

### **Report of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of COST Action CA15135 – La Valletta (Malta) October 18-19 2018**

The third annual meeting of the COST Action CA15135 has been performed at La Valletta in the beautiful context of the Historical building of the University of Malta in two intensive days: October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2019. The organization of meeting and the social activities were found to be outstanding, thanks to the very good job performed by the MC members for Malta Claire Shoemake and David Magri.

The annual meeting corresponds to the first event of the second half period of the COST Action. Therefore, our attention was dedicated to applications of the topics of the MuTaLig COST Action with respect to industrial outcomes. Plenary lectures were given by scientists coming from successful small companies (Molirom, Lead Discovery Siena, Biki Technologies, Heptares Therapeutics, Nostrum Biodiscovery) coming from Italy, Spain and UK. They reported their experience in the field of drug discovery, with special emphasis on the multi-target issue, and stimulated the discussion about the know-how in the field and about scientific technological transfer. Another well valued plenary lecture was given by Paola Barraja (University of Palermo, Italy), associate editor of the Eur J Med Chem, who reported an interesting repurposing study. In addition, she gave to the audience an update about the currently active special issue on MTDLs. Other qualified talks, mostly given by experts of the four MuTaLig WGs, completed the scientific contributions/discussion during the meeting. Globally 6 plenary lectures, 20 short and 48 poster communications were presented. During the poster sessions a commission constituted by three industrial partners selected the best poster award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> MuTaLig annual meeting.

The participants were about 120, covering 23 different countries out of the 33 composing the pan-European parties of the COST Action. Some of them were also new entries belonging to academic and industrial institutions, such as University of Malaga (Spain), University of Milan (Italy), University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy), University of Würzburg (Germany) and Angelini SpA (Italy).

As required in the annual event the MC meeting was included and realized during the afternoon of the first day. It was done with the majority of adhering countries and with the support of Lucia Forzi, our Science Officer from the COST Association in Bruxelles, who helped us in the discussion of all issues. In particular, a special emphasis was dedicated to the financial re-modulation, announced by the Science Officer, for the current and the next grant period as well as some key points that needed to be improved in the second half of the MuTaLig COST Action life. Among them, the potentiation of the Chemotheca is still a central issue. During the meeting the Chair and other Members reminded to all participants the importance of contribute inserting chemical structures available in their laboratory into the Chemotheca, using the web service at [chemotheca.unicz.it](http://chemotheca.unicz.it) as well as its support facilities. The currently open special issue on “Multi-Target Drug Discovery: an opportunity for novel and repurposed bioactive compounds” on Eur J Med Chem, available on line at [www.journals.elsevier.com/european-journal-of-medicinal-chemistry/news/call-for-papers-for-two-new-special-issues](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/european-journal-of-medicinal-chemistry/news/call-for-papers-for-two-new-special-issues), represents a great occasion to enlarge the industrial involvement as it is an opportunity to publish a mini-review or a research article strictly pertinent to the scope. An extension of the deadline (one additional month) has been informally accepted by the Editor in Chief. However, the recommendation for the MuTaLig community is to prepare and submit a contribution within the end of this year.

During the conclusive round table the next deadlines to STSM and ITC Conference grants for the third grant period were announced. Instructions are available at [www.mutalig.eu/short-term-scientific-missions](http://www.mutalig.eu/short-term-scientific-missions) and [www.mutalig.eu/itc-conference-grants](http://www.mutalig.eu/itc-conference-grants). As concerns the next MuTaLig organization Sheraz Gul, our MC substitute for Germany, presented to the audience the 3<sup>rd</sup> Training School of the MuTaLig COST Action, that will be held in Hamburg (DE) at Fraunhofer IME-SP from 5 to 7 December 2018. The instructions for the participation are included at [www.mutalig.eu/training-schools](http://www.mutalig.eu/training-schools) within the deadline of

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November 16<sup>th</sup> 2018. All participants, and especially young investigators from all MuTaLig participating countries., are warmly invited to apply to this training school.

