

Newsletter #3 of the ENABLE project

To read our previous issues, [click here](#)



In Brief

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



ENABLE goes live on Twitter

To stay updated about the project and related fields, follow us on Twitter.

To contribute and help us become a trend, use #ENABLE.

[ENABLE on Twitter](#)

OPEN CALL

Open Call for Non-clinical Safety experts

In February and March we looked for new partners to conduct non-clinical development.

The call is now closed, thank you to all applicants.

[More news](#)



ENABLE reviewed at the IMI office

The ENABLE project underwent its mid-term interim review at the IMI office in Brussels, on April 26th.

[More news](#)

ENABLE welcomes four new partners



University of
St Andrews



Four new partners were selected through our open call for expert partners in bacterial potentiation and small molecule uptake. We are pleased to welcome:

- the CNRS with the contribution of Prof. Isabelle Schalk and her team.

To learn more about their work, [click here](#)

- the University of St Andrews with the contribution of Prof. James Naismith and his team.

To learn more about their work, [click here](#)

- the Helmholtz Center für Infektionsforschung with the contribution of Prof. Mark Brönstrup and his team.

To learn more about their work, [click here](#)

- the Forschungszentrum Borstel with the contribution of Dr. Dominik Schwudke and his team.

To learn more about their work, [click here](#)



ENABLE Health Check Survey

Reaching the mid-term of the programme, the Consortium Management Office felt it was important to assess the overall satisfaction of ENABLE partners.

To do so, an online questionnaire was sent out to all members. They were asked to give input on what is working well and where they see potential for improvement.

Thanks to the great participation of partners across the whole consortium, the Consortium Management Office will now be working on specific items to address the raised concerns of ENABLE partners on the three surveyed areas: the collaborative environment, the decision-making process and the support given to progress programmes within ENABLE pipeline.

The overall satisfaction of ENABLE partners is around 80%. We are positive that with a new action plan, we will be able to raise the overall rate of satisfaction even higher.



Welcome Neil Pearson from GSK

Neil joins ENABLE as a project coordinator. He will be a great support and a driving force in the identification of clinical candidate programmes for preclinical testing and processing at least one programme into preclinical and phase I clinical studies. Please join us in welcoming Neil to the ENABLE consortium.

Neil Pearson was elected as a GSK Senior Fellow in May 2016. Within GSK, Neil has thirty years of experience as a medicinal chemist in antibacterial research at GSK, having led numerous programs. He was notably the co-leader of a program that identified Gepotidacin, a potential antibiotic that shows activity against Gram-positive

and some Gram-negative bacteria via a new inhibition mode of bacterial DNA replication. Gepotidacin is in Phase II clinical trials. Being a strong advocate for technologies that reduce drug attrition, Neil joined the Scientific Advisory Board for the Seattle Structural Genomics Centre for Infectious Disease (SSGCID) and the Center for Structural Genomics of Infectious Disease (CSGID) as a Scientific Advisory Board Member in 2012.

In the beginning of 2017, he joined the ENABLE team to continue his search for novel antibiotic classes that can be progressed into clinics. Neil is enthusiastic to join ENABLE at a stage where the most advanced programmes approach non-clinical development and to share with the consortium his decades of experience in bringing compounds into clinical development. In ENABLE he sees the chance to explore and evaluate different types of molecules. At the same time, this variety of interesting molecules brings along a prioritization challenge: selecting and optimising those molecules in the drug discovery engine that have the most potential to become future drug candidates capable of treating resistant Gram-negative infections.

Focus on

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

Our ENABLE partner JUVABIS



The Swiss start-up company, Juvabis, became project partner in the ENABLE consortium in June 2016.

Juvabis was founded as a spin-off company of the University of Zurich (Switzerland) and Wayne State University (MI, USA) to drive the preclinical evaluation and development of the most promising leads against carbapenem- and multi-drug resistant Gram-negative pathogens.

Apramycin, an aminoglycoside antibiotic, takes the centre stage of the team's research. Apramycin is not inactivated by any of the clinically relevant resistance mechanisms, including the rRNA methyltransferases that cause high-level resistance to all clinically approved aminoglycoside antibiotics.

