

Introduction

Welcome to the second Newsletter of the **TwinnToInfect** EU Project!

TwinnToInfect (ID: 692022) is a European Commission (EC) Horizon 2020 funded project aiming to leverage the research potential of Instituto de Medicina Molecular (iMM) by strengthening its research, innovation and networking capacities in the field of immunity and infection. The project establishes a research collaborative network between iMM and two internationally-leading institutions in this research area: Institut Pasteur (IP) and The Francis Crick Institute (CRICK). To discover more about TwinnToInfect project, please visit www.twinntoinfect.eu.

Project Annual Meeting

The TwinnToInfect Annual Meeting took place on January, 27th, 2017, with the participation of the Group Leaders from its three partner institutions, the Advisory Board members, the Project Coordinator and Project Manager. All participants were involved in brainstorming and fruitful discussions on the following points:

1. Project overview
2. Accomplishments
3. Tasks and goals still in progress
4. Challenges
5. Future plan and perspectives for Year 2

Particular attention was paid to the TwinnToInfect **Challenge Day** with emphasis on Tech Transfer amongst collaborative institutions and on the **Summer School, to be held in February 2018**. The initial implementation plans were discussed in depth with the sharing of contacts to engage the Incentive Programs, IP and IP licensing, Grants Office and most importantly the Tech Transfer Office in building these two activities.

Grant Offices Workshop

We are delighted to announce that the Grant Offices Workshop **will be held on May 18-19, 2017 at iMM**. This TwinnToInfect **Capacity Building Activity** aims at promoting the best practices exchange across the successful European Grant Offices and providing the experts' insight on cross-cutting issues in research administration.

The first day of the workshop will be reserved for the knowledge exchange between peers and we will host Grant Managers from the Institut Pasteur, the Francis Crick Institute, CRG Barcelona, KU Leuven, UCL and ETH Zurich.

The second day will bring five experts on cross-cutting issues: Proposal Preparation, Ethics, Open Access and Open Science, Research impact and Collaborative programs with US. These sessions will be open to interested iMMers as well as to other research institutions in Portugal (note: **registration will be required for the Proposal Preparation session**).

More details, including the workshop agenda, will follow soon. Please visit the TwinnToInfect website.



Featured activities:

Staff exchanges and Travel Awards

TwinnToInfect is all about networking to effectively stimulate research excellence among research groups in the immunity and infection field, and as such, we highlight the **Staff Exchanges and Travel Awards**. TwinnToInfect has already conducted 4 Staff Exchanges and 4 Travel Awards during the first year of the project's implementation. We envision 3 more Staff Exchanges throughout June 2017, while the next cut-off date for the travel Award is the 20th of March of 2017.

Visit our website to know more (<http://twinntoinfect.eu/news-events/>) or contact the TwinnToInfect Project Manager, Tiago Reis with any questions or comments that you may have (Treis@medicina.ulisboa.pt).

Other news:

Synergies between TwinnToInfect and EXCELLtoINNOV

The H2020 funded ERA CHAIR Project EXCELLtoINNOV (<https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/pt/imm-lisboa/projectos-internacionais/excelltinnov/>), leads several other activities that contribute significantly to the overall aim of leveraging research excellence and innovation potential of iMM in immunity and infection. Synergies between EXCELLtoINNOV and TwinnToInfect projects have already taken place and this opens an exciting window of new opportunities.

TwinnToInfect Seminars:

Speaker	Institute	Talk	Day
Pavel Tolar (Immune Receptor Activation Laboratory, Group Leader)	Crick (UK)	Immune Receptor Activation	6 October 2016
Venizelos Papayannopoulos (Antimicrobial Defence Laboratory, Group Leader)	Crick (UK)	Neutrophils extracellular traps in infection and disease	3 November 2016
Brigitta Stockinger (AhImmunity Laboratory, Group Leader)	Crick (UK)	AhImmunity	19 January 2017
Ana Cumano (Lymphopoiesis Unit, Head of Structure)	IP (FR)	Lymphocyte commitment in fetal hematopoiesis	2 March 2017
Gerard Eberl (Microenvironment and Immunity, Head of Structure)	IP (FR)	Microenvironment and Immunity	6 April 2017

Please visit https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OMY6vs546YT0HIM-tO-yxNpEKvcE2dX_j3zobU0u-TIs/edit#gid=0 for details on the seminar series between both above mentioned H2020 funded projects.

It is worth noting that some of the TwinnToInfect Seminars' speakers have been interviewed to participate in iMM's "**Coffee Break**" series, an innovative and original approach **to make cutting-edge science available to the public!** You can follow them on iMM's Facebook or iMM's YouTube channel.



Venizelos Papayannopoulos talks about his research at iMM Coffee Break series



Gitta Stockinger talking about her work at iMM Coffee Break series