

The first appointment (1st annual meeting COST Action CA15135), fixed during the kickoff meeting in Buxelles on April 18 2016, was regularly organized and carried out in Lugano at the Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI), in two days (July 21-22 2016). The invitations to participate were done to all 30 countries currently adhering the COST Action. The effective participation was consistent, since 24 out of 30 countries were present with medicinal chemistry scientists with different competencies from computational chemistry, to synthesis and biological evaluation. Also one colleague from Tunisia and different members working in Pharma and Biotech companies presented their contributions or simply attended the meeting organized at the new and modern Aula magna at USI in Lugano, where the local organizers (Prof. Vittorio Limongelli and his team) efficiently set up the working activities of both days. The introduction of the meeting was carried out by the COST Action Chair, Prof. Stefano Alcaro, who quickly presented the aim of the first activity organized in six sessions and thirty oral communications. Three of them plenary lectures carried out by eminent Switzerland scientists, who focused on different scientific themes related to the COST Action. The first plenary communication was performed by Dr Marco Zardi and Dr Paolo Gerli. They cared about two central issues in the drug development, i.e. the intellectual property and patents. Then Dr Driano Fabbro, currently CSO at PQUR therapeutics in Basel, spoke about an interesting case study in the development of novel inhibitors PI3K, considered as one of the most intriguing and promising target in future anticancer therapy. Finally, last plenary lecture was carried out by the eminent Prof. Michele Parrinello (ETH, Zurich, CH). He invented one of the most trusted and considered computational method used in molecular dynamics worldwide. Recently, he significantly improved the method with the metadynamic implications, extensively described in his talk. All other oral and poster communications were delivered by COST Action members or participants from all parties, as reported in the book of the abstracts available on line at www.mutalig.eu. In particular, following the COST Association guidelines, early carrier investigators (ECIs) and Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) were invited to actively participate at the meeting presenting oral or poster communications. Also the gender equality was taken into account in this context. During the meeting, in order to involve as much as possible the COST audience, the organizing committee decided to gift the best poster with an official award selected by a commission of expert. They carefully analyzed the contents of all posters and deliberated as the most interesting that of Nuria Campillo, researcher from the Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas (CIB-CSIC, Madrid (Spain)). During the second day, the MC meeting was carried out with representative MC members or substitutes coming from all invited countries. The legal number was achieved, since 24 out of 30 parties were represented. The discussion of the agenda was carried out point-by-point. In particular, the MC meeting discussed about the rules of participation at the STSM programs, the inclusion of additional non-European partners, the web site update and the dissemination activities. Then a round table, followed by most of the participants, concluded the meeting.

In conclusion this first meeting was definitively successful in terms of participation and achievements of all outputs defined for this event, i.e.: knowledge exchange, increase the visibility of action activity, networking activities, short and long term action planning, ECI promotion and STSM selection criteria. The COST Action Chair concluded the meeting acknowledging the local organizing staff and promoting the interaction among research groups, looking forward to the next MuTaLig appointments.

Catanzaro, August 17th 2016

Prof. Stefano Alcaro

Chair of COST Action CA15135

Photo gallery of the 1st annual meeting of COST Action CA15135, 21-22 July 2016, Lugano (CH)





















