

NEWSLETTER - 2

Who are we?

"ERA-NET" is a Coordination Action (CA) scheme supported by the European Commission, aiming to strengthen the scientific basis in Europe and to support the structure of the European Research Area (ERA).

Within this framework, ERA-Net PathoGenoMics has created an internal market for pathogenomics research, fostering trans-national exchange of information, mobility of human resources, trans-national support of innovation and technology transfer and proposes a European Research and Training agenda on pathogenomic research as part of a European Research policy.

Twelve European research consortia were selected for funding by the review board of the ERA-NET PathoGenoMics network. In the next three years these research teams will work on identifying critical factors in the biological processes and life cycles of pathogenic bacteria and fungi.

ERA-Net PathoGenoMics: PARTNERING WORKSHOP

January 21, 2008, Barcelona, Spain.

The second multinational call for grant applications of ERA-NET PathoGenoMics will be published under the title *Applied pathoGenomics: Prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of infectious diseases*.

In order to establish successful collaboration, a Partnering Workshop will be organized on January 21 (a full day), close to the call date. The workshop will offer participants a forum to meet, exchange research ideas, present their expertise and create contacts. The programme will consist of a general introduction to the call, and presentations contributed by the participants. There will also be time for both formal and informal discussions.

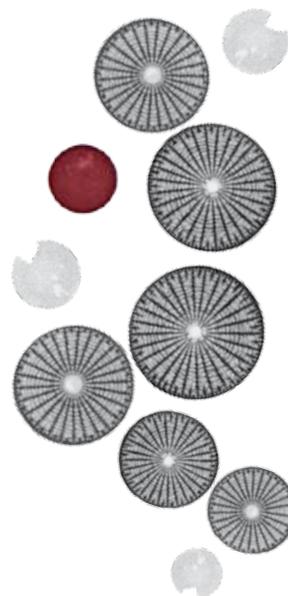
Participants are invited to introduce their expertise, work, or project ideas by submitting short abstracts of approximately half a page. The abstracts will be presented as posters or as short oral presentations. Participants who do not wish to submit an abstract are also welcome. There is no registration fee.

Further information and the registration form are available at: www.pathogenomics-era.net. Completed forms should be sent by e-mail (attached file) to: soile.juuti@ktl.fi no later than January 7, 2008.

Participation in the Partnering Workshop is recommended, but is not a prerequisite for submitting a project proposal or for receiving funding from the call.

The eight ERA-NET PathoGenoMics partner countries hosting in the call are Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals is February 29, 2008 and for full proposals May 15, 2008.

Further information: www.pathogenomics-era.net



Hungary
Finland
Spain
Germany
Israel
France
Austria
Portugal
Slovenia
Latvia

ERA-NET PathoGenoMics third PhD Award 2008 - open for submission..

Efforts to train future scientists in pathogenomics are an essential component of the present and future activities of ERA-NET PathoGenoMics.

As a part of these activities, ERA-NET PathoGenoMics announces a Call for Applications for the 2008 PhD Award. Three awards will be given to outstanding PhD theses completed during 2007 in the field of Pathogenomics.

Applicants from all the ERA-NET PathoGenoMics partner countries are eligible to submit entries.

The awards of 2000 € each will be presented in a ceremony during the "Genomes 2008" Conference in Paris, France, 8-11 April 2008. Each recipient will give a short presentation describing their PhD work. Travel expenses and registration fees to the conference will be covered by ERA-NET PathoGenoMics.

Further information under www.pathogenomics-era.net

ERA-NET PathoGenoMics acknowledges outstanding PhD theses

For the second time, ERA-NET PathoGenoMics has acknowledged outstanding PhD theses in pathogenomics research. In 2007, three researchers were chosen: Christel Archambaud (France), Cédric Delevoye (France) and João Paulo dos Santos Gomes (Portugal). The award ceremony took place during the 3rd European Conference on Prokaryotic Genomics in Göttingen, Germany, on 8 October 2007. The winning researchers presented the results of their thesis, and received their awards from Philippe Glaser from Institute Pasteur, Paris, a member of ERA-NET PathoGenoMics.



João Paulo dos Santos Gomes, from the National Institute of Health in Lisbon, studied biological and genetic features of *Chlamydia trachomatis* serological variants to reveal their different pathogenic potential. *Dos Santos Gomes* identified highly polymorphic so-called pmp genes as playing a significant role in infection and transmission ability, based on transcriptomic and immunoactivity analysis.

**Cédric Delevoye**

from the Institute Curie in Paris, analysed the intracellular infection cycle of Chlamydia. In his PhD thesis, *Delevoye* focussed on identifying membrane proteins secreted by *Chlamydia pneumoniae* during infection. In addition, he functionally characterised a single protein from the Inca-family that appears to be essential for cellular membrane fusion events.

Christel Archambaud

from the Institut Pasteur identified in her PhD thesis a functional phosphatase (STP) that appears to be crucial for the virulence of *Listeria*.





ERA-Net PathoGenoMics has developed a web-based teaching tool for pathogenomics-related issues.



This teaching tool presents the public with issues involved in genomic research of pathogenic bacteria and fungi. The teaching tool was designed for junior high-school students and can be used by internet surfers.

It is built as an Internet Web-site with modular sub-units and which can be used independently or in connection with each other. This modular structure enables non-linear steering between the various components of the teaching aid. The basic scientific knowledge required to manage the learning issues is continuously available as a supplement called “A virtual journey to the genetics of pathogens” on the left side of the screen.

While using the teaching tool, the users are confronted with scenarios that simulate actual issues and are required to make decisions on the basis of the scientific knowledge acquired while using the teaching aid.



The relevance and significance of underlying scientific concepts and facts is unveiled during the learning process, while the users make meaningful connections between newly acquired scientific concepts and their own existing knowledge. It is highly recommended that small groups of students (2-3) collaborate to perform the assignments included in the teaching aid.

The tool is written in English and can be translated into any language.

The teaching aid can be found at www.ict-science-to-society.org

