



FP7-REGPOT – 2012-2013

Grant agreement No: 316254

BASTION

"From Basic to Translational Research in Oncology

Project start date: 01.09.2012

Duration: 36 months (Project) 6 months (Evaluation)

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Deliverable 6.7

Preliminary conclusions and recommendations from the IAB

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0.1	2013.02.10	Iwona Drozdowska- Rusinowicz	Document created
0.1.1	2013.02.27	Jakub Golab	Checked and submitted (PP)

The International Advisory Board meeting of the BASTION project was held in the Senate Hall of the Medical University of Warsaw on November 27th, 2012.

The following International Advisory Board members participated in the meeting:

Prof. William M. Gallagher, University College Dublin, Ireland; Prof. Lars Bullinger, University Hospital of Ulm, Germany; Prof. Gaettano Vattemi, University of Verona, Italy; Prof. Friedrich Graesser, University Hospital of Saarland, Germany; Prof. Krzysztof Giannopoulos, Medical University of Lublin, Poland; Prof. Cezary Szczylik, Military Institute of Medicine, Warsaw, Poland; Prof. Przemyslaw Juszczynski, Institute of Hematology and Transfusion Medicine in Warsaw, Poland; Dr. Natalia Landazuri, Karolinska Institut, Stocholm, Sweden; Dr. Elizabeth Foot - VP Personalised Medicine & Nutrition, London Genetics, Great Britain; Ms Maryline Fiaschi - Project Director, SciencelBusiness, Brussels, Belgium; Mr Dariusz Drewniak - Vice Head of the Strategy Department in The Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education; Dr. Marek Orlowski, Partner and Investor, Adjuvo Seed Fund, Member of the BTM Mazovia Cluster, Warsaw, Poland; Dr Marcin Szumowski - Business Development Director, BTM Mazowsze Ltd. Cluster, Warsaw, Poland; as well as the Project Coordinator (Prof. Jakub Golab), Project Manager (MSc Iwona Drozdowska-Rusinowicz) and Leaders, Vice-leaders and Coworkers of the work-packages:

WP1: Dr. Dominika Nowis; Dr.Tomasz Stoklosa,

WP2: Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong, Dr. Piotr Religa,

WP3: Dr. Magdalena Winiarska; Dr. Radoslaw Zagozdzon

WP4: Prof. Rafal Ploski, Dr. Pawel Wlodarski; Dr. Krystian Jazdzewski,

The meeting started with a short welcoming speech of the Rector of the Medical University of Warsaw, Prof. Marek Krawczyk:



"...The aim of the BASTION project is envisioned to allow the Medical University of Warsaw to become a leading research and clinical oncology centre in Central Europe. We expect to build our potential in the field of cancer research to translate promising therapeutic concepts from bench to bedside by developing and testing new tools, technologies and devices. We are aware that this goal can only be achieved through broad and active networking with top research institutions in Europe. The Medical University of Warsaw has always provided highest quality education,

however my objective for the present term of office, which commenced in September, is to increase considerably the research achievements of our university...."

Prof. Jakub Golab - Project Coordinator introduced all members of MUW's Support Team called for that purpose by the Chancellor of the Medical University of Warsaw – Mrs Malgorzata Kozlowska. Project Support Team was represented by Mrs Ewa Kaczmarek - Head of the MUW's HR Department, Mrs Anna Zdobych - Accounting Department and Ms Joanna Sobczak - Project Administrator from MUW's Grant Office.



