



ArthritisHeal

Newsletter NO 1, June 2020

Chiara Ceconello, Daniela Costa, Konstantina Tsezou, Celia Cartagena García

In this issue:

Introduction

Kick-off meeting

Sciex training

COVID-19 and
ArthritisHeal

Introduction

ArthritisHeal is a consortium consisting of 12 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) and 12 Senior Researchers from companies and universities all over the Europe Union. Our aim is to independently and collectively research the therapeutic role of pro-resolving lipids in osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis. Our interdisciplinary centers possess state-of-the-art equipment that will allow us to perform metabolomic and lipidomic analyses, among others.

Kick-off meeting (the Netherlands)

Our first encounter took place on the 21st of November in Leiden, the Netherlands. Once we all gathered, Dr. Martin Giera and Dr. Marieke Bax introduced the project and the participants. Subsequently each Senior Researcher gave a 15-minute talk about their Laboratories and their areas of research, followed by a 5-minute speech by the ESRs presenting their future aims. The day was concluded with dinner, where everyone got the chance to socialise. The second and last day of the kick-off meeting focused on the description of the Work Packages, which form the pillars of ArthritisHeal. Keynote speakers including Prof. Derek Gilroy, Prof. Dr. Rene Toes, Prof. Dr. Margreet Kloppenburg provided greater insight into chronic inflammation, pro-resolution pathways, autoimmunity, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Osteoarthritis.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 812890.



Sciex training (Germany)

The ArthritisHeal consortium and AB Sciex developed a Lipidomics secondment, focused on QTRAP® mass spectrometers. 7 ESRs (Alice Bacon, Chiara Ceconello, Daniela Costa, Mohan Gorassaini, Jianyang Liu, Qiongfei Zhou and Benedikt Zöhrer) got the opportunity to take part of the course, which was held between 18th to 20th February in Darmstadt, Germany.

The 3 day course focused on theoretical introduction, tuning and calibration of the quadrupoles and linear ion trap, different scan modes and software tools for quantitation.

A special thanks to Dr. Dietrich Merkel and Dr. Joerg Schlotterbeck for supporting this training and sharing their knowhow with the ESRs involved.



COVID-19 and ArthritisHeal

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone worldwide, including ArthritisHeal. A summary of the newest EU measures for COVID-19 can be found in the link below:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/covid-19>

Us ESRs have adapted to the circumstances and have been working on our projects from home. Find out what each of us did during lockdown:

ESR1 ALICE BACON

“During the lockdown I worked from home in Leiden. I learned how to design DNA constructs for cloning with snappene software, followed online course mandatory for graduate school, I did bibliography/preparing presentations and worked on the electronic lab journal.”





ESR2 MOHAN GHORASAINI

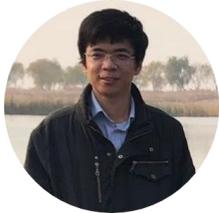
“I have been working from home during this lockdown. Mostly I have been working on data sets of my first project and writing for the paper. I have also been studying for a mandatory course for clinical researchers called eBROK.”

ESR3 LUIS ALMEIDA

“After prematurely leaving Marseille, I flew to Lisbon, where I've been for almost 3 months. During this time I've been working from home, reading papers and writing a review on the topic of fatty acid metabolism and myeloid cell function. Recently, due to some restrictions having been lifted in the Netherlands, I am now planning my return to the LUMC along with future experiments.”



ESR4 JIANGYANG LIU



“During these days, I have been doing some experiments in the lab. There are several different projects that will get started in the next weeks. Meanwhile, I am working on some courses and try to get some ideas about the literature review which I will write.”

ESR5 BENEDIKT ZÖHRER

“I moved to Stockholm in the beginning of March – right when the pandemic was hitting Europe. Therefore, I spent the first weeks of my PhD project working from home, reading literature, and participating in online courses, for example on R programming.”



ESR6 QIONGFEI ZHOU

“I have been working from home during the lockdown. I read some articles and joined some online workshops online.”

ESR7 PATRICIA RIEDLOVA

“During the lockdown, I have been working on my annual review, analysing results from the experiments I did before the lockdown, doing online R studio course and watching different webinars. Now I started working on a review paper and writing my thesis. I am planning to go home as soon as possible (once the borders reopen and quarantine will not be mandatory).”





ESR8 HANNEKE VERSTAPPEN

“During lockdown our lab was still open, so I was one of the lucky ones who could continue to work. I was very pleased with that, since I had started my project shortly before the pandemic arrived in Europe. I have mainly been occupied with setting up my experiments and getting the first results.”

ESR9 CHIARA CECCONELLO

“I have been working on my 9 months report (it is required by the Doctoral School here at QMUL), a book chapter I have to write together with my supervisor, and also I followed webinars and online courses on techniques/topics of interest of my research.”



ESR10 DANIELA COSTA

During COVID-19 lockdown, I have been writing my 9th month report and preparing my annual appraisal. I am been writing the introduction and the methods for my thesis. Cardiff University is keeping the post-graduate student seminars online and all first-year students, including myself, are presenting their work to the faculty. Hopefully, in the beginning of next month, I will be able to resume my laboratory work and catch up.”



ESR11 KONSTANTINA TSEZOU

“During the period of self-isolation, I have stayed home and extended my theoretical and analytical knowledge of NMR. Additionally, I have researched and become familiar with most Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs which will be useful for the pharmacometabolomic study I will be conducting. Moreover, I have worked on the website and newsletter and lastly started researching and writing a bibliographic review”



ESR12 CELIA CARTAGENA GARCIA

“During the lockdown I have been mainly working from home. I have been writing my first paper and reading literature. I have been also doing a compulsory course for the doctoral school and I attended some online trainings/webminars.”

