

Minutes from 2nd Working Group 2 Session

COST Action no. FA1408

Action Title: A European Network for Foodborne Parasites (Euro-FBP)

Venue: Faculty of Medicine, Ljubljana, Slovenia. 26th September
2016, 11.30-12.30 / 13:30-14:30

Subject: Minutes of the second Working Group 2 Session (1st group meeting of Year 2) of COST Action FA1408 “A European Network for Foodborne Parasites”

Top 1: Overview of expected objectives, outcomes and sub-tasks of WG2 (WG2 leader, C. Klotz)

- An overview of the expected outcomes and sub-tasks of WG2 was given (Please refer to Annex 1, PowerPoint presentation of WG2 session)

Top 2: Wrap-up of past events

2a: Workshop June 2016 in Berlin 'Towards a consensus on subtyping schemes for surveillance and outbreak investigations of Cryptosporidium'

- A report of the workshop topics and outcomes was presented by Rachel Chalmers during the general assembly of the COST action (26th Sept., 11.05-11.25). For further information: Please refer to the uploaded PowerPoint presentation or to the Workshop report published in Euro Surveillance: Chalmers R, Cacciò S. Towards a consensus on genotyping schemes for surveillance and outbreak investigations of Cryptosporidium, Berlin, June 2016. Euro Surveill. 2016;21(37):pii=30338. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2016.21.37.30338>

Top 3: Update and strategy discussion of ongoing projects/tasks

3a: Information of 'Expert Labs' (Sub-task 1 and 3; Christian Klotz). Overview and discussion about next steps (dissemination etc).

- Status report was given by Christian Klotz. For further information: Please refer to Annex 1, PowerPoint presentation of WG2 session or the presentation at the meeting on Analytical and Diagnostic Methods for FBP (27th September 2016, 'Towards generating a map of European laboratories involved in detection and diagnosis of foodborne parasites' (O FBP 0-1) by Christian Klotz)
- A core group 'Expert labs and methods for FBP' was established to facilitate the accomplishment of the task. The following members of the core group were confirmed by the participating WG2 members: Christian Klotz (Germany), Titia Kortbeek (Netherlands), Michal Slany (Czech Republic), Ricardo Santos (Portugal)
- The core group will also be responsible for Sub-task 4 to collect methods to analyze different food matrices and to diagnose FBP in humans and animals (see Top 3b)
- It is aimed to provide a first list of labs on the Euro-FBP webpage (members section) by January 2017

3b: Collection of 'Methods' to analyze different food matrices and to diagnose FBP in humans and animals (Sub-task 4; Michal Slany). Overview and discussion about next steps (dissemination etc).

- Status report was given by Michal Slany. For further information: Please refer to the presentation at the meeting on Analytical and Diagnostic Methods for FBP (27th September 2016, 'Currently used methods for detection of foodborne parasites: Euro-FBP survey' by Michal Slany (O FBP 0-2))
- A core group 'Expert labs and methods for FBP' was established to facilitate the accomplishment of the sub-task. The following members of the core group were confirmed by the participating WG2 members: Christian Klotz (Germany), Titia Kortbeek (Netherlands), Michal Slany (Czech Republic), Ricardo Santos (Portugal)
- The core group will also be responsible for Sub-tasks 1 and 3 to identify European laboratories involved in detection and diagnosis of foodborne parasites (see Top 3a)
- It is attempted to provide a first list of labs on the Euro-FBP webpage (members section) by January 2017
- It is aimed to provide a first collection of methods on the Euro-FBP webpage (members section) by Spring 2017
- A possible meeting on the topic together with a meeting on diagnostics (sub-task 7) in Year 3 or 4 of the action was discussed. No decision was made.

3c: Towards preparing guidelines for method validation and QC (Sub-task 5, R. Chalmers, M. Lalle). Discussion on how to tackle and initiate the task.

- A brief note was given by Rachel Chalmers on how to tackle this task. In particular, the importance to identify already existing guidelines was highlighted, as this will help to identify specific gaps for foodborne parasites. Possible problems for rare diseases were envisioned.
- A possible workshop in Year 3 was discussed in order to accomplish the sub-task. No decision was made.

3d: Transfer of Methods and techniques (sub-task 2). General discussion about experience with STSMs from WG2 members

- The importance of STSMs for the success of the COST action was highlighted and WG2 members were motivated to disseminate the information to potential candidates.
- It was suggested to generate a host-institution database (will be considered by the STSM responsible person, Ricardo Santos).

Top 4: Upcoming events or actions/Dissemination

4a: Training schools (TS) (Subtask 2 and 7)

- **TS on 'next generation sequencing tools'**
According to our last WG2 meeting a TS on NGS was envisioned for Spring 2017 but due to time and budget constraints this will be unlikely possible. Karin Troell was nominated during the last WG2 meeting to evaluate the possibility of such a TS on NGS: she gave a brief note to suggest a more 'theoretical' TS including information on current tools. It was further discussed that the TS could be divided in a more general part for 2-3 days and a more specific part for 2 days, including for instance analysis of data from participants.
- **TS on 'Cryptosporidium typing'**
During the Workshop on Cryptosporidium typing in Berlin it was suggested to initiate a training school on the subject for people who could not attend the workshop. Rachel Chalmers gave a brief note on the difficulties to find appropriate conditions to organize such a TS. She suggested to produce an educational video documentation on the subject, which can be freely distributed to the interested public, but would need funding to pay for the production. The participating members of the WG2 session agreed that this would be the most efficient way to disseminate the information on the subject.
Alternatively, a panel could present the critical factors of each step with a "question and answer" session.
- **TS on 'molecular methods'**
During general discussion a desire was expressed by several WG2 members to perform a TS on 'molecular methods'. It was suggested to evaluate for instance the possibility to organize a TS on multiplex analysis of fecal samples by real time PCR methods. No decision was made.

4b: Other events to be planned according to the Memorandum of the COST action.

- Due to time constraints a deeper discussion on the future events of WG2 was not possible. The decisions will be postponed to early 2017. As noted in the Minutes from

4th Management Committee Meeting the possibility of a TS (and other events) planning meeting in Berlin or Brussels during early 2017 was raised.

4c: Publications. Discussion about possible publications.

- One publication on the outcomes of the Cryptosporidium typing WS (sub-task 6) is planned for 2017.
- Dissemination of the expert labs and methods for FBP (see above 3a and 3b) on the Euro-FBP webpage is planned for 2017.

Top 5: Miscellaneous, general discussion

- General topics were mainly discussed during the aforementioned discussions/topics.