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Project Coordinator invited the International Advisory Board members to present brief presentations of the represented Institutions and their research activities (presentations are available on BASTION Webpage: www.bastion.wum.edu.pl)

Leaders of the BASTION Research Groups summarized their past and current research activities at MUW in the field on oncology. Only briefly the activities are summarised below (presentations are available on BASTION Webpage: www.bastion.wum.edu.pl):



Prof. Jakub Golab - tries to understand molecular mechanisms of cytotoxicity induced by photodynamic therapy;

Dr Dominika Nowis -investigates the role of proteolytic mechanisms and endoplasmic reticulum stress in tumor development and efficacy of anti-cancer treatment;

Dr Tomasz Stoklosa - works on molecular mechanisms of drug resistance in hematologic malignancies, including chronic myeloid leukaemia, recently his studies focus on finding new therapeutic targets in tumours chronic lymphocytic leukaemia using gene expression analysis and next-generation genetic tools;

Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong - his studies focus on the role of tumour suppressor genes in cancer development and the role of circulating tumour cells in cancer progression using experimental models as well as clinical protocols;

Dr Magdalena Winiarska - investigates molecular mechanisms of action of anti-tumour monoclonal antibodies:

Prof. Slawomir Majewski - studies molecular biology and treatment of human papilloma viruses in skin and gynecological cancer;

Prof. Rafał Ploski - his research interests centre around role of DNA variation influencing immune response and susceptibility to development of monogenic and polygenic diseases in humans;

Dr Krystian Jazdzewski - tries to elucidate the role of microRNA (miR) in predisposition to cancer and investigates microRNA-mediated dysregulation of thyroid hormone action in thyroid tumours;

Dr Piotr Religa - his work is focused on vascular formation and changes in morphological structure of blood and lymphatic vessels during vascular remodeling and tumour growth;

Dr Pawel Wlodarski - his scientific interests focus on regulation of kinases related to tumour progression in lymphoma and leukaemia and on epigenetic regulation of gene expression in cancer;

The IAB saw a clear potential for BASTION to further develop its research capabilities to become an excellent research MUW internal institution in its field.

Leaders of the BASTION Project Work Packages presented aims and schedules of their activity during planed in the project realization (presentations are available on BASTION Webpage: www.bastion.wum.edu.pl) .



Discussion:

The discussion concentrated on MUW's weaknesses and threats from SWOT analyses:

WEAKNESSES

- 1. Scientific output from biomedical research highly variable internally and lagging significantly behind the European leaders
- 2. Low intensity of international collaboration in strategic R&D disciplines for the University and engagement in FP programmes
- 3. Lack of formal post-doc position inability to attract top level Polish (returning from abroad) or foreign experienced researchers
- 4. No bioinformatics support for developing personalized or stratified strategies in cancer diagnostics and therapy development
- 5. Lack of easily accessible cutting-edge equipment necessary for personalised and stratified medicine studies in oncology
- 6. Laboratory research in all disciplines has insufficient translational component (weak bench to bedside transition) partly due to lack of internal support mechanisms;
- 7. Low awareness of MUW staff of the importance of IPR management, patenting and technology transfer and lack of commitment to exploit research results in commercial setting and medical practice
- 8. Imbalance between education and clinical practice vs. competitive research (in terms of career advancement and funding)

THREATS

- 1. Inability to offer attractive financial terms for recruitment of new, talented researchers
- 2. Ineffective mechanisms for recruitment and retention of talented young researchers having a negative effect on MUW R&D competitiveness
- 3. Poland's image as a poor choice for scientific career advancement resulting in lack of interest from high profile researchers in new lab leader and postdoctoral positions
- 4. Small talent pool and high financial expectations resulting in a difficulty to recruit competent innovation and project managers
- 5. Lack of further intensification of interdisciplinary cooperation with other Ochota Research Campus institutions and University clinical hospitals
- 6. Delays in the construction of the new oncology hospital at the University due to changing political environment
- 7. Lack of developed biotech and pharmaceutical sector leading to small industry interest in collaborative research, inability to absorb innovation and lack of interest in funding ground-breaking research at universities
- 8. Former and recent legislature and complicated public procurement processes potentially thwarting innovation and bringing new diagnostic and therapeutic solutions to the bedside
- 9. Economic crisis leading to reduced R&D funding and resulting in inability to sustain BASTION activities after project completion.



