EULAC PerMed

NEWSLETTER 5
December 2021

STAY TUNED for EULAC-PerMed’s 2022 EVENTS in LATIN AMERICA!
3rd Summer School | Technical Workshop
More information coming soon

COMING UP!
Webinar on Personalised Medicine and Infectious Diseases
Dec 14, 2021 at 16:00 CET
More on pg. 3

JUST LAUNCHED!
ERA PerMed’s JTC2022 on ‘Prevention in Personalised Medicine’
Submission deadline: Feb 17, 2022
More on pg. 4

ICPerMed’s Best Practice in Personalised Medicine Recognition 2021
Open to candidates worldwide
Submission deadline: Jan 28, 2022
More on pg. 5

CHECK OUT!
EULAC-PerMed’s Clinical Trials Helpdesk
More on pg. 3

Stay posted on upcoming events
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This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 825173
From the Coordinator’s Desk

As the year 2021 is coming to an end, we would like to briefly review what this third year has been like for EULAC PerMed. Although face-to-face activities did not resume, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we did not linger and actively continued our actions by holding the planned events in a virtual format.

Within the project’s training activities, two exciting webinars on research in Personalised Medicine (PM) have been carried out, in which internationally renowned scientists shared with the wide audience their experiences and research in this field. It is also important to mention the webinar held in June providing extensive information on the new Horizon Europe funding program and its opportunities for international cooperation in research in PM (more on page 6). We are also pleased to announce the launch of EULAC-PerMed’s Clinical Trials Helpdesk. Located on the project website, it is a useful tool to facilitate EU-LAC PM research in clinical trials as it offers guidance on regulatory requirements as well as information on most relevant funding agencies in the two regions. We invite everyone to visit it (more on page 3)!

The upcoming year 2022 will be the last year of the EULAC PerMed project and efforts will be focused on collecting all the experiences and lessons learnt along these past years to come up with useful resources and recommendations for future collaborative efforts between the EU and LAC countries around PM. We face next year with aspiring enthusiasm and with the strong hope for much needed face-to-face gathering of the LAC and EU communities in PM, in such activities as the final summer school and last technical workshop, to tighten the connections and bonds between the regions formed in the framework of this project.

With my best wishes for the next year

Sincerely yours,
Esther Rodríguez
Webinar

Eulac-PerMed is pleased to continue its webinar series with some of the major topics in PM today. Save the date and register for our upcoming FREE webinar, which will take place on December 14th at 16:00 CET/10:00 EST. The webinar will focus on Personalised Medicine and Infectious Diseases and includes three excellent speakers from both LAC and EU regions:

**WEBINAR: PERSONALISED MEDICINE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

**DEC 14 | 16:00 CET / 10:00 EST**

**Dr. Marjorie Pion**
Hospital General Gregorio Marañon, Madrid, Spain

*Introduction to Personalised Medicine approaches in Infectious Diseases*

**Dr. Alexander A Martinez**
Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas de Estudio de la Salud
Panama, Panama

*Infectious Diseases: Personalised Medicine Relevance for clinical practice on LAC countries*

**Dr. Luigia Scudeller**
IRCCS Azienda Ospedaliero-Universitaria di Bologna, Italy

*Multidisciplinary international network (GAP-ONE): strategy to obtain estimates of costs attributable to AMR*

EULAC-PerMed’s Clinical Trials Helpdesk

EULAC-PerMed is happy to introduce the newly launched Clinical Trials Helpdesk. This tool aims to provide regulatory, funding and networking information for new EU-LAC personalised medicine clinical trials. The Clinical Trials Helpdesk has been built from the findings of a survey that was disseminated to EU and LAC researchers, regulators and funders working in the field of personalised medicine research. It is composed of three sections: 1. The section on “Regulatory requirements for clinical trials” provides a brief description of the overall regulatory framework for clinical trials in each country as well as links to the websites of the main regulatory bodies providing clearance for clinical trial initiation and marketing authorization, and as links to other regulatory bodies that must validate clinical trial applications; 2. The “Information on funding agencies for clinical trials” section provides links to the main funding bodies for clinical research in each country, and provides additional links to other organisations funding personalised medicine research where available; 3. The “Mapping areas of interest in personalised medicine” section presents the areas where the responders of the survey have most interest and see the most potential for international collaborations on personalised medicine research. Users can reach out to helpdesk@eulac-permed.eu for additional information.
OPEN CALLS FOR PROPOSALS:
ERA-PerMed: Joint Transnational Call 2022 on ‘Prevention in Personalised Medicine’