Finally, the conclusion of the meeting was celebrated with the assignment of the best poster award selected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual MuTaLig COST Action meeting. The winner of this edition was Anna Wieckowska (Jagiellonian University Medical College, Kraków, Poland) for her poster contribution #46 “Multifunctional ligands targeting cholinesterases, 5-HT<sub>6</sub> receptors and  $\beta$ -amyloid.”

All additional updates will be posted in the MuTaLig web [www.mutalig.eu](http://www.mutalig.eu) as soon as possible.

Catanzaro, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

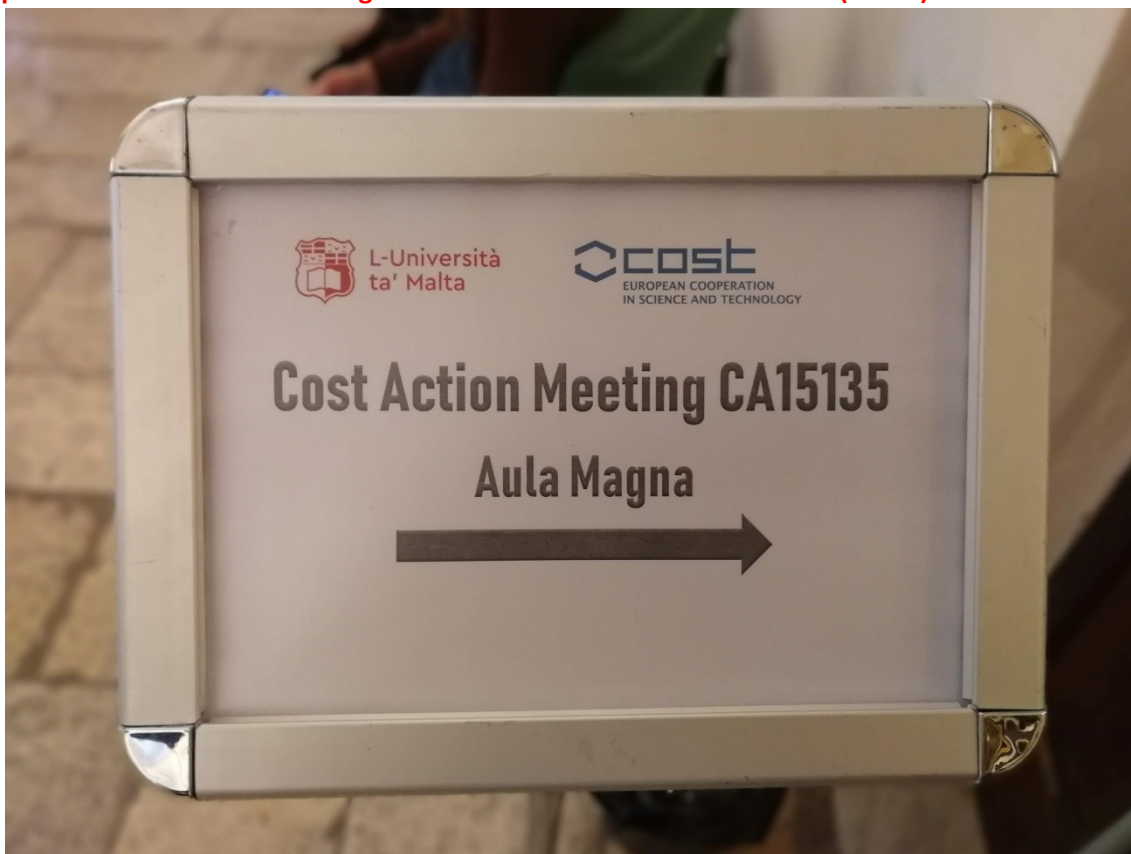
  
Prof. Stefano Alcaro

Chair of COST Action CA15135

### Photo gallery of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting



Meeting venue at the Valletta historical building of the Malta University.



Meeting venue at the Valletta historical building of the Malta University.



Aula Magna at the Valletta historical building of the Malta University.





Oral communication by Robert Soliva.