Significant risks in BASTION project and associated contingency plans have been presented:

The main risk factors of the BASTION project involve:

financial risks;

organizational and management risk

risks associated with achieving sustainable impact.

Financial risks are associated with under-budgeting of the planned activities, need to secure resources to cover the ineligible VAT on goods (equipment, consumables) and services (organisation of events, etc.) as well as EUR/PLN exchange rate fluctuations.

Contingency plans:

VAT will be covered from MUW's own resources. This additional expense will be mitigated by cofinancing of MUW's indirect cost by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education up to the standard 20% level.

The exchange risk could mean that the MUW may need to cover a significant portion of the eligible costs from its own resources. MUW is prepared to do so as its financial position is strong. In general, the financial risk is very low, since all direct eligible costs are fully financed by the European Commission and the contact is executed based on advance payments.

IAB Recommendation:

- 1- Organise postdocs-addressed special workshops on writing grant proposals with the industry representatives
- 2- Attract ministry decision makers to create personalised medicine programmes

Organizational and management risks The main risk factors are associated with WP3 - *"Building capacity by attracting top-level scientists"* and WP1 – *"Twinning through secondments"*.

Also WP5 *"Innovation capacities building"* is potentially risky if hiring experienced Innovation Manager will become impossible, because of lack of experienced organisers in that field.

Risks associated with WP3 involve inability to attract high-quality international post-doctoral candidates to work with the identified host research groups.

BASTION contingency plan in this case would be to:

- proactively intensify recruitment efforts using numerous available channels other than highimpact journal publications (direct and media),
- offer additional start-up packages or significant freedom to choose the candidates preference of research,
- accept candidates from other high-quality institutions in Poland.

In addition MUW will make every effort to offer a very attractive extension package to a high-quality successful applicant for the new group leader position.

IAB Recommendation:

- 3- Transmit the clear message what can be offered to the postdocs after project completion
- 4- Create an opportunity to help postdocs in career progress

In WP1 eleven scientific exchange tasks have been planned. There are timing, scheduling and output risks. Some of the planned exchanges may not go through due to scheduling conflicts. In other cases



international partners may engage in other collaborations prior to the start of the project and have limited availability. Finally, peer reviewed publications are always an uncertain outcome; therefore the number of accepted publications may be lower than planned in the deliverables.

BASTION contingency plan in case of scheduling or lack of time barriers is for other possible twinning collaborations to replace those experiencing difficulties.

IAB Recommendation:

- 5- Plan the twinning activities beforehand, preferably many months before the planned activity
- 6- Give higher priority to quality rather than quantity of research articles.

The critical task in WP5 will be hiring the Innovation Manager, experienced in the area of oncology with good medical background.

IAB Recommendation:

- 7- Before of the recruitment process good formal requirements should be established,
- 8- Translational experience of the candidate should be the main requirement,
- 9- Expert mentoring advices will be useful during the first year of the Innovation Manager activity in the project.

The risks involved in leveraging the project results to assure sustainable impact of unlocking and utilizing the research potential after the completion of the project are low. Experience from the previously executed projects shows that their impact was sustained. Other activities, in which MUW is engaged (ECRIN, Euro-Biolmaging, CePT) assure that the results of the proposed project will provide a stimulus for promoting basic and translational research as one of the highest priorities. For instance a strategic research programme to be funded based on CePT research infrastructure will be prepared for financing from European Funds (ERDF) based on BASTION's research potential and scientific competence to be funded as a part of the regional smart specialisation strategy. Such development strategy will establish MUW as a translational cancer research centre in CE.

IAB Recommendations:

- 1- Attract clinicians by inviting them to become co-authors of the articles published in good medical papers,
- 2- Closer cooperation with medical staff
- 3- Invitation clinicians on joined staff meetings on shearing experiences,
- 4- Research and clinician postdocs closer collaboration on certain topics,
- 5- Rapid PR activity on successful joined research/clinic activity.
- 6- Shearing equipment after showing it's usage possibilities.

