

Newsletter #5 of the ENABLE project

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In Brief

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



Save the Date – Annual Meeting 2018

The next ENABLE Annual Meeting will take place in Riga, Latvia from 10-12 September 2018. Professor Edgars Suna from the Latvian Institute of Organic Synthesis will welcome the ENABLE team at the Radisson Blue Daugava hotel.

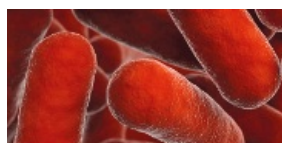


Welcome Marie Olliver from Uppsala University

Marie joins ENABLE as a programme manager. She will be responsible for the coordination of preclinical activities in work package 6 and liaise with the teams to develop project plans, evaluate resource requirements, assess risks as well as enhance the communication between the teams and the CMO.

Marie holds a PhD in immunology from Karolinska Institutet where her research focused on human dendritic cells and their response to bacterial pathogens and immunomodulatory agents. Her post-doc research involved mechanism of action studies of novel vaccine adjuvants, which led her to a position as a Clinical Project Manager in a small vaccine company. This is also where she gained experience in drug development and early phase clinical trials. However, her strong interest in antibiotic resistance research was already developed 15 years ago - during her microbiology studies at Uppsala University.

Within ENABLE she is looking forward to working with the different multidisciplinary teams. One challenge she foresees within ENABLE – and drug development in general – is the complex pathway, with multiple interdependent preclinical activities, to reach a successful first clinical trial application. Her goal for 2018 is to move antibiotic candidates as close as possible to first-in-human clinical trials. Looking forward and welcome Marie!



13th Berlin Conference on Life Sciences
Novel Antimicrobials and AMR Diagnostic

More

ENABLE at the Berlin Conference on Life Sciences

The [Berlin Conference](#) on “Novel Antimicrobials and AMR Diagnostics” took place on March 2nd, 2018 in the Fraunhofer-Forum in Berlin. The conference brought together more than 200 people from science and business, investors and policy makers, startups and health economists to highlight the most promising technologies, to showcase best-practice examples and discuss successful business strategies in the AMR market. Together with the European Investment Bank,

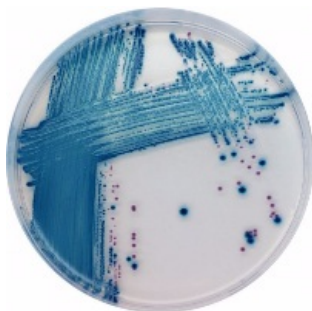
CARB-X and GARDP, ENABLE contributed to the program and took part in the interactive market place – a session on financing and funding opportunities for SMEs active in the AMR field.

[Article on the conference](#)

Focus on

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

Microbiology Platform



The microbiology (in vitro microbiology) platform is the second largest ENABLE expertise hub. Overall, ENABLE currently employs 11 FTE at Uppsala University, Cardiff University, the Hospital Ramon y Cajal in Madrid and at the National Medicines Institutes in Poland. Upon request, the Hvidovre Hospital in Copenhagen also supplies clinical isolates to the teams.

Diarmaid Hughes leads the largest microbiology hub at Uppsala University and gave some insights into the microbiology platform, partners' specific capabilities, how the different hubs interact and what changes to expect when the ENABLE programmes move forward:

... what are the tasks of our microbiology platform?

"First of all, there is a huge need within ENABLE to carry out routine screening on all new compounds – MIC to get basic data on activity, efflux liabilities, and spectrum of activity, time-kill analysis to support PK/PD modelling. If compounds show some promise, MIC90 assays, frequency of resistance, selection of resistant mutants, mutant identification and so on are performed. In addition, we use advanced bacterial genetics methods to construct specific isogenic bacterial strains to support hypothesis testing.

Understanding the microbiology of a compound is really at the heart of antibiotic research."

... and about the partners' individual capabilities

"Each hub has a different focus, Uppsala University for instance supplies most of the capacity in mutant selection, whole genome sequencing and sequence analysis, as well as doing all of the basic clinical microbiology assays. Our hubs in Madrid and Warsaw are deeply involved in [EUCAST](#) (The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing), have special expertise in clinical microbiology assays and extensive collections of clinical isolates from around Europe. Madrid holds special expertise in the area of plasmid-borne resistance and Cardiff has strong competences in clinical isolates from around the world – in particular from countries with high frequencies of Multi Drug Resistance!"

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

"We have regular virtual Platform meetings (teleconferences) and keep in touch per mail. **It is important to exchange views and discuss which programmes of assays should be performed at which hub** – each time considering existing expertise and capacity. Hence, we are regularly shipping strains between the hubs."

... and how will the platforms change with ENABLE programmes moving forward?

“Because the IMI funding model requires partners to pay part of the cost themselves, the size of each microbiology hub is limited by the amount of co-funding available at each side.”

ENABLE in action

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

Conferences

- Asclepia (2017): Presentation of ENABLE at the BioEurope to find new potential EoI submitting parties
- Sanofi (2017): About the challenges to develop new antibiotics active on Gram-negative strains. Presentation at the Journée Infections Nosocomiales in Lyon
- University of Helsinki (2017): Metallo- β -lactamase inhibitors: Enabling antibiotics to combat multidrug resistant bacteria. Presentation at the Faculty Seminar at UH

Publications

- Chen et al (2017): Thiophene antibacterials that allosterically stabilize DNA-cleavage complexes with DNA gyrase, *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2017, E4492–E4500; doi:10.1073/pnas1700721114
- EBN (2017): ENABLE Press Release Three lead structures from SMEs identified for novel antibiotics ([Link](#))
- Rabanal et al (2017): Design, Synthesis and Activity of New Polymyxins, in: *Proceedings 2017*, 1(6), 662; doi:10.3390/proceedings106066
- Segovia et al (2017): Design of New Polymyxins with Reduced Nephrotoxicity, in: *Proceedings of the 3rd Int. Electron. Conf. Med. Chem.*, 1–30 November 2017; Sciforum Electronic Conference Series, Vol. 3, 2017 ; doi:10.3390/ecmc-3-04689
- Uppsala University - Interview for a report about ENABLE in the Nordic Life Sciences titled "Antibiotic Advances" ([Link](#))
- Vaara et al (2017): The polymyxin derivatives NAB739 and NAB815 are more effective than polymyxin B in 3 murine *Escherichia coli* pyelonephritis, in: *J Antimicrob Chemother.* 2018 Feb 1;73(2):452-455. doi: 10.1093/jac/dkx394.

IMI Announcement

IMI 10th anniversary scientific symposium in October 2018

IMI organises a first Scientific Symposium on **22 and 23 October 2018 in Brussels** to put a spotlight on the many scientific achievements of its projects.

Since IMI was initiated in 2008, it has launched almost 100 projects, all of which take a collaborative, open innovation approach to some of the biggest challenges in medical research and drug development today, such as - among others - severe asthma, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes or cancer. The scientific programme of the Scientific Symposium will cover four areas in four half-day sessions, reflecting the particular advantages of conducting research in PPP consortia. The programme has been published on the [IMI website](#).

IMI also invites its projects to submit an abstract to one or more of the areas covered by the scientific programme ([more information here](#)). Deadline for submission is 07 April 2018.

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