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Letter from the Chair

Dear EURADIA Partners and Allies,

This is a very exciting time for EURADIA as on 1 April we begin work on the FP7 funded project DIAMAP. You will find further information on the project inside this newsletter. The inspiration behind this project was the 2004 workshop in the European Parliament '*Diabetes: Europe rising to the research challenge*' during which the case for better funding for diabetes research and better coordination was clearly made by stakeholders from patient groups, academia, the health professions, health policy and industry. EURADIA is proud to be able to use its strengths as an alliance of such stakeholders to initiate this project. You will be able to follow progress of DIAMAP when the website is launched (www.DIAMAP.eu) and we will provide updates in this Newsletter during the next two years.

DIAMAP is not the only project being carried out by EURADIA partners as you will see in the following pages describing the SWEET project for childhood diabetes and IMAGE, a project aiming to improve management of type 2 diabetes prevention around Europe. We wish our partners well in these endeavours and look forward to hearing of their progress in the future.

Finally, we welcome a new member into the Alliance; ISPAD, the International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes. We look forward to working with ISPAD and our other partners on our mission to improve the lives of people with diabetes '*through advocacy of diabetes research in Europe at the highest political and societal levels of influence*'.



Philippe Halban
Chair EURADIA

DIAMAP Road Map for Diabetes Research in Europe

The mission of DIAMAP is to undertake a wide survey of the current European diabetes research landscape, from which expert opinion can identify gaps and highlight strengths, to guide a Road Map strategy for diabetes research in Europe.

In the EU there are more than 25 million people living with diabetes (around 50 million across Europe as a whole). The challenge to the diabetes stakeholder community is to respond with coordinated research that can be translated into effective treatments. While support from the European Commission (EC), member states' funding agencies and private foundations plays an important role in advancing research there is a lack of information on research gaps and overlap.

Diabetes in its two major forms is a complex, multi-system polygenic disease that is complicated to treat and pervades all areas of health services. It is common, affects people of every age and is exacerbated by lifestyle factors in many cases. The complications are devastating and can be life-threatening. Better-targeted approaches to research funding as well as a more coordinated response to emerging health needs and research opportunities are necessary.

DIAMAP is the response of EURADIA to the research challenge.

A committee of EURADIA members representing patients, academic science and industry, will provide guidance for DIAMAP. The scientific backing, patient input, and established tools such as a website and database, and links with the Innovative Medicines Initiative, provide credibility for DIAMAP to survey the European diabetes research landscape, to invite input

from experts (through scientific fora in different research areas) and to generate the final Road Maps. Horizontal (legal, ethical and health professional) issues will also be addressed. The Road Maps will be compiled into a single report to provide the EC, funding agencies, academia and industry with a strategy to address weaknesses and to maximize strengths and opportunities for future diabetes research in Europe.

There will be two strategic phases to DIAMAP:

Year 1: Survey of diabetes research and funding landscape

Year 2: Development of diabetes research goals and the final Road Map for Diabetes Research by expert groups.

DIAMAP will invite input from research groups and health professionals. People with diabetes and the public are invited to participate via our interactive website to ensure that DIAMAP is truly focussed upon the person with diabetes.

DIAMAP is a support action funded by the EU FP7 Theme: HEALTH-2007-A-2.4.3-5. DIAMAP will run from 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2010.

To find out more about DIAMAP contact **Dr Joan Nagel** DIAMAP Scientific Project Manager (Joan.Nagel@diamap.eu) or **Ms Regina Sautter** Manager Administration (Regina.Sautter@diamap.eu) or with information on research activity or funding sources.

EURADIA Partner Profile

ISPAD: International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (www.ispad.org)

Globally, diabetes is a disease in evolution affecting more and more children and adolescents. ISPAD is a professional organization whose aims are to promote clinical and basic science, education and advocacy in childhood and adolescent diabetes. Partnerships during 2007 with other European diabetes stakeholders resulted in activities at the EU Parliament and the World Diabetes Day events in November.

