

Protocol of the second meeting of the European Research Initiative on CLL (ERIC)

8 December 2002, Philadelphia, USA

Participants (in alphabetical order):

Name	Country	Name	Country	Name	Country
Caligaris-Cappio, Federico Cazin, Bruno	Italy France	Herold, Michael Jaeger, Ulrich Kimby, Eva	Germany Austria Sweden	Pangalis, Gerassimos A. Stevenson, Freda Stilgenbauer, Stephan	Greece UK Germany
Cymbalista, Florence Dighiero, Guillaume Dreger, Peter Geisler, Christian Hallek, Michael	France France Germany Denmark Germany	Leporrier, Michel Levy, Vincent Matutes, Estella Merkle, Karlheinz Österborg, Anders	France France UK Germany Sweden	Troussard, Xavier Van Oers, Rien	France Netherlands (HOVON)

1. Welcome

Dr. Hallek welcomes the attendees.

2. Exchange of information on clinical trials

The need to exchange information on clinical trials on the European level is undisputed. It was decided to create a common web site of the ERIC, where the different national study groups will enter the basic information (synopsis) of all active or planned clinical trials in CLL and related diseases. This should help to ensure that the different national study groups design complementary rather than redundant trials. Michael Hallek will contact the chairmen of the national study groups to get stimulate their participation in this network.

The ERIC aims to cooperate with companies to facilitate regulatory approval for new compounds against CLL and related diseases. The ERIC will contact some companies with clinical products against CLL.

3. Common research activities – proposals and ideas, application within the next framework of the EU (Dr. Cymbalista, Paris)

There was broad consensus that a research consortium of CLL should be formed in Europe. However, during the discussion, it became clear that a rapid application at the European level within the 7th framework programme until March 2003 would have little chances of success, because the time to prepare such a proposal which should include top basic research laboratories, is too short.

The following topics were mentioned as being of potential interest in such a network:

Familial CLL
Animal models
Rare diseases
Treatment of p53 mutated CLL
Blood and serum bank

There was no clear focus on a potential research area visible during this discussion.

The discussants named 4 persons, Drs Cymbalista (France), Stilgenbauer (Germany), Stevenson (UK) and Jaeger (Austria) who should start to build a strong network of European CLL researchers and basis scientists working on related questions within the next year. This network should apply for European funding at the next possible opportunity.

The members also decided that the ERIC should participate in the network of excellence in haematology to be coordinated by Dr. Hehlmann (the meeting was held the following day, and the ERIC was invited to submit one or two projects).

4. Next meeting at the EHA 2003 meeting in Lyon

It was decided that the ERIC would organize a scientific meeting and assembly of its members at the next EHA meeting in 2003 in Lyon. Dr. Hallek will contact the president of the meeting to reserve a room and time for this meeting.

5. Future correspondence

All future correspondence will be sent by e mail. If you know further persons who might be interested to join this initiative, please forward their e mail address to Michael Hallek (mhallek@med3.med.uni-muenchen.de).

6. Final remarks

Dr. Hallek thanked the sponsor of the meeting, AMGEN Germany (Mrs. Helga Feiler) and all participants for the open and friendly discussion.

For the protocol



Michael Hallek