ERA PerMed is an ERA-Net Cofund, supported by 32 partners of 23 countries and co-funded by the European Commission. Thirty-three funding organisations, including CONFAP (Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa) from Brasil and ANID (Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo) from Chile, have agreed to launch the 5th joint transnational call (JTC) for multi-national interdisciplinary collaborative innovative research projects in PM. In this call ERA-PerMed aims to foster research on prevention in personalised medicine. The overarching goal of the call is the development of tailor-made strategies for prevention of disease and disease progression, at three different levels:

i. Preventive measures decreasing the rate of incidence (primary prevention)
ii. Early detection to increase the efficacy of a preventive therapy, even before symptoms are developed (secondary prevention)
iii. Interventions preventing disease recurrence or improving patients’ care and quality of life (tertiary prevention)

The deadline for the submission of the pre-proposals is February 17, 2022, 17:00 CET.

More information and application details can be found here.

A partnering tool that may assist in finding collaborators for submission of research proposals is provided by ICPerMed.

An open information day introducing the JTC2022 to the research community will be organised by ERA PerMed on December 9th, 2021, 13:00-14:30 CET

Register here
ICPerMed: “Best Practice in Personalised Medicine” Recognition 2021

ICPerMed is pleased to inform you that its fourth “Best Practice in Personalised Medicine” Recognition 2021 is now open for applications.

The objective of this Recognition is to honour, encourage, promote and disseminate outstanding evidence-based applications in the field of personalised medicine (PM), focusing on the implementation of PM research. The Recognition is open to candidates worldwide, who have published scientific papers (paper accepted by the respective editor) and/or developed best practice strategies (training programmes or interdisciplinary/intersectoral groups of collaboration) for implementation of PM approaches between 1 November 2019 and 31 December 2020. The deadline for proposal submission is 28 January 2022. Applications concerning an ongoing or recently accomplished training or collaboration need to be accompanied by supporting documentation.

The submission including the documents to be evaluated (single-stage evaluation) will only be accepted in English and only one submission per applicant is possible.

In 2022, those applications addressing outstanding PM outcomes will be announced as winners and will be invited to present their approaches during the next ICPeRMed Event. The winners will be honoured by a 500€ non-cash value support for dissemination.

More information on the ICPeRMed “Best Practice in Personalised Medicine” Recognition 2021 can be found here.
Past Activities

Webinar “Horizon Europe Funding Programme: relevant opportunities in Personalised Medicine for Non-European Countries”

Speaker: Bruno Mourenza, Senior Project Manager, APRE. In collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Health, Italy.

In this webinar, 72 participants from about 20 countries joined to hear about the new Horizon Europe programme. The talk included a brief explanation of the rules of participation with a focus on international cooperation, funding opportunities in PM - Work Programme 2021-2022 and an explanation on the Funding and Tender Portal.

The majority of the questions were, as expected, regarding the eligibility for participation and application of third countries. There was a high interest in the material presented. One of the main points that was uncovered during the webinar, was that the National Contact Point (NCP) figure is not yet well-known in many LAC countries and there was a bit confusion among participants between who can participate and who can receive EU funding under Horizon Europe.

Over 55 visualizations on YouTube and 141 on the webpage (of which 135 opened the Spanish version of the webpage) represent the immense interest in this type of information.

Webinar “In-silico Models and Personalised Medicine”

On November 25th, Dr. Anamaria Aranha Camargo from the Sirio Libanes Hospital in Brazil, and Dr. Marc Kirschner from Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH in Germany came together for a joint webinar focusing on in-silico models and personalised medicine. Dr. Aranha Camargo presented the current landscape of precision oncology in Brazil, providing an overview of the technologies that are currently available and applied in the country. Dr. Krischner, who leads the EUSTands4PM project presented an overview of this project, presenting its objectives, the reports, tools and publications that the project has developed thus far, and the upcoming ISO Technical Specification that the project has proposed. The recording of the webinar will be made available on the EULAC PerMed YouTube channel.
Workshop “Exchange on progress made and opportunities for bi-regional cooperation in research and innovation - one year after the agreement on the JIRI EU-CELAC 2021-2023 Strategic Roadmap”

The EU-LAC Foundation, in close collaboration with Mexico, in its capacity as Pro-Tempore Presidency of CELAC (PPT CELAC), the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, and the Coordinator of the LAC National Contact Points, organised the virtual Workshop titled “Exchange on progress made and opportunities for bi-regional cooperation in research and innovation - one year after the agreement on the JIRI EU-CELAC 2021-2023 Strategic Roadmap” which took place on Tuesday, 19 October 2021.