ISPAD is the only international society focusing specifically

on all types of childhood diabetes. Members of ISPAD are medical health professionals (paediatricians, internists and other disciplines), non-medical health professionals and scientists. Members become part of the worldwide network of paediatric diabetes experts, receive *Pediatric Diabetes* our official journal (Impact Factor: 2.16), have access to an interactive information network, participate in guideline development, become eligible for travel grants to Annual Meetings (next meeting August 13-16 Durban, South Africa, www.ispad2008.com), Visiting Fellowships, Science Schools and Prizes.

The ISPAD Science School offers diabetes research training for young doctors, and the ISPAD Science School for Health Professionals for nurses, dieticians, psychologists and other allied health professionals.

The ISPAD rare diabetes collection provides clinical details on rare types of diabetes, as well as serving as a repository of stored DNA for research. Other activities include postgraduate courses, particularly in developing countries, scientific symposia, such as the EASD/ISPAD symposium, training programmes, collaborative studies, assistance with organisations in promoting education and research on childhood and adolescent diabetes as well as raising public awareness.

As expressed in the ISPAD mission statement, we hope that by joining EURADIA we will contribute to our vision "A better world for children and adolescents with diabetes".



**Diabetes Day 2007:
European Parliament, Strasbourg**

SWEET: Better control in paediatric and adolescent diabetes in the EU: working to create Centres of Reference



The SWEET project is co-funded by the European Public Health Agency (PHEA), diabetes NGO's and corporate partners. SWEET's main objective is to improve secondary prevention, diagnosis and control of type 1 and 2 diabetes in children and adolescents by supporting development of centres of reference (CORs) for paediatric and adolescent diabetes services across the EU.

The SWEET Project: continued from page 3

SWEET is based on a partnership of European and national diabetes organisations (ISPAD [with paediatric centres across Europe], IDF Europe, FEND, PCDE). It involves key diabetes stakeholders from Member States: patients, carers, specialists, GPs, educators, nurses, dieticians, psychologists and policymakers. This partnership, combined with a strong dissemination strategy, allows knowledge transfer and implementation. The cooperation, together with the CORs, ensures continuation and monitoring of activities and progress beyond the 3-year project term.

Addressing diabetes in children and adolescents, SWEET contributes to public health policy and outcomes, reducing inequalities and preventing complications through a lifelong, holistic management approach. Expected outcomes will be: better knowledge of diabetes in children and adolescents; recommendations for minimum treatment and care, patient education programmes and for training programmes for health professionals; definition and criteria of CORs for paediatric and adolescent diabetes. SWEET's outcome will serve as a model for setting up CORs for other conditions. In addition, improved control of diabetes early in life will prevent other diseases such cardiovascular disease, stroke and renal failure. More information: aschemeier@hka.de

European-wide IMAGE diabetes prevention project



The IMAGE project (Development and Implementation of a European Guideline and Training Standards for Diabetes Prevention) is set to improve the management and reduce the impact of type 2 diabetes across Europe. Effective and immediate primary prevention is essential to lower the burden of type 2 diabetes within the European Union.

The three-year IMAGE project will help to address this through the development of:

1. European practice-oriented guidelines for the primary prevention of type 2 diabetes
2. A European curriculum for the training of prevention managers
3. European standards for quality control in the assessment, monitoring and quality reporting of type 2 diabetes prevention
4. A European e-health training portal.

IMAGE, led by Dr Peter Schwarz, Dresden and Professor Jaakko Tuomilehto, Helsinki, is one of the largest public health projects to be granted funding by the European Commission 2006 Call for Proposals.

Diabetes is set to increase by 21% in Europe from 53.2 million in 2007 to 64.1 million in 2051. In particular, the dramatic rise in type 2 diabetes, now increasingly being seen in younger people, has developed into a critical EU public health concern.