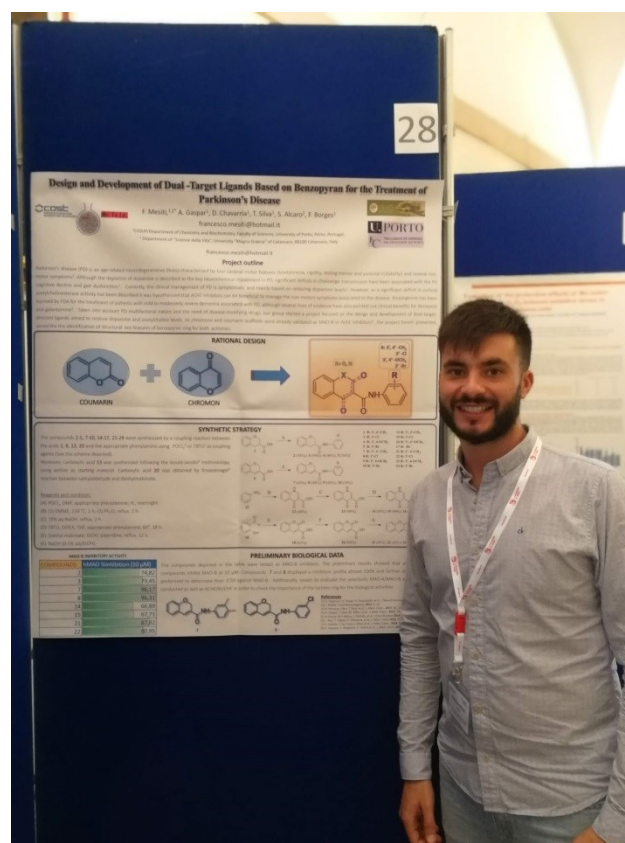
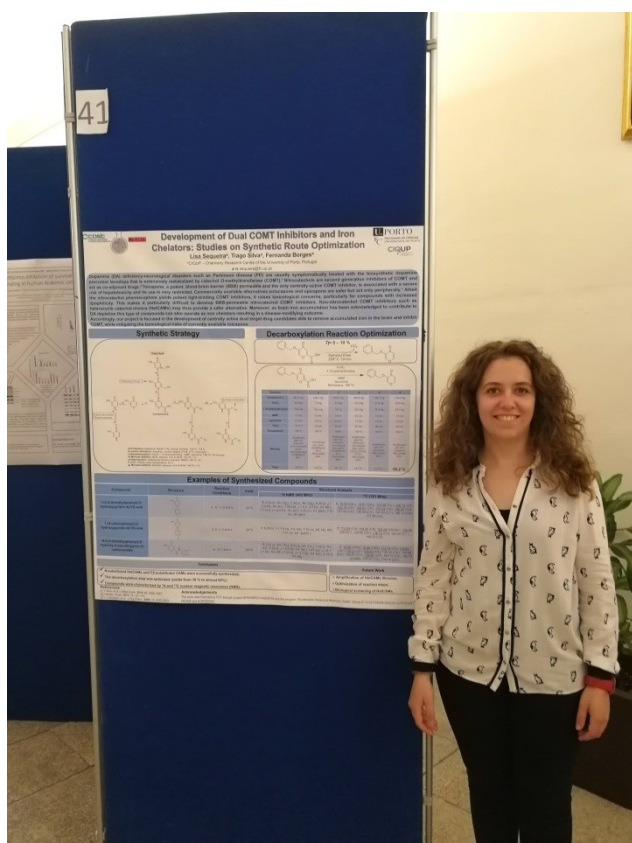
Oral communication by Alfonso Garcia-Sosa.



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Oral communications by Chris de Graaf (left) and Claude Farrugia (right).



Poster communications by Lisa Sequeira (left) and Francesco Mesiti (right).





Best poster award to Anna Wieckowska.



Group photo with MuTaLig participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in Malta.



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Dinners during the social program of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in Malta.



Group photo with MuTaLig participants to the social program of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting in Malta.

