

September 2015



Research Success Story

EXTENDING EXPERTISE AND AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Improving the well-being of people with chronic lower back pain and osteoarthritis is the aim of the Horizon 2020 project “TargetCaRe” (Targeting Cartilage Regeneration in joint and intervertebral disc diseases). As a work package leader, Dr. Sibylle Grad of the AO Research Institute Davos is responsible for the coordination and timely delivery of an important sub-project. TargetCaRe enables her to further extend her expertise and to strengthen her international network.

14 partners from 5 countries work together in TargetCaRe to search for a novel method to treat the breakdown of joint cartilage and intervertebral discs. Each partner fulfils a distinct role with specific tasks and depends on the research results of others. “Appropriate coordination of the sub-projects is essential and the most challenging aspect of the project”, says Sibylle Grad. “Because we joined the consortium at an early stage, we had the opportunity to contribute actively to the focus of the project and to the design of the sub-project for which I am responsible. We could also suggest partners with whom we had worked successfully before”.

Knowledge exchange

The consortium aims to establish a network of scientists skilled in the use of smart nanocarriers and to develop strategies for ex-

clusively targeting diseased tissues. To maximise this effort, knowledge exchange is key. “The knowledge exchange among the partners, including the exchange of personnel and materials, is what I like most about this project. It facilitates the expansion of each partner’s field of expertise and their insight into related areas”.

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Early Stage Researchers

The work will be carried out mainly by the 15 Early Stage Researchers in training, of which 2 will be located at the AO Research Institute Davos. Sibylle Grad is looking forward to sharing her

experience and providing support for career development. “It is exciting and at the same time challenging to provide the necessary support to complete a PhD thesis within the relatively tight time schedule”.

International network

For the AO Research Institute Davos, European research projects are an important funding source. Participating in these projects also helps contribute to their reputation as a high-level international research and development institute for trauma and musculoskeletal disorders. For Sibylle Grad personally, participating in these projects gives her the opportunity to expand her international network. “Every European research project is innovative and cutting-edge and it is very satisfying to see and be actively involved in the progress of highly relevant fields”.

About TargetCaRe



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Dr Sybille Grad

AO Research Institute Davos

CONTENT SUMMARY

The Horizon 2020 project TargetCaRe aims to achieve regeneration of damaged and degenerated cartilaginous tissues of the intervertebral discs and joints by combining the different expertise of the partners, as well as to train 15 young scientists. For this project, coordinated by the Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, AO Research Institute Davos contributes to the development of a new treatment with its extensive research experience on specific bio-reactor systems for cartilage and discs.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Project Name

TargetCaRe – Targeting Cartilage Regeneration in joint and intervertebral disc diseases

Research Area

Osteoarthritis and intervertebral disc disease

Organisations

Erasmus University Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands (Coordinator) and 13 partners

Start Date – End Date

01.03.2015 – 01.03.2019

Duration

4 years

Project Cost

€3.97 million

Project Funding

€3.97 million

Programme

Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks

More Information

www.targetcare.eu

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