

# proEVLifeCycle NEWSLETTER

## -spring edition-

April 2021



**COMING UP:** Our third virtual **proEVLifeCycle Network Meeting** has been set on Monday and Tuesday 10-11 May, 2021.

Mark your agendas!

## NEWS

**European Prostate Cancer Alliance.** The members of proEVLifeCycle are proud to be part of the newly established European Prostate Cancer Alliance (EPCA), along with colleagues from **TRAIN**, **TransPot** and **ProCaRe ITNs**. The EPCA is a research network initiated by Dr. Hing Leung (UGLA) with a focus on the exchange of ideas and experience among a critical mass of EU-based researchers in the field of prostate cancer. The alliance held its first meeting in January 2021, involving presentations from coordinators of each ITN along with keynotes by Dr. Arkaitz Carracedo (CIC bioGUNE), and ESRs Parmveer Singh (UNEW) and Annelies Van Hemelryk (EMC). The successful first edition was followed by the EPCA Spring Seminar in April, which was marked by exciting keynotes on the evolution of aggressive localized prostate cancer by Dr. Paul C. Boutros (UCLA) and on the role of lipid metabolism in treatment resistance by Dr. Arnaud Blomme (University of Liège). A great addition to the programme were two interactive Q&A sessions with the guest experts. We are very proud of our ESR, Elena Castellano, who presented her research at the EPCA Spring Seminar alongside leading researchers in the field!

**Switching to the Digital Research Environment (DRE).** The consortium has now fully switched from platforms such as DropBox to the **Azure DRE**. The DRE provides instant, fully scalable workspaces that comply with the high standards of the General Data Protection Regulation. This enables the exchange of information and data among beneficiaries and partners in a secure environment. Big thanks to Elo Bosma and ESRs Ingrid and Pedro for organizing demos of the workspace.

**Completed deliverables.** Despite the difficulties we are facing due to the pandemic, we are continuously moving forward and reaching the goals set for the project. With CIC bioGUNE in the lead, we completed deliverable 2.1, which compiled **guidelines for standard operating procedures for quantification of secreted extracellular vesicles (EVs)**. We also started collecting reports on modified prostate cancer cell line generation for deliverable 3.1 coordinated by Cardiff University.

## Our ESRs - what have they been up to?

### ESR SPOTLIGHT

We are happy to present the first ESR in the spotlight, **Elena Castellano Sanz!** Prior to joining proEVLifecycle and Dr. Peinado's group, Elena completed an MRes in Cancer Biology at Imperial College London. Her current research at CNIO focuses on the role of prostate cancer-derived exosomes in pre-metastatic niche formation. She already performed mass spectrometry analyses on EVs from prostate cancer cell lines and is currently analyzing signatures associated with lymph node and bone metastasis. Her preliminary work on the biodistribution of those EVs in mice showed their efficient homing and uptake by specific cell types in lymph nodes and bone. She plans to expand on these results by further studying early metastatic seeding and pre-metastatic niche formation. Using mouse models and approaches such as RNA-sequencing, she will identify the main changes induced by cancer cells and their EVs in selected cell types within lymph nodes.

### ESR TRAINING

Besides regular Journal Club sessions, the continuous training of ESRs is a major aspect within proEVLifecycle. During the first quarter of 2021 there were already four successful training sessions. In January, Drs Martin van Royen, Hector Peinado and Guillaume van Niel delivered a seminar on imaging and tracking of EVs in living systems. In February, Dr. Ir. Edwin van der Pol spoke about EV flow cytometry, and in March, prof. Edit Buzas provided some valuable insights on the EV lifecycle. Finally, Dr. Johan Skog shared with us his experiences and important lessons regarding EVs in diagnostic applications. We are deeply thankful to all the speakers for the effort and time they invested. If anyone has missed these interesting talks, the recordings can be accessed through the DRE workspace.

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