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**BASTION – FROM BASIC TO
TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
IN ONCOLOGY**

**Report of the stay of Monika Maciąg at the University of Ferrara, Italy
within the BASTION project 7PR21/BASTION/WP1 (Twinning, T1.1)**

From April 11th till May 9th, 2015 I visited research group of Prof. Stefano Volinia at the University of Ferrara in Italy. Prof. Volinia is an expert in computational biology and has been involved in developing bioinformatics applications since 1988. Recently he has been responsible for developing an in-house protocols for DNA microarrays and next-generation sequencing analysis. His laboratory group studies the role of microRNAs in the progression and invasiveness of melanoma and breast cancer.

During my stay at the University of Ferrara, I had opportunity to join the laboratory group of Prof. Volinia. I participated in the on-going activity of his laboratory team concerning the influence of several microRNAs on melanoma. I performed series of experiments to elucidate the effect of transfection of different microRNAs and drugs on various melanoma cell lines. One of the aim was to find microRNAs that inhibit cell growth. Having analyzed the results of individual experiments we compared the outcomes of experiments performed in parallel by few laboratory researchers and spent some time on discussion on the final results.

During laboratory work I had occasion to compare and discuss with the laboratory team members the advantages and limitations of different methods used in our laboratories. Thus, we had great opportunity to exchange our laboratory experiences.



Photo taken with the scientific group of Prof. Stefano Volinia at the end of stay of Monika Maciag (second from the right) at the University of Ferrara, Italy.