

**Meeting WG1**  
**Working Group 1: Physiological and pathophysiological importance of mast cells and basophils in health and disease**  
**COST Action BM1007 – Mast Cells and Basophils – Targets for Innovative Therapies**

Southampton, UK  
November 24, 2011  
5:10 pm - 5:40 pm

**MINUTES**

1. WG1 Members

It is underlined that all WG1 members are encouraged to interact with each other to initiate common projects, common publications and student exchange for the next four years. The overlapping interests between working groups were raised (Carlo Pucillo and Francesca Levi-Schaffer). However, this is not a problem at all since collaborations and interactions between WG are strongly encouraged and in any case interests of everyone in mast cells and basophils field cover all the working group topics. Interactions with the European Mastocytosis Society and Histamine Society are as well strongly encouraged.

2. Aims

The main aims of WG1 group are:

- a- Work on the development of a wiki together with WG3 on mast cells and basophils (posted in the COST action website [<http://www.mastcell-basophil.net>] and in the EMBRN website [<http://www.embrn.eu/>])
- b- Encourage WG1 members to write together editorials, reviews and comments on recent articles in order to promote the visibility of the COST action internationally. The aim is here to raise more money for the other aims of the WG1 (COST organization loves visibility).
- c- Encourage WG1 members to apply to the COST action board in order to get student and early stage researchers exchanges between labs. These exchanges can be founded up to 3,500 € for 6 months.
- d- WG1 will organize at least one workshop (next spring in Prague, organized by the vice-chair of the WG1 Petr Draber) in order for us to get together and distribute assignments for the development of the WG1 aims.
- e- WG1 will contribute, in collaboration with the COST action on histamine to the organization of a training school in 2013.

3. Desk Reference/Wiki: Keywords, format, responsibilities

The organization and assignments for this aim have not yet been defined. The idea and leaders for this project came from WG1. It will be developed soon in close collaboration with WG3 (Ulrich Blank, Paris).

4. Chapters, reviews, editorials, etc., which journals, responsibilities

If WG1 members are interested in writing books, comments, editorials and/or reviews on their own specialty, they are strongly encouraged to do so. If the choice of a journal/editor or a topic is not easy for you, WG1 chair and vice-chair will indicate which ones are available and accessible.

5. Reagent list for exchange

This point has not been developed during the WG1 meeting. However, rare, homemade or surplus reagents present in our labs should be made available to all the other WG1 members. We could imagine creating a diffusion list in order for us to ask everyone easily if one particular reagent is available in another WG1 lab.

#### 6. How to exchange students for common projects

This point has been raised during the plenary session. Project proposal for early stage researchers exchange between labs should be sent shortly to the COST board members in order for them to select the exchange projects to be founded. As mentioned above, the COST action can help 8 exchanges up to 3,500 € for a 6 month period. See the details in the COST action website [<http://www.mastcell-basophil.net>].

#### 7. Grants: European and bi-multinational opportunities – keep an eye open (better two eyes), Marie Curie for students' mobility

Applications involving several labs of the WG1 to European grants are strongly encouraged. It has been proposed to reply to the European call on rare diseases by developing a project around mastocytosis (together with the European mastocytosis society) or on interstitial cystitis. Other calls in the 7<sup>th</sup> framework program are available [[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html)].

#### 8. Relationships with other WGs, especially WG3 (Ulrich Blank)

Each WG1 member can participate to other working groups inside the COST action. Collaboration with WG3 will be especially intense since the Wiki development is a common task (see above). If a particular protocol/method for mast cell and basophil studies is available in a WG1 lab, it is strongly recommended to work with WG2 in order to publish it in the method book they are preparing. Translational and therapy approaches involving mast cell and basophil could be developed conjointly with the WG4.

#### 9. Relationships with other COST Actions:

##### a) Histamine COST Action Meeting – Belfast

The interactions between our COST action and the Histamine COST Action BM0806 are growing. Everyone is encouraged to participate to the European Histamine Research Society and COST Action BM0806 Joint Meeting which will be held May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Belfast, Ireland.

##### b) Joint Training School (in spring) with COST Histamine Action

This initiative will be organized jointly by Francesca Levi Schaffer (COST BM1007) and Katarina Tagilada (COST BM0806) in early 2013 in Israel. Details should come soon.

#### 10. Meeting in Prague

Our next meeting should be held next spring in Prague. The WG1 vice-chair, Petr Draber, agreed to organize this meeting.