

Newsletter #6 of the ENABLE project

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In Brief

Here are key events that happened within ENABLE over the past months



Welcome David Holmes as new project coordinator

Dr David Holmes, Scientific Director in the Antibacterial Discovery Performance Unit at GlaxoSmithKline, joins ENABLE as a new EFPIA coordinator.

David received his Bachelor degree in Biochemistry from King's College, University of London, UK. He then began his postgraduate studies on antibiotic mode of action and resistance in antibiotic-producing organisms at the University of Leicester, UK and received a Ph. D. in Molecular Genetics. He completed his post-doctoral research in antibiotic-induced gene expression in bacteria at the Institut Pasteur, Paris, France.

Following 3 years in France he joined GlaxoSmithKline (SmithKline Beecham at the time) in 1992 in the Centro de Investigacion Basica, Tres Cantos, Madrid, Spain to study secondary metabolite production by soil micro-organisms. David subsequently transferred to the antibacterial research unit in Upper Providence, PA in 1997 and has held positions of increasing responsibility where he is currently head of Microbial Genetics. He has been involved in all stages of drug development up to Phase 2 clinical trials.

One of his key roles at GSK has been to establish partnerships with academics and SMEs to combine GSK's expertise in antibiotic drug discovery with novel technologies and approaches brought by external experts. He looks forward to continuing supporting the search for and development of novel antimicrobial agents through collaboration with a wide range of drug discovery specialists as part of the ENABLE framework. He joins at an exciting time when programs are declaring new leads and selecting candidate molecules to advance to the clinic.



ENABLE welcomes EVOTEC as a new partner

Following the announcement of a strategic transaction from Sanofi to EVOTEC, the former Sanofi's Infectious diseases therapeutic area was officially integrated within Evotec AG, as of July 1st.

The ENABLE partners remain the same, only their affiliation changed. EVOTEC has now taken-over Sanofi's contribution to the ENABLE consortium, making sure that the consortium continues building on its expertise.

[Access to EVOTEC press release](#)



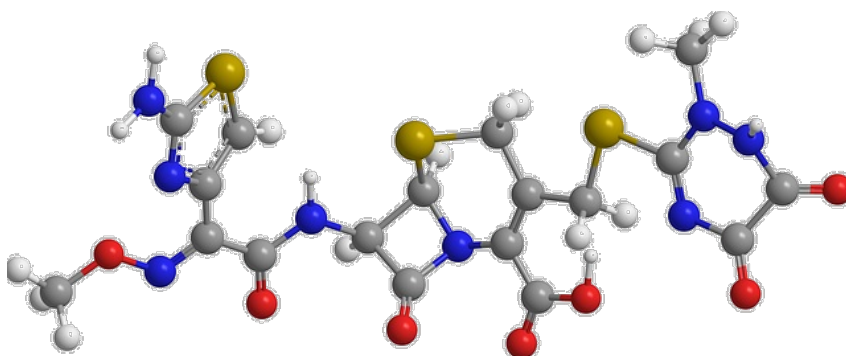
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Focus on

Let us introduce one of the partners who make it possible for ENABLE to exist.

Chemistry Platform



The chemistry platform is by far the largest expertise hub within ENABLE.

More than 30 chemists work at 6 different sites on ENABLE programmes. They advise on structures, synthesize compounds, optimize reactions, plan and explore synthetic routes, perform scale up work and ship compounds for evaluation.

Fredrik Björkling, Professor of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Copenhagen and **Johan Gising**, Researcher at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Uppsala lead the chemistry platform. Both ensure that new programmes to ENABLE are connected to the right chemistry site and expertise. They co-lead individual programmes and make sure that the available scientific resources are optimally used.

... about the tasks of the chemistry platform

"The chemists design and synthesise new compounds to be tested in antimicrobial assays. In their work, they use computational chemistry methods to virtually design new compounds and predict compound properties. Thereafter compounds are prepared in the laboratory via organic chemistry techniques. If identified as promising, the compounds are scaled up and further tested in cellular and animal models of infection.

Leading the ENABLE chemistry platform means deciding which of our capacities help each individual programme to advance as fast as possible. It is our task to integrate new partners in the smoothest possible way. While some programmes might benefit most from our experts and laboratories in Copenhagen, others might need the skills from one of the other chemistry sites, Uppsala, Helsinki, Amsterdam, Riga and/or Södertälje."

