relevant, but ignores the haemodynamic relevance of such detected lesions, which is essential for clinical decision-making. The recent developments of third-generation dual-source CT allow for assessment of myocardial perfusion, and may determine the haemodynamic relevance of coronary lesions.

The objective of the SPECIFIC study is to determine the diagnostic accuracy of CT myocardial perfusion imaging for the detection of haemodynamically relevant coronary stenosis, as determined by invasive fractional flow reserve as a reference standard, in patients with suspected or known coronary artery disease who have been clinically referred for invasive angiography.

SPECIFIC investigates the feasibility of this approach in a global multicentre study with recruitment in the Netherlands (Rotterdam, Groningen), Germany (Tübingen, Erlangen, Munich), Switzerland (Zurich), Japan (Mie) and the United States (Stanford). Approximately one third of the subjects has already been examined and the study aims to finish patient recruitment before the end of 2018.

MIPA

The MIPA study is funded by Bayer and is led by EIBIR and Prof. Francesco Sardanelli (University of Milan, Italy - past-president of EUSOBI).

The study conducts a systematic evaluation of pre-operative breast MRI, examining individual patient data in a multicentre setting with the aim of clarifying matters regarding the ongoing uncertainty in the application of pre-operative MRI in breast cancer patients.

MIPA collects data on recent first-time breast cancer diagnoses and compares surgical outcomes for those who undergo pre-operative MRI with those who do not. Data is being collected from 34 centres from Europe and beyond. The results will be vital for a better understanding of the effect pre-operative breast MRI has on clinical decision-making.

By the end of 2017, MIPA recruited more than 6,250 patients, which amounts to approximately 90% of the target sample size of 7,000 patients. Results of the MIPA study will be presented at ECR 2018.



FINANCIAL REPORT

EIBIR's activities are financed by a number of sources, including Network and Industry Panel service package fees, support from the European Society of Radiology (ESR) and the shareholder organisations as well as EC funding for European research projects coordinated or supported by EIBIR and EIBIR project-related services provided to institutions against a fee.

A detailed annual financial report is presented to and approved by the shareholder organisations at the annual General Meeting, usually held during the European Congress of Radiology in Vienna.

At the EIBIR General Meeting held at ECR 2017, the financial report was approved;

Approved financial report for 2016

Total income	€654,266.42
Total expenditure	€595,414.74
Projected profit (fiscal year 2016)	€58,851.68
Total equity (as of January 1, 2017)	€810,502.89

TALK TO US

Do you have a great idea for research and are you planning to apply for funding?

We offer expert advice on proposal preparation and our Scientific Advisory Board, with more than 30 scientists from all over Europe, can provide critical and highly valuable feedback on your research proposal.

Furthermore, our proposal preparation and project management team has experience and a **proven track record in applying for EU funding and managing projects**, starting with FP6 all the way to today's highly competitive Horizon 2020 programme. In fact, EIBIR is currently involved in seven Horizon 2020 projects, which benefited from our proposal preparation services.

EIBIR does not charge success fees. We are a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping scientists from all fields realise their research ideas while promoting the role of biomedical imaging research. In fact, **Active EIBIR members can avail of our services and support for free.**

Here's how EIBIR can help:

- *Call-specific templates with detailed descriptions and input requirements*
- *Advice on project governance, management and work package structure*
- *Experienced advice and support on the crucial impact section of your proposal*
- *Critical reading and feedback from a team of experienced scientific writers with knowledge of European Commission requirements*

Get in touch with the EIBIR Office by sending an email to office@eibir.org to find out more about our services or tell us about your proposal to see how we can help make your research idea a reality.

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