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Wrap-up of the DIRNANO project

As we move towards the end of the year, so does the DIRNANO project and to say it was a success is not enough to fully describe how much was achieved in the last three years. This ambitions initiative had its final meeting in July, in the beautiful city of Salzburg, where everyone celebrated its achievements and saw first-hand all the progress.

Training and development

As an International Training Network, one of the main objectives of DIRNANO was to train 15 PhD students/Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) at the highest level and prepare them for a future career in an international and multidisciplinary job market. With all the meetings, secondments and courses, the ESRs were trained in many different aspects and disciplines that ranged from purely academic to industrial settings, passing by clinical trials, project management and communication.

The personal and professional development that the ESRs underwent was extremely visible and we can proudly say that all of them have become evident scientists.

Collaborative networks

The whole basis of DIRNANO, and projects like it, is collaboration. Despite many of the participants having met in the past, the project fostered these pre-existing collaboration networks and created new ones, which led to very exciting works being performed in the field of nanomedicine that will be maintained in the future.

The future of nanomedicine

Besides fulfilling all its goals as an International Training Network, DIRNANO managed to be in the forefront of nanoparticle-based delivery systems and how they can modulate the immune response. We have made important advances in novel delivery systems, encapsulation of mRNA, delivery of immune stimulants and antigens, antibody discovery, how to avoid (or trigger) the complement system, and much more.

All in all, the work that was performed within the network not only highlights the

potential of nanotechnology, but also the effort that is being made to overcome its challenges.

Coming to its end, the project leaves behind a legacy of scientific excellence and is a prime example of how EU-funded projects in general, and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions in particular, can increase the quality of state-of-the-art research and help train the next generation of professionals.
The DIRNANO community extends its gratitude to all participants, partners and supporters. While the project is officially coming to an end, its members are still outputting quality research so be sure to continue following us and stay connected with us for updates!

We're still active on LinkedIn.

The DIRNANO team getting ready for dinner during the last network meeting in Salzburg, Austria.

Pedro Veloso, ESR2
Department of Biomedical Sciences
University of Padova, Italy

News in the consortium:

- The ESR Srdan Tadić, together with his supervisor Alfredo Martinez, have published a review article in Frontiers in Immunology on the potential of mRNA vaccines in targeting tumour related angiogenesis. Check it out on https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2024.1433185
- The ESR Pedro Veloso recently participated in the Biointerfaces International Conference 2024, that took place in the city of Basel, Switzerland, where he presented his work on how poly(oxazoline)-coated nanoparticles interact with dendritic cells.