In ENABLE, the apramycin programme is undergoing a thorough preclinical evaluation to expand initial proof-of-concept in animals to various disease models (pneumonia, septicemia, urinary tract infection) using superbugs, clinical isolates that are highly resistant to a multitude of antimicrobials including carbapenems, colistin, and aminoglycosides. By evaluating nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity in comparison to known aminoglycosides, a robust safety profile of apramycin is being established.



Sven Hobbie, who is the programme lead, assumes that if everything goes according to plan, his programme will “*achieve candidate declaration in October 2017 and commence Phase-I clinical trials in Q2 of 2018*”.

In ENABLE, he values “*the blend of academic and industry expertise collectively providing a framework that drives the development programme in a highly efficient, goal-oriented and competitive manner.*”

ENABLE in action

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

- Christopher Schofield of the Chemistry Research Laboratory gave a seminar at the University of Durham in February on "From Antibiotics to Oxygen Sensing and Back Again".
- Tony Maxwell from John Innes Centre held a Lecture at the "Superbugs and superdrugs - a focus on antibacterials" meeting, beginning of this year in London on "Exploiting DNA topoisomerases as targets for antibacterial chemotherapy".
- Anders Karlén (Uppsala University and Leader of the Managing entity of ENABLE) presented the ENABLE project during the Berlin Conference on Novel Antimicrobials in February. The event was organized in cooperation with the European BEAM Alliance and attended by SMEs relevant to the ENABLE project.
- Laura Griestop (EBN) presented the ENABLE project during the Final General Assembly of the PharmaSea project in Granada in March.
- Diarmaid Hughes (Uppsala University) presented the ENABLE project during the Annual meeting of the COMBACTE family in Brussels on March 14th 2017.
- Eric Bacqué (Sanofi) presented ENABLE at the Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) during the "Early Discovery of New Antibiotics Workshop" in Paris on January 12th and 13th 2017.
- Katja Bölcker presented an ENABLE poster at the ECCMID 2017 in Vienna from 22 to 25 of April.

ENABLE within ND4BB initiative

As part of the New Drug for Bad Bugs initiative, we would like to keep you updated on the other projects.

Interaction between ENABLE and TRANSLOCATION



We interviewed Mathias Winterhalter who is managing the Topic2 of the ND4BB programme: TRANSLOCATION.

TRANSLOCATION was one of the two initial programmes under the ND4BB framework and launched in January 2013. Goal of the project is to increase the understanding of how drugs enter or how to stop bacteria such as multi-resistant Gram-negative bacteria, from effluxing the drug. To reach this goal, the partners works to first understand and then manipulate the permeability barrier imposed by the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria (GNB). Further, the project aims to set up a knowledge repository including legacy data on successful and failed approaches to antibiotic drug discovery.

As the programme is planned to end by December 2017, Professor Winterhalter was glad to reflect on the consortium's achievements:

- more than 70 scientific publications
- many *in vitro* models to study influx and efflux were developed.

Last but not least, ENABLE and TRANSLOCATION cooperated closely. In the past, both projects have profited from knowledge transfer and each other's capacities. For example, several models within TRANSLOCATION were very helpful for ENABLE partners to clarify the entry mechanism of ongoing compounds.

Professor Winterhalter also talked about the challenges the project faced. One of the major difficulties turned out to be the practical realisation of the knowledge repository. Not all data is available in a readable and accessible manner. Nevertheless, TRANSLOCATION succeeded to set up the info centre and hopes to be able to maintain it even after the end of the project.

We would like to share a "Save the Date" on behalf of TRANSLOCATION:

in June, 21st-23rd 2017
the next TRANSLOCATION workshop
**"Molecular basis of antibiotic permeability in Gram-negative bacteria:
Solving a new question within a private-public partnership"**
will be held at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig.

For more details, [click here](#).

[Learn more about TRANSLOCATION](#)

Thanks for following ENABLE!

Do you have news that have not been included here?

Do you wish to receive more detailed information?

Do you wish to modify your subscription to this newsletter?

Please contact Dr Nathalia Murillo/Laura Griestop: info@nd4bb-enable.eu

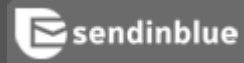
General information:

Website: <http://nd4bb-enable.eu/>
Contact: info@nd4bb-enable.eu



Unsubscribe

Gesendet von



© 2017 ENABLE