The Board finally thanked MUW and BASTION staff for the excellent hospitality and very interesting presentations and discussion.

Prof. Jakub Golab BASTION Project Coordinator Warsaw, February 2013



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Attachments:

- 1. Agenda of the BASTION International Advisory Board meeting
- 2. Participants list
- 3. All presentations are available on BASTION Webpage: www.bastion.wum.edu.pl



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BASTION From Basic to Translational Research in Oncology

Kick-off Meeting / International Advisory Board Meeting Medical University of Warsaw, Zwirki & Wigury 61 St., Senate Hall, Ist floor

Monday, November 26th 2012

Time	Activity
according to arrival time	Pick-up from the Airport to the Sobieski Hotel - if someone of our guests will arrive on Sunday they will be picked-up on Sunday - in the waiting room a member of BASTION team will wait you with our logo
18.45	Meeting at the Sobieski Hotel lobby
19.00	Informal dinner in the Grand Kredens Restaurant - few minutes from the Hotel

Tuesday, November 27th 2012

Time		Activity
8.30	Pick-up from the Sobieski H	lotel lobby, transfer to the MUW
8.45-9.00	Welcome Reception - Reg	istration
Time	Торіс	Speaker
9.00 – 9.10	Welcome	Prof. Marek Krawczyk - Rector of MUW
9.10 – 9.30	Presentation of participants	Prof. Jakub Golab – Project Coordinator
9.30 - 10.00 10.00 - 11.00	Presentation of International Advisory Board Members Presentations of leaders from Partnering Organisations – Members of International Advisory Board	 Prof. Maria Elżbieta Orłowska – Secretary of State MNiSW Michał Olszewski - Vice president of the Capital City of Warsaw -TBC Mariusz Frankowski – Mazovian Unit of EU Programmes Implementation Prof. Krzysztof Giannopoulos Medical University of Lublin Prof. Przemyslaw Juszczynski Institute of Hematology Prof. Cezary Szczylik – Medical Military Institute Dr Marek Orłowski - Orenore Dr Marcin Szumowski – BTM Mazowsze Prof. William Gallagher – University College Dublin Prof. Lars Bullinger – Uniklinik, Ulm Prof. Gaetano Vattemi – University of Verona Prof. Friedrich Graesser – Uniklinik, Saarland
		Maryline Fiaschi – Science Business
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee break	
Time	Торіс	Speaker
11.20 – 12.30	Presentations of BASTION leaders and areas of research interest	Prof. Jakub Golab Dr Dominika Nowis Dr Magdalena Winiarska Dr Tomasz Stoklosa Prof. Slawomir Majewski Prof. Zbigniew Gaciong Prof. Rafal Ploski Dr Pawel Wlodarski Dr Krystian Jazdzewski Dr Piotr Religa

	BASTION Pro	eject WP Presentations
12.30 – 12.40	WP1 Twinning through secondments	Dominika Nowis
12.40 – 12.50	WP2 Know-how and experience sharing	Zbigniew Gaciong
12.50 – 13.00	WP3 Building capacity by attracting top-level scientists	Magdalena Winiarska
13.00 – 13.10	WP4 Acquisition of research equipment	Rafal Ploski
13.10 – 13.50	Lunch	
13.50 – 14.00	WP5 Innovation capacities building	Jakub Golab
14.00 – 14.10	WP6 Project management WP7 Expert evaluation	Iwona Drozdowska- Rusinowicz Slawomir Majewski
14.10 – 15.30	Discussion, Q&A	
Time	Activity	
15.30	Pick-up from	the MUW to the Airport or to the Sobieski Hotel





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Project is cofounded by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education

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Kick-off Meeting International Advisory Board Meeting November 27th 2012, Warsaw



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Kick-off Meeting International Advisory Board Meeting November 27th 2012, Warsaw



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