Thirty-two partner organisations from 16 countries are involved in IMAGE, including International Diabetes Federation Europe (IDF-E), Federation of Europe Nurses in Diabetes (FEND), Primary Care Diabetes Europe (PCDE) and Diabetes Prevention Forum, building a consortium of expertise to achieve the project objectives. Participation from further partner organisations is being considered. More information: <http://www.image-project.eu>

News from EURADIA Partners

European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) Annual Meeting

Rome, Italy, 7-11 September 2008

Programme 'at a glance':

<http://www.easd.org/easdwebfiles/annualmeeting/44thmeeting/Prog-at-Glance.html>

Also available in PDF format

<http://www.easd.org/easdwebfiles/annualmeeting/44thmeeting/Prog-at-Glance-2008.pdf>

EASD web-based CME project

Launched in February 2008, this innovative project is aimed at bringing expert advice, training and discussion to academics and scientists around the world. The first web-based CME is focused on "Insulin Pumps" followed by the "Diabetic Foot" (March 2008). <http://www.easd.org/easdwebfiles/cme/web-cme/WEB-CME.html>

Federation of European Nurses in diabetes (FEND) Annual Conference

Rome, Italy, 5-6 September 2008

Programme now online:

<http://www.fend.org/conf2008/conf08.html>

International Diabetes Federation (IDF)

Following the success of the first round of funding of the BRIDGES programme, The IDF is organizing seven workshops in 2008 (one per IDF region) dedicated to translational research in diabetes. More information: <http://www.idfbridges.org>

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF): two new funding

opportunities in the area of beta cell biology.

- **Biomarkers in type 1 diabetes and its complications:** At least \$10 Million/year available.
- **Imaging of functional human pancreatic beta cells:** At least \$5 Million/year available.

http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=103391

JDRF-supported research resources:

<http://www.betacell.org/news/index.php?view=75>

http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=104491

Beta Cell Therapy Training Course

28-30 May 2008. The *JDRF Center for Beta Cell Therapy in Diabetes* annually organizes an interactive training course. The course is open to internal members and to external scientists. The purpose is to present and discuss research projects of the center from their rationale, over their experimental design to the interpretation of data in a broader context. Attention will be paid to controversies in the literature and to advances and obstacles in methodology. Attendants are encouraged to actively participate in all parts of the program. Participation for new member states is encouraged and will receive financial support from the EU grant. Ole D. Madsen, Henrik Semb and Ernest Arenas organize this third year's training Course on **Strategies in directed differentiation of ES cells into mature cell types for therapy**

<http://www.betacelltherapy.org/events.php?n=168&id=168&nid=77&ax=v>

News from the EU

EU Presidency: The Slovenian Presidency will run from January to June 2008 and be followed by France from July to December 2008. For more information on the Presidency and its activities. <http://www.eu2008.si/en/index.html>

Tasks of the Presidency

- Organizing and chairing all meetings of the European Council, the Council of the European Union and its preparatory committees and working groups.
- Representing the Council in its dealings with other EU institutions and bodies, such as the European Commission and the European Parliament.
- Representing the European Union in international organizations and in relations with countries outside the European Union.

Presidency R&D News

"The first of the new EU Member States to hold the reins of the EU Presidency, Slovenia highlighted its research priorities to members of the European Parliament's Committee for Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on 24 January." More information: http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=PRES_NEW_S_SI_EN

Summary of research priorities

Concluding adoption of initiatives under article 169 of the Treaty; namely the **Ambient Assisted Living (AAL)** a new European technology and innovation

funding programme, which addresses the needs of the ageing population and aiming to reduce innovation barriers of future markets, and also lowering future social security costs. AAL aims - by the use of intelligent products and the provision of remote services including care services – at extending the time older people can live in their home environment by increasing their autonomy and assisting them in carrying out activities of daily living. More information: <http://www.aal-europe.eu>.

