

**Protocol of the 10th Meeting of the  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INITIATIVE ON CLL (ERIC)**  
(ELN 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium)

**Time:** Tuesday, January 31 2006  
**Location:** DKFZ, Heidelberg  
**Participants:** ca. 39  
**Chair:** Michael Hallek (Cologne/Germany)  
**Protocol:** Carmen Schweighofer (Cologne/Germany), Marita Buchner (Cologne/Germany)

**TOP 1: M. Hallek**

Welcome of participants, introduction to agenda.

**TOP 2: M. Hallek: ERIC bylaws and legal foundation**

Proposal of ERIC bylaws with presentation and open discussion of every article. It was noted, that a legal foundation of ERIC as registered association (ERIC e.V.) is required to give ERIC a legitimated structure by law. This will be advantageous for future projects, funding aspects etc. It is planned and generally accepted that ERIC e.V. is founded according to German law (BGB) with headquarter in Cologne. Approval of the bylaws by ~30 (out of 39) ballots cast. It was decided to formally inform the EHA (as head organisation) about the current procedure of legal foundation of ERIC, since it shall act within the EHA. M. Hallek states, that E. Montserrat was informed about this procedure and the bylaws beforehand. The following interim board members (being in office for up to 6 months until legal/notarial finalization of the registration process) were elected by simple majority of present members:

Chairman: Michael Hallek, Cologne  
Vice-Chairman: Eva Kimby, Stockholm  
Secretary: Carmen Schweighofer, Cologne  
Treasurer: G. Pangalis, Athen/Greece

It was noted that the current chairman acts as sole representative of ERIC to facilitate the formal registration. If the registration process of ERIC e.V. can be finalized until the end of 6 months, the next board will be elected in Amsterdam. Proposals for future board members should be sent to M. Hallek. Members of the two subcommittees on basic and clinical research will be announced and approved at the next ERIC meeting (EHA, Amsterdam, 2006).

**TOP 3: ELIC: Kristina Ihrig**

Presentation of the ELN homepage structure and contents ([www.leukemia-net.org](http://www.leukemia-net.org)). A register for clinical studies of the WPs will be implemented there. Since WP7/ERIC has an own homepage, several contents regarding WP7 are currently not filled with information in the ELN homepage. It was decided that ERIC/WP7 can replace these missing contents by linkage to the ERIC homepage and will supply the ELN study register with WP specific information.

**TOP 4: U. Jäger: ERCC, basic research projects now and in future**

U. Jäger is coordinating the submission of project applications to the EU. So far 4 he had received 4 replies for project ideas regarding the characterization of novel prognostic markers, signal transduction in CLL (BCR, ZAP70 etc.), CLL microenvironment, vaccine development. U. Jäger emphasizes the need of lobbying of ERIC members in their own countries for the support of ERIC within the EU frame program. Project ideas can be inserted in the proposal form published on the ERIC homepage or sent directly to Uli Jäger ([ulrich.jaeger@meduniwien.ac.at](mailto:ulrich.jaeger@meduniwien.ac.at)). Projects/ideas will be collected and discussed at the EHA in Amsterdam.

**TOP 5: S. Stilgenbauer: Harmonization of cytogenetics**

The prognostic role of genomic aberrations as detected by FISH has been demonstrated in several studies. Particularly, the 17p- aberration is associated with a poor outcome and resistance to treatment with alkylators and fludarabine-based regimens. Since there is efficacy of alemtuzumab in this subgroup of cases, there may be need in future trials to identify these cases. A problem for the diagnosis of the 17p- aberration is that different cut-off levels to determine a case positive or negative for this aberration are in use. This may have therapeutic consequences in future trials. It was agreed that S. Stilgenbauer and H. Döhner will coordinate an effort aiming at standardization of the FISH procedure and further investigation of cases with 17p- aberration. At the next ERIC meeting an outline of this project should be presented.

**TOP 6: F. Cymbalista, R. Letestu: Harmonization of ZAP 70**

The harmonization of ZAP 70 analysis is coordinated by Florence Cymbalista and Remi Letestu in Paris/France. Different antibodies have been tested and also four different mode of expression of the results. Some experiments were conducted on the rate of ZAP-70 decay in fresh samples according to storage time along with different anticoagulants ZAP-70 fluorescence intensity was found variable on both T and B cells with different kinetics but allowing a maximum delay time of 48 hours after sampling. Therefore exchange of samples between European labs is considered as feasible. The on going study consist in an exchange of raw data generated with different antibodies on several CLL samples to harmonize the interpretation and mode of expression of results The first step of harmonization including the consensus meeting and the exchange of stabilized blood samples is in press in a special issue on ZAP-70 of Cytometry – clinical part, The results of the ongoing exchange of data will be presented at the EHA.

**TOP 6: V. Levy: European CLL Survey**

Vincent Levy (Paris/France) presented an update to his new project idea to initiate an European-wide survey on clinical practice in CLL patients. The aim of the survey is the recordation of how CLL patients are treated European wide - within or without clinical studies. The survey should be carried out by the spread of vignettes offering 4 CLL virtual patient cases (2 CLL pts of young age, 2 of old age) to clinicians who will be requested to document their personal solutions for these cases. Participating clinicians have to be study experienced or un-experienced in the field of CLL. Levy noted that one difficulty is to get information/details about representative hematologists in participating countries. It was denied by the audience to involve the pharmaceutical industry because of possible exertion of influence. It was decided that the project will be presented again at the EHA with the finalized vignettes and further decision about the handling of the precious database generated in this project with ERIC as a legitimated association.

**TOP7: T. Langerak: T-LGL Study**

Ton Langerak (Erasmus MC, Rotterdam) presented a newly initiated study for the investigation of zytogenetic events in T-LGL cells after antigen stimulation. To collect a useful number of data there is a need of blood specimen of these rare. The project will be carried out and funded by the Erasmus MC in Rotterdam. A European wide cooperation between all centers/physicians caring for T-LGL patients is required to support this study and gain more insight and knowledge about this rare disease. More information on this study will be presented on the ERIC homepage ([www.ericll.org](http://www.ericll.org)). Probably an ethical votum and patient consent has to be provided.

**Next Meeting:**

- **Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> at the EHA Congress Amsterdam 2006 (4<sup>th</sup> Scientific Symposium of ERIC: “What is new in CLL?”)**