



# **EPILEPSY RESEARCH IN THE EU**

## **STATE OF THE ART AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE**

**Palazzo della Racchetta  
Via Vaspergolo 4-6 - Ferrara  
October 28-29, 2015**

### **Host Institution and Organizer**

EPIXCHANGE project and University of Ferrara, prof. M. Simonato

### **Co-organizer**

FIE – Federazione Italiana Epilessie, F. Sofia- Chief Scientific Officer

### **Aim of the meeting**

The event will gather together all EU-funded and currently ongoing research projects specifically focused on epilepsy. Several laboratories and research institutions in Europe are supported from the EU for research on the mechanisms of epileptogenesis and on the development of new therapies. Currently, six projects are receiving funds from the EU and they account for a total EU investment of about 70 million euros. Coordinators and partners of each project will be invited to present their results and future aims and so will provide a vision of EU epilepsy research highlighting the areas of promising developments.

On the occasion, major international funding agencies both public and private will be invited to present their portfolios of research-funding initiatives.

The event is meant to build a framework for epilepsy research in Europe and to identify opportunities for the future.

## **Venue**

Palazzo della Racchetta, Ferrara

## **Organizing Committee**

Michele Simonato, University of Ferrara

Francesca Sofia, FIE

## **Scientific Advisory Committee**

Michele Simonato, University of Ferrara, Italy

Francesca Sofia, FIE, Italy

Merab Kokaia, University of Lund, Sweden

Lars Wahlberg, NsGene A/S, Denmark

Hervé Bethommé, Bioviron sarl, France

## **Local Organizers and Meeting Secretariat**

Michela Nanni, University of Ferrara, Italy

Tarcisio Levorato, FIE, Italy

Simona Borroni, FIE, Italy

## **Registration**

Registration is **free** of charge.

It is however required to register:

Via Web [www.mcrferrara.org](http://www.mcrferrara.org)

Via Email [info@mcrferrara.org](mailto:info@mcrferrara.org)

Via Fax +39-0532-213560

# Program

Wednesday, October 28

## Session I Epixchange

- 08.30-09.30 **Welcome address:** Michele Simonato (Epixchange) and Rosa Cervellione (FIE)  
Greetings: Italian National Government, Regional Government, City of Ferrara, Ferrara University
- 09.30-10.00 **Introduction to EPIXCHANGE**  
Michele Simonato (coordinator)
- 10.00-10.45 **Presentations by EPIXCHANGE Marie-Curie Fellows**  
*Differential effect of neuropeptides on excitatory synaptic transmission in human epileptic hippocampus.* My Andersson (Lund University)  
*Encapsulated cells, GDNF and spontaneous recurrent seizures.* Avtandil Nanobashvili (NsGene)  
*Long-term delivery of GDNF by encapsulated cells for the treatment of epilepsy.* Giovanna Paolone (University of Ferrara and NsGene)
- 10.45-11.15 *Coffee Break*
- 11.15-11.45 **Presentations by EPIXCHANGE Marie-Curie Fellows**  
*BDNF delivery strategies in an experimental model of temporal lobe epilepsy.* Chiara Falcicchia, (University of Ferrara, Bioviron and NsGene)  
*Silencing BDNF in the hippocampus of epileptic animals with amplicon vectors.* Pascal Trempat (Bioviron, University of Ferrara and Lund University)

## Session II Epilepsy, science, policies and politics

- 11.45-12.30 **Promoting epilepsy care and research: the vision of ILAE and IBE**  
Emilio Perucca (ILAE President) and Sari Tervonen (IBE Secretary General)
- 12.30-13.00 **Science, medicine and politics**  
Luigi Ferrari (Diplomatic Counselor of the Minister of Health)

13.00-14.30 Lunch

### Session III

#### Funding opportunities for epilepsy research and trends in the global scenario

- 14.30-14.45 **Introduction: current epilepsy research and the priorities for future research in the EU**  
Philippe Ryvlin (ILAE, IBE)
- 14.45-15.30 **Pharmaceutical industry investment in epilepsy research**  
Henrik Klitgaard (UCBpharma)  
Neil West (Eisai)
- 15.30-16.15 **How the EU is supporting epilepsy research and what can be anticipated for the future**  
Lara Passante (EU)  
Elisabetta Vaudano (IMI)
- 16.15-16.30 Coffee break
- 16.30-17.15 **Research portfolio and initiatives of charities in support to epilepsy research**  
Tracy Dixon (CURE)  
Helen Pernelet (Epilepsy Society UK)  
Lucia Monaco (Telethon Italy)
- 17.15-18.00 **ROUND TABLE** chaired by Philippe Ryvlin

### Evening

#### Gathering and art event

- 20.30 An art exhibition dedicated to epilepsy, accompanied by wine and cheese.

Thursday, October 29

## Session IV

### Epilepsy research in the EU

- 09.00-10.00 **EpiTARGET**  
*EpiTARGET consortium objectives.* Merab Kokaia (coordinator)  
*Targets and treatments for preventing epileptogenesis in animal models of symptomatic epilepsy.* Annamaria Vezzani  
*Sestrin 3, a regulator of a proconvulsant gene network in the epileptic hippocampus.* Michele Simonato
- 10.00-11.00 **EPI miRNA**  
*Epi miRNA: consortium objectives.* David Henshall (coordinator)  
*Genetics of miRNA.* Iscia Lopes-Cendes  
*Novel miRNA targets and biomarkers.* Gianpiero Cavalleri
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee Break
- 11.30-12.30 **EpiSTOP**  
*EpiSTOP consortium objectives.* Sergiusz Jozwiak (coordinator)  
*Impact of epilepsy on mental development and autism.* Paolo Curatolo  
*EEG as an early biomarker of epilepsy onset in young children.* Jacek Jaworski
- 12.30-13.30 **DESIRE**  
*DESIRE - Strategies for innovative research to improve diagnosis, prevention and treatment in children with difficult to treat epilepsy.* Janet Mifsud  
*Mosaic and germline mutations of the AKT/PIK3/mTOR pathway causing a range of epileptogenic brain malformations.* Renzo Guerrini (coordinator)  
*Models of epileptic encephalopathies.* Giuliano Avanzini  
*Preventing epileptogenesis in animal models of brain malformation with genetic tools.* Alfonso Represa
- 13.30-14.30 Lunch
- 14.30-15.30 **EpiPGX - Epilepsy Pharmacogenomics: past, present and future**  
*EpiPGX: how we got there and how it went.* Sanjay Sisodiya (coordinator)  
*EpiPGX: genetic strategies, current findings.* Gianpiero Cavalleri  
*EpiGPX: the future, functional and personal.* Holger Lerche

**Session V**  
**Innovative therapies for epilepsy**

- 15.30-16.00 ***Highly efficient in vitro and in vivo delivery of functional RNAs using new versatile chimeric retrovirus-like particles***  
Jean-Christophe Pagès (Inserm Tours and HCB)
- 16.00-16.30 *Coffee break*
- 16.30-17.00 ***Development of HSV vectors for gene transfer in nervous system***  
Joseph C. Glorioso (University of Pittsburgh)
- 17.00-17.30 ***Gene therapy approaches to modifying neuronal excitability in focal epilepsy***  
Matthew Walker (UCL)
- 17.30-17.45 **Conclusive remarks**

This event is supported by:



These entities have provided funding towards the costs of the meeting,  
but have had no input into or influence over the program schedule or content.