Conclusion of the adoption procedure on EUREKA's EUROSTARS, which aims to encourage and provide financing for market-oriented industrial research conducted by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Programme is the first European funding and support programme to be specifically dedicated to SMEs for European research and development projects that address any technological area, but with a civilian purpose and aimed at the development of a new product, process or service. More information: <http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu/home.do>

Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) new initiative based on public-private partnerships. By adopting the decision to establish the four joint undertakings agreed so far, and progressing on the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen JTI, Slovenia hopes to forge new partnerships between public and private actors and contribute to the goals of the Lisbon Strategy.

News from the EU continued

Developing research infrastructures at regional level, integrating the Western Balkan countries into the European Research Area (ERA), and strengthening the role of women working in science.

Information technology: evaluation of the i2010 strategic policy framework, one of the key elements of the renewed Lisbon Partnership for Growth and Employment.

More information on the Slovenian Presidency:

<http://www.eu2008.si/en/index.html>

<http://cordis.europa.eu/slovenia/presidency>

Competitiveness Council urges increased research spending and coordination

The EU should invest more in research, facilitate the free movement of knowledge and strengthen its innovation system, ministers meeting at the EU's Competitiveness Council agreed on 25 February. These and other recommendations will be submitted to the European Council for consideration at its meeting in March 2008 within the context of the re-launched Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_RCN=29183

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7)

- Open calls:
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>
- Find a document:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html

Report on evaluation results of FP7-HEALTH-2007-B by independent observers

More information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/health/>

European Commission FP7 Registration of Experts for Research Activities

The EC has issued a call for independent experts (evaluators/peer reviewers) to assist in evaluation of FP7 proposals; assist in monitoring projects selected and funded by the EC; assist for other purposes where specific expertise might be required. Closing date 31 July 2013.

More information: <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmp7/>

Industrial/business expert evaluators

The European Commission is currently looking for experts with industrial/business background to evaluate proposals submitted under the "Research for the benefit of SMEs" calls in FP7. More information: <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmp7/index.cfm?fuseaction=wel.welcome>

FP7 tailored for sustainability

"There are various ways in which the health Theme of the EC's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Research can contribute to the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)". Source: European Commission. More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/sd/health_en.html

Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) continued

ERA-NET / ERA-NET PLUS Call 2008

"The ERA-NET scheme aims at developing and strengthening the coordination of national and regional research programmes...".

More information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/home_en.html. More information on open calls:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=87

Marie Curie Actions (People Programme)

The People programme under the 7th Framework Programme promotes excellence in research training, mobility, and career development for researchers at all levels, both inside and outside the European Union. More information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>

European Research Council (Ideas Programme): ERC Advanced Investigator Grant

Deadline April 2008 (check for detailed information on deadline and application process):

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=66>

Information on ERC Grant Schemes:

<http://erc.europa.eu/index.cfm?fuseaction=page.display&topicID=23>

European Researcher's Mobility Portal

Career opportunities and assistance for researchers:

http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/index_en.cfm?I1=19&CFID=255661&CFTOKEN=a756c9481fdbff62-831C829D-94A0-2CF0-5F4D760C14488D62

Innovative Medicines Initiative

On 3 March the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) Governing Board met for the first time to kick off the work of the IMI. Press release: http://www.imi-europe.org/DocStorage/News%20Attachments/FINAL_Press_Release_03032008%20comments%20COM.pdf

First IMI call expected to be launched in April 2008.

An information day is scheduled to take place in Brussels on 30 April. The aim of IMI is to support the faster discovery and development of better medicines for patients and to enhance Europe's competitiveness by ensuring that its biopharmaceutical sector remains a dynamic high-technology sector.

More information: <http://www.imi-europe.org/>

New EU guide to encourage combining research funding sources (source - Cordis FP7 newsroom)

The EU supports research and innovation activities through a range of programmes, including the Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) and Structural Funds.

