



# Success Stories



Researchers' Success Stories / May 2011

## Generating innovative compounds for novel approaches to cancer treatment

CAPPELLA brought together several SMEs and academic groups to develop new drugs for cancer therapy. For the coordinating SME Evolva, it was the first EU project to participate in.

### The right partners and a strong "project culture" as keys to success

CAPPELLA very successfully tackled the questions at the heart of the project.

The coordinators Tanja Thybo and Sanne Jensen elaborate on the underlying factors: "We consider the consortium composition as the key to success of EVOLVA.

Our existing network was essential in building this strong consortium:

We choose partners with whom we have worked before and based on expertise and reputation. But the strength of the collaboration was also something we invested in as coordinator. For example, we



organised meetings twice yearly where all partners would devote two days fully to the project. We believe that the considerable effort we and all partners put into a "project culture" was a key in achieving the ambitious scientific goals of the project." According to them, the range of experience, knowledge and access to infrastructure available to the

**«The administrative and bureaucratic workload was much heavier than expected, but more than outweighed by the considerable long-term benefits the project coordination brings to our company.»**

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The inhibition of protein – protein interaction is a promising and at the time of submission of the CAPPELLA project newly emerging approach to the development of cancer therapies. Because protein-protein interactions occur within cells, targeting these with drugs requires very specific drug characteristics. The main aim of CAPPELLA was to design, synthesize and optimise such innovative molecules that inhibit protein-protein interaction in cancer. Moreover, the project developed innovative tools for more efficient development and testing of drug candidates.

consortium led to real synergies clearly enhancing the quality of the research output.

### Administrative hurdles

Despite the overwhelmingly positive outcome, project implementation was not always easy:

"Especially for a small company like ours, getting considerable research funding was important. For some project partners, gaps in payments due to delays in mid-term report approval posed severe problems" say the coordinators.

They describe the administrative/ bureaucracy work of coordinating as considerable and had underestimated this in the beginning. Yet this should not deter from coordination: "We would still recommend taking up coordination if the topic and partners match, but be aware of the administrative burdens and plan how to handle these from the start! Being the project coordinator allows you to really drive the direction of the project. The biggest advantage is maybe the establishment and enhancement of our network of academic groups and SMEs."

### FACTS AND FIGURES

<b>Project Name:</b>	CAPPELLA – Combating cancer through novel approaches to protein-protein inhibitor libraries
<b>Research Area:</b>	LIFESCIHEALTH (corresponds to FP7 Health)
<b>Coordinator:</b>	Dr. Tanja Thybo & Dr. Sanne Jensen (Scientific Coordinator)
<b>Organisation:</b>	Evolva SA
<b>Start Date - End Date</b>	2007/01/01 – 2009/12/31
<b>Duration</b>	36 months
<b>Project Cost / Funding:</b>	4.91 million Euro / 3.36 million Euro
<b>Contract type:</b>	Specific Targeted Research Project
<b>FP6 Reference Number:</b>	37251