

Annual Report and Protocol of the 5th Meeting of the  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON CLL (ERIC)  
in Geneva, June 12<sup>th</sup> 2004

**Participants according to list subscription (> 100 participants present):**

First Name	Last Name	Location
Denis	Alexander	N. Ireland
Michael	Bernimoulin	Switzerland
Enrique	Bodega	Uruguay
Laura	Bodega	Uruguay
Silvana	Capalbo	Italy
Daniel	Catovsky	UK
Guillaume	Dighiero	France
Hartmut	Döhner	Germany
Raul	Gabus	Uruguay
Sonja	Genadieva-Stavrik	Macedonia
Michael	Hallek	Germany
Terry	Hamblin	UK
Peter	Hillmen	UK
Ulrich	Jäger	Austria
Gunnar	Juliusson	Sweden
Karin	Karlsson	Sweden
Marek	Kasznicki	Poland
Eva	Kimby	Sweden
Tomas	Kozak	Czech Rep.
Luca	Laurenti	Italy
Mario	Lazzarino	Italy
Ana	Macedo	Portugal
Alicia	Magarinos	Uruguay
Karlheinz	Merkle	Germany
Mauricette	Michallet	France
Marco	Montillo	Italy
Marco	Montillo	Italy
Penny	Orchard	UK
Gerassimos A.	Pangalis	Athen/Greece
Irina	Panovska	Macedonia
Andrew	Pettitt	UK
Carmen	Schweighofer	Germany
Maria	Silva	Portugal
Lukas	Smolej	Czech Rep.
Malgorzata	Truchan-Graczyk	France
Almut	Wegner	Germany

**1. Welcome/Introduction to ERIC:**

Definition, history, mission (M. Hallek).

**2. Activity Report since last meeting**

ERIC members currently convene in at least one annual meeting, the last one had taken place in Jan. 2004 in Heidelberg (during the annual European LeukemiaNet meeting).

The initiative is now incorporated as self-contained “work-package” (WP) within the European Leukemia Net (WP 7, supported by S. Stilgenbauer, H. Döhner, G. Dighiero).

Funding was announced by the EU in summer 2003, start of funding was Jan. 2004.

### **3. Deliveries proposed by the ERIC within the European Leukemia Net (M. Hallek)**

Within the European Leukemianet (WP7) ERIC has proposed to focus on the following tasks (= “deliveries”) in the future:

- Establishment of WP information and communication structures
- Web-based information on CLL
- WP management structure and steering committee
- Creation of a CLL platform
- Regular meetings
- Lead Participant (of WP7, Michael Hallek) reports to NMC structure
- Creation of uniform data sets
- Set up of an European CLL registry
- Definition and standardization of relevant diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- Spreading of excellence by web-site, guidelines etc.
- Standardization of prognostic markers, e.g. ZAP-70

### **4. Projects and Focus in Near Future (P. Hillmen, U. Jäger, E. Kimby, M. Hallek)**

- Establishment of information and communication structures of ERIC

To enhance interexchange between members, research groups and interested parties improved communication and information structures are needed eg. to give access to common study protocols etc. An own homepage for ERIC is currently under construction (responsible: G. Strache, GCLLSG, Munich/Cologne)

- EU grant proposal for ERCC (European Research Consortium on CLL)

Ulrich Jäger, Vienna, reported that in the current 6<sup>th</sup> framework there was no opportunity for an ERCC activity. Therefore, this application needs to be postponed.

- Realisation and harmonization of common CLL trials

The harmonization of study protocols and diagnostic procedures within clinical trials could strongly enhance the quality of clinical trials on the European level. Discussed examples were:

- Phase III Study planned and presented by E. Kimby: FC + Alemtuzumab
- Phase-I trials on campath
- Exchange and harmonization of CRFs between UK/FCLLSG/GCLLSG
- Provision of independent peer review of protocols and independent data safety monitoring boards.

- Harmonization of diagnostic procedures

This is probably the most important focus in near future, especially for:

- Common standards of the assessment of MRD (M. Kneba, P. Hillmen)
- Common standards/protocols for molecular diagnostics (FISH, IgVH)
- Common standards/protocols for immunophenotyping (ZAP70, CD38, etc.)

Everybody who is interested in harmonization/standard protocols of diagnostics should contact U. Jäger

- Other future projects

- Common projects on gene profiling, could be established in rare subgroups of high interest (eg. familial CLL, rare diseases).
- Collection of biological material: Goal is the creation of a common blood and serum bank.

### **5. Bylaws for ERIC (M. Hallek)**

Introduction to a proposal of bylaws for definition of the ERIC assembly and structure. These bylaws will be discussed again at our next meeting in January 2005.

Cologne, Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2005

M. Hallek

C. Schweighofer