Now the EC is developing a guide to help researchers select the right programme for their activities and even combine funds from different sources. A draft version of the guide is now ready and the EC is keen to receive feedback on the document from the research community.

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=29273

Other news and funding opportunities

The European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding

"The European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding is a new initiative led by the European Foundation Centre with support from the European Commission and individual funders. It aims to help underpin philanthropic funding for research through the exchange of experiences and best practices, the development of cooperation on research funding, and the promotion of a favourable environment for foundation and private philanthropy undertakings."

More information:

<http://www.efc.be/projects/eu/efprf/>

European Cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST)

COST is one of the longest-running instruments supporting co-operation among scientists and researchers across Europe. COST now has 35 member countries and enables scientists to collaborate in a wide spectrum of activities in research and technology.

More information: <http://www.cost.esf.org/>

Microsoft Health Vault Be Well Fund

Designed to assist academic and research health organizations in the creation of innovative online health applications for patients. More information:

<http://www.healthvault.com/fund/>

BioMedExperts

New Online Social Network, BioMedExperts, to Improve Collaboration Among Medical Researchers

<http://www.biomedexperts.com/>

Eurobarometer

This is the website for the Public Opinion Analysis sector of the European Commission. Since 1973, the European Commission has been monitoring the evolution of public opinion in the Member States, thus helping the preparation of texts, decision-making and the evaluation of its work.

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/index_en.htm

Special Eurobarometer on **scientific research in the media**. What are the opinions of European citizens on the media, when it comes to science and research? More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/conferences/2007/bcn2007/index_en.htm

Europe4Researchers

A newsletter for those working and pursuing a career in research. More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/eracareers/index_en.cfm?I1=23&CFID=11908176&CFTOKEN=da5ace7af4de7de8-98A030C7-AD30-5E56-B77E6D18C6A576B6

Research events 2008

April

16-17 April: **European perspectives on innovation and policy**, Stockholm, Sweden, Organised by the EU-funded VISION Era-Net. More information: <http://www.visioneranet.org/>

23-25 April: **Dipeptidyl peptidases and related proteins (basic science, inhibitors, clinical applications)**. Antwerp, Belgium. More information: <http://www.congressdpp2008.com>

May

5-9 May: **A management training week for life science researchers** in the Baltic Sea region, Berlin, Germany. Organized by EU-funded TRAYSS PRIME. More information: <http://www.scanbalt.org/trayss>

14-17 May: **European Congress on Obesity (ECO)**, Geneva. More information: <http://www.eco2008.org/index.htm>

16-17 May: **European Diabetic Nephropathy Study Group (EDNSG)**, Hannover, Germany. More information: carol.forsblom@hus.fi

June

1-4 June: **5th World Congress on Prevention of Diabetes and its Complications**. Helsinki, Finland More information: http://www.diabetes.fi/sivu.php?artikkeli_id=1778

6-10 June: **68th Scientific Sessions of the ADA**, San Francisco CA. More information: <http://scientificsessions.diabetes.org>

July

3-6 July: **Controversies in Cardiovascular Diseases** Berlin, Germany. More information: <http://www.comtecmed.com/ccare/2008/>

18-22 July: **Euroscience Open Forum ESOF** Science for a better life. Barcelona. More information: <http://www.esof2008.org/#%23>

August

13-16 August: **International Society for Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes (ISPAD)**. Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. More information: <http://www.ispad2008.com>

September

5-6 September: **13th FEND Annual Conference**. Rome, Italy More information: <http://www.fend.org/conf2008/conf08.html>

7-11 September: **44th Annual Meeting of the EASD**. Rome Italy. More information: <http://www.easd.org/>

October

1-4 October: **Endocrino 2008**. Lille, France. More information: <http://www.endocrino.net/>

30 October - 2 November: **Controversies in Diabetes, Obesity and Hypertension**. Barcelona, Spain More information: <http://www.codhy.com/>