This initiative strived to follow up on the Eighth Senior Officials Meeting on the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JI-RI-SOM) held on 30 October 2020, wherein participants agreed on the “Strategic Roadmap 2021-2023” that gives way to the future steps to be taken to further develop the EU-CELAC Joint Research Area.

The objectives of this recent meeting were:

- To report on the process of the elaboration and approval of the Strategic Roadmap 2021-2023 of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JI-RI);
- To visualize the initiatives, programmes and instruments of the EU and LAC that have been adopted and that will be opened soon to strengthen the CELAC-EU Common Research Area, including funding sources, modalities, procedures and criteria for participation;
- Share information on the progress of the work in each of the JIRI pillars from November 2020 to October 2021;
- Generate an exchange of ideas and proposals on how to dynamise and concretise the initiatives in each of the pillars and achieve a greater impact.

As a follow-up of the Workshop, the following report, compiling the main information exchanged during the workshop, was prepared.

Feel free to review the webpage of the event. In the “Attachments” box on the right-hand side, you will find the PPTs that were presented by some of the participants of the Workshop.
ERA-PerMed: Joint Transnational Call 2021 on ‘MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS ON PERSONALISED MEDICINE – DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICAL SUPPORT TOOLS FOR PERSONALISED MEDICINE IMPLEMENTATION

22 projects, chosen from an initial application of 204 proposals, will be funded under ERA PerMed’s JTC2021 with a total funding volume of 26.776.871 €. Twenty seven out of the 31 funding agencies that participated in the call are involved in the funding of the 22 projects.

The funding agencies from LAC region countries that participated in this call were: CONFAP, BRASIL; ANID, CHILE; and SENACYT (Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia tecnología e Innovación), PANAMA.

Among the projects selected for funding, we are happy to inform you that the research group of Dr. Mazzoncini de Azevedo Marques from the Ribeirão Preto Medical School at University of São Paulo will be funded by FAPESP, as they are partners in the project “PRE-CARE ML: Predicting Cardiovascular Events Using Machine Learning”.

For more information, please contact the Joint Call Secretariat of JTC2021: mj.ruizalvarez-esterno@sanita.it
Internationalisation of ICPerMed activities

The last ICPerMed Family Meeting took place recently on the 9th-10th of November and covered several key aspects of PM. EULAC PerMed participated in the internationalisation session on the second day of the meeting.

The session, which was moderated by Esther Rodriguez, EULAC-PerMed’s coordinator, started with an introductory speech by Astrid Vicente, vice-chair of ICPerMed, who set the scene for the importance of international cooperation in PM. This was followed by the presentations of each one of the four Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) that have an agenda of international collaboration around PM: IC2PerMed, SINOPerMed, both to foster the cooperation with China, EU-AFRICA PerMed for reinforcing bonds with the African continent and EULAC PerMed for collaborations with Latin-American and Caribbean countries. These CSAs are funded by the European Commission and work in close collaboration with ICPerMed. Each project gave a general overview on their objectives, the potential impact and added value seek for each region and the main hurdles and facilitators found in the way of international cooperation.

Two external experts were also invited as use-cases on international cooperation with the EU. On the one side, Serena Scollen from Beyond 1 Million Genome (B1MG) project shared her views on how to foster cross country collaboration in PM and the ways to link B1MG with the next European Partnership in PerMed (EP in PM). On the other, Rizwana Mia from the South African Medical research Council (SAMRC) exposed the particular expectations of her country on its integration within ICPerMed and its participation in ERA PerMed JTC.

The session ended with an active section for Q&A between the audience and the speakers. The conclusions will be published soon on the EULAC PerMed website.

To keep up-to-date with the activities and news from the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed), we recommend reading its latest newsletter issue, which can be found here and checking out the constantly updated website. This issue includes new Best Practice examples in PM and much more. To learn about ICPerMed and related initiatives watch the recently made videos, which provide valuable visual information on the various activities carried out by ICPerMed and ICPerMed Family.