

# **ERIC Harmonization Committee Meeting Report, ASH 2004**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I want to update you on the meeting of the ERIC Harmonization Committee which was held in San Diego at the meeting of the EU LeukemiaNet, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 2004. Approximately half of the currently 24 participants were present and discussed the tasks and deliverables for the next 1 to 2 years. We agreed upon several subjects for harmonization and have also put forward a list of potential future tasks which will be discussed in Heidelberg (February 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005).

## **1. General information:**

- WP 7 (ERIC) leaders will have to turn in their annual report by Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> 2004. We have completed most of our deliverables for year one. One deliverable is the foundation of this harmonization committee.
- There will be a website soon, which will give us the possibility to exchange information via inter- and intranet. This will be helpful for ERIC as a whole, for the harmonization group, as well as for specific projects (e.g. collection of p53 cases).
- The next meeting will take place in Heidelberg on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2005. ERIC will have 3 hours to discuss our accomplishments and future goals. Half of the time will be reserved for the harmonization / basic research committee.

## **2. Harmonization Committee:**

We all agreed on the following matters:

### **Tasks already accomplished:**

- VH-mutation analysis: There are already actions of several ERIC members taking place (P.Ghia et al., members of BIOMED 2, etc.). Therefore, this could serve as a deliverable which will be achieved during 2005. Will be discussed in Heidelberg.
- MRD detection: A comprehensive comparison of methods is already in its final stages (Rawstron et al.). Could serve as a deliverable for 2005. Will be discussed in Heidelberg.

### **Urgent tasks:**

- ZAP-70 FACS analysis: Our first target for standardization will be ZAP-70. Florence Cymbalista will organize a meeting in her laboratory in Avicenne in spring 2005. The meeting will involve mainly technical comparison and standardization. It is therefore desirable to compare ZAP-70 determination methods in a laboratory with the people who do this work. The outcome will then be discussed at the following harmonization meeting. In addition, an international expert meeting should be held on this matter. You will get more detailed information from Florence.
- FISH and cytogenetic analysis: It was felt that there is still a need for harmonization. However, since some of the major FISH-experts were not present we will discuss this point in Heidelberg.

**Planned tasks:**

- Correct diagnosis of CLL: There are still some uncertainties about the diagnosis of atypical cases. This will have to be addressed in conjunction with IWCLL. However, it seems desirable that ERIC takes a lead in these matters.
- Collection of cases via website forms: An effort could be made for p53 deleted cases (D.Oscier) or familial CLL (D.Catovsky, if he agrees).
- Definition of major diagnostic and therapeutic targets by expression profiling and proteomics: Some participants felt, that it was too early for a concerted action. We will follow up on this question in Heidelberg. There will be an international effort in which ERIC should participate.
- Some members suggested to plan a more comprehensive European CLL Research Consortium like the US Consortium. Will be discussed in Heidelberg.

**Next Meeting:**

At the EU LeukemiaNet Meeting in Heidelberg

February 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.

WP7 will probably meet on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 11.30 – 15.30 with a 1 hour lunch break. A 10 min. report by the WP leaders is planned for Feb.2<sup>nd</sup>, 8.00 – 10.30. WP7 is in position 4. These dates may still change.

Finally, if you have any suggestions, or if you feel that this report does not exactly reflect what was discussed, please send me an e-mail!

Sincerely yours,

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**Appendix:**

Excel file with current harmonization action participants. Please check and send me a corrected file if you want to change names, addresses, topics, etc. (changes in red colour please).