

EuroCOORD Newsletter

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December 2008



EuroCOORD Application Steering Committee

The EuroCOORD Application Steering Committee has been established and consists of 22 members from 22 partner institutions in 16 countries, as well as 2 invitees for pediatric expertise.

The way forward now is that each network develops its own scientific agenda for 2010-2015 and develops proposals now for the “integration projects.” This process needs to be completed for each partner by 22 January 2009 when the EuroCOORD Application Steering Committee will meet to consider these proposals and how they are to be integrated into the joint application.

EU Call for Proposals 2009 It is important at this time to lobby each of the EU country representatives to assure that the EU will release the appropriate call for proposals. This is critical now, as we need to ensure that a call is launched and that this is given priority within the European Commission.

CHAIN The EU has favourably reviewed the EuroCOORD-CHAIN project on transmitted HIV resistance in naive patients. Additional money for this project has been kindly provided by Gilead. This project will markedly increase the number of individuals with available information as compared to what each cohort or collaboration would be able to achieve. Additionally, it will allow EuroCOORD to answer important scientific questions that require data from large numbers because resistance profile and the outcomes of interest are rare. Finally, it will also be a ‘proof-of-concept’ that EuroCOORD is able to gather data in a standardised format.

A working group has been established and is expected to soon distribute material to individual cohorts for formal approval and participation to the project. The project is scheduled in December to identify available data from the different cohorts/ collaborations. Preliminary dates include March 2009 for the data merger and September 2009 for analysis.

Cohort Workshop Update

As you are aware, EuroCOORD will be organising the 13th International Workshop on HIV Observational Databases. The workshop this year will be held Thursday 26th March to Saturday 28th March 2008 in Lisbon. **The abstract submission deadline is Wednesday 10th December 2008** with abstract selection and final program by the Scientific Committee in January 2009.

For more information on the 2009 cohorts workshop, please visit: <http://www.hivcohorts.com/>

Project Status

ACTIVATE

The 1st International ACTIVATE HIV Course was held in Minsk, Belarus 12-13 September 2008. Over 50 participants from 15 Eastern-European countries were awarded financial scholarships to attend the day-and-a-half course. Financing for the 50 scholarships was provided by NEAT and covered travel, food, and per diem expenses. All sessions were conducted with simultaneous Russian-English translation and included such topics as HIV in Pregnancy, Managing HBV & HCV Co-Infections, HIV & Tuberculosis, as well as a session focused on the HIV strategy in Eastern Europe. Sessions were conducted in both lecture and case presentation format with lecturers from Eastern and Western Europe.

For a full list of participants and a course program, please go to www.eurocoord.net.

A second ACTIVATE training course took place in **Glasgow on 8th and 9th November 2008 shortly preceding the 9th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection.** Thirty-nine delegates from 12 European countries participated. The teaching was also a mixture of lecture sessions and case presentations. The topics covered included treatment in pregnancy, management of HIV in infants, interpretation of drug resistance mutations, and the treatment of patients co-infected with hepatitis B, C, and TB. There was very positive feedback from the attendees who found the discussion of case studies in breakout sessions particularly useful.

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