... and about the partners' individual capabilities

"The six chemistry sites are at the universities in Uppsala, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Helsinki and at LIOS in Riga and RISE in Södertälje. LIOS is the largest site, with 20 chemists. Usually, earlier programmes ie those in Hit-to-Lead stage, start at the

university sites. Later stage programmes such as those in Lead-to-Candidate, often involve compound scale up and would rather need the resources and skills at LIOS. To support programmes progressing towards Candidate drug, RISE can handle large scale up work in kg amounts under CMC (chemistry, manufacturing and control) conditions”

... so many partners – how do you work together?

“We have monthly meetings! Besides these regular meetings, we are in close contact with each other to organise the shipping, synthesis and testing of compounds. Since the start of ENABLE, we have established a good routine and well working communication channels. Thus, in this extensive international collaboration a rapid exchange of compounds and data is very important to provide an efficient test and feedback cycle to progress the programmes in a timely manner.”

... and what do you think is most valuable within ENABLE?

“ENABLE is a highly collaborative initiative: partners from all over Europe with backgrounds in science and industry have joined the project with their broad expertise. ENABLE has succeeded to combine the innovations provided by the project owners from academia and SMEs with the extensive skills and expertise in antimicrobial drug discovery and development from large pharma. Thus, a fruitful combination of innovation and industrial efficiency with great benefits for all.”

Focus on IMI

Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 funding opportunities, July 2018

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) has now launched its 15th and 16th Calls for proposals under IMI2. The Calls give researchers from diverse sectors the opportunity to participate in ambitious public-private partnerships that will pave the way for the development of the medicines of the future.

Introducing the AMR Accelerator – The aim of the new IMI2 AMR Accelerator is to progress the development of new medicines to treat or even prevent resistant bacterial infections in Europe and worldwide. The programme comprises three pillars, supported by Astra Zeneca, Janssen and two of our ENABLE partners: GSK and EVOTEC. A Capability Building Network will coordinate the programme and carry out research to strengthen the scientific basis in the AMR field, while the Tuberculosis Drug Development Network will work to accelerate the discovery of new combinations of drugs to treat TB. Finally, Portfolio Building Networks will support collaborative efforts to discover, develop and advance new and innovative agents to prevent or treat AMR. The scope of the AMR Accelerator is broad; under one structure, it will address many of the scientific challenges of AMR, and it will support the development of new ways to prevent AMR (including vaccines) and treatments (including new antibiotics). More broadly, the IMI2 AMR Accelerator also contributes to the European action plan on AMR, which includes a chapter on boosting research, development and innovation for AMR.

[More information](#)

ENABLE within ND4BB

Alongside the project ENABLE, our partners are deeply involved in the anti-microbial R&D community.



COMBACTE Video published

COMBACTE released its second video during the ECCMID 2018 in Madrid to celebrate the milestones it has reached. Since the start of COMBACTE in 2013, hundreds of clinical trial sites have taken part in the COMBACTE studies, making possible the enrollment of more than 9000 patients. COMBACTE’s network currently includes more than 900 clinical trial sites in 42 European countries, and 657 diagnostic labs in 41 countries.



Publications in the ND4BB project Translocation

During the project duration, Translocation has published more than 90 publications in diverse journals...

Discover all publications

ENABLE in action

Alongside the project ENABLE, our partners are deeply involved in the anti-microbial R&D community.

Conferences

- Jonathan Tyrrell from Cardiff university presented ENABLE at Oxford university on July 18th.
- Anders Karlén from UU presented ENABLE at the Almedalen Week in Visby, Sweden from July 1st - July 7th.
- Eric Bacqué, EVOTEC, presented ENABLE at the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 (IMI2) AMR Accelerator-Expert-Workshop in Bonn on June 29th.
- Christopher Schofield, Oxford University, presented ENABLE at the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) event in Brussels on June 27th: celebrating 10 years of medical innovations. [Download the agenda of the meeting](#)
- Tony Maxwell gave an invited presentation at the Gordon Research Conference on DNA Topoisomerases in Biology & Medicine: "Microcin B17, a Microbial Toxin that Targets DNA Gyrase: Activity, Biosynthesis and Impact on Human Health"

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