

Minutes from
the 6th Management Committee and WG1, WG2, WG3, WG4 and
WG5 meeting

September 12, 2008, Bucharest, Romania

The 6th Management Committee Meeting was held on Friday, September 12, 2008.

- Welcome- Patrick Butaye, the Chair of the COST ACTION B28 welcome the participants to the 6th Management Committee Meeting.

- Adoption of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved by the MC members by voting.

-Adoption of the Minutes of the 5th MC meeting in Vienna. The minutes were approved by the MC members by voting.

-Report of the Chair of the Working Group 1 - J. Schrenzel (replaced by Tanja Kostic)

A very useful collaboration among the members of this WG was reported. It has already led to joint research project proposals in the 7th Framework program of EU, but unfortunately, these proposals were not accepted.

Dr. Kostic reported that the Booklet will be published very soon by Wiley. It will contain numerous interesting papers written by the members of WG1. A separate meeting is planned for the WG1 members in January 2009. Currently, there are ongoing discussions where this meeting should take place. Two locations have been proposed one in Italy and the other in Geneva. A grant of 3000 € for organizing the meeting was attributed. This separate meeting is planned due to absence of several WG1 members at the meeting in Bucharest. The main reason for organizing a separate meeting was the fact that the COST B28 meeting in Bucharest was organized in the same time as a meeting on Brucella in London and since the meetings on Brucella are rather rare several WG1 members gave the preference to the meeting in London. The invited speaker from Italy expressed his interest to join WG1. He is from industry and found some topics of mutual interest with several WG1 members. A more information will be needed how to include this candidate into COST ACTION B28 in agreement with COST regulations.

-Report of the Chair of the Working Group 2 - C. Muller (replaced by Denis Kainov)

Although this is a relatively small group its activities are evaluated quite high with respect to the collaborative activities with other WGs. Two contributions from the members of this group will appear in the joint Booklet of WG2 and WG3, which is now under preparation and will be published by Wiley.

-Report of the Chair of the Working Group 3 - J. Stulik

Dr. Stulik reported that members of this group were able to increase considerably their research activities also in collaboration with the members of other WGs. Particularly valuable are the collaboration activities with WG1 and WG4 members that should lead to the new findings in the related research subjects and the joint research papers. With respect to the joint WG2 and WG3 Booklet, about eleven contributions were obtained from the WG3 members and as said before two contributions have been submitted by WG2 members thus far. It was decided that the Booklet will be reviewed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the COST ACTION B28 and the Chairs of the WGs. After reviewing process, the Booklet will be submitted for publishing to Wiley Interscience.

A proteomics course will be organized by WG3 members from Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic, for one week in October 2008. It was stated, however, that this action has not been approved by the COST Office yet although its organization has been running for several months and the participants should have had more detailed information also concerning the reimbursement process. It has been informed that a joint application for a Marie Curie Fellowship in the research of tularemia will be submitted by the COST ACTION B28 participants.

Report of the Chair of the Working Group 4- S. Panaiotov

The activities are evaluated quite high with respect to the collaborative activities with other WGs. Particularly valuable are the collaboration activities with WG1 and WG4 members that should lead to the new findings in the related research subjects and the joint research papers. It was mentioned that a preparatory work has been started to collect contributions for a Booklet.

Report of the Chair of the Working Group 5- M. Elschner

A very intensive collaboration among the members of this WG and also with other WGs was reported. It has already led to joint research project proposals which will be accomplished in the near future. Members of this WG together with other WG members organized for the second time "BSL3 /BSL4 Training Course" at the Institute of Virology, University Medical Center, Göttingen on 27 – 29 May 2008. The training course had a good response among participants and it was proposed that it should be organized also in future possible through the ECDC tender. This group has also to issue a Booklet and it was decided that the Booklet should not be on the training course but will deal with the BSL 3 and 4 pathogens. Members of this WG will meet again in Ghent before the end of this year and will deal with the Green Paper on working with BSL 3 and BSL 4 agents. At this meeting, a reply will be prepared from the scientific point of view. This meeting was attributed 2000 € for organisation.

A second book of this group will deal with the bacteriology of class 3 and 4 agents.

Annual Report

The Chair of the COST ACTION B28 Patrick Butaye said that to the best of his knowledge, there is nothing known about the deadline for submission of the Annual Report. As soon as the information is available, WG chairs will be notified so they can start collecting the necessary information for writing the report.

Operation of COST B28 web site <http://www.cost-b28.be/>

It was mentioned that the web site is a very useful tool for dissemination of information on the activities accomplished within the COST ACTION B28. WG chairs were asked to update regularly the web site. For the maintenance of the web site, Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Center, in Brussels (BE) is responsible. Costs for this maintenance comprise 2000,- EUR/year. This sum was approved as GASG by the MC members by voting.

STSMs: current status. Report of the Chair of STSM Committee - R. Toman

In the year 2008, Margo Molhoek from the TNO, Rijswijk (NL) accomplished her COST STSM (COST-STSM-B28-2470) at the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology of the Veterinary and Agrochemical Research Centre at Brussels (BE) from 10/02/2008 to 16/02/2008. Her mission was aimed at getting more insight into the biosafety at the BSL3 and to improve bacteriological handling of *Brucella* species. The total budget request was 800,- EUR.

Two more actions were approved by the COST Office and will take place in the near future:

- Ivan Ivanov from the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Disease, Sofia (BG) will accomplish his COST STSM (COST-STSM-B28-3350) at the National Reference Laboratory for Measles and Rubella at the Institute of Immunology, Luxembourg (LUX) from 01/10/2008 to 28/11/2008. His mission will be focused on screening (by PCR) selected pathogens of a large number of ticks from different sources and regions in Bulgaria collected during the last two years. He will also investigate the prevalence BSL3 and BSL4 bacterial, viral, and protozoal agents. The total budget request is 2500,- EUR.

- Stefan Panaiotov from the National Center of Infectious and Parasitic Disease, Sofia (BG) will accomplish his COST STSM (COST-STSM-B28-3432) at the Unite des Rickettsies, Universite de Medicine, Marseille (FR). His mission will be aimed at the development of universal primer sets for identification of unknown microorganisms. He will also test blood samples with the broad-range primers for identification by DNA amplification and sequencing of fastidious in culturing pathogens. The total budget request is 2450,- EUR.

Dr. Toman also proposed changes in the STSM Committee. He proposed to replace Maria Sakarellos-Daitsiotis from Greece by Iuliana Apostol from Romania in the Committee because the former member Prof. Sakarellos-Daitsiotis has not appeared at the COST ACTION B28 meetings for a long time.

Other subjects

There were no other subjects discussed at the meeting.

Discussion on the place and programme of the next meeting

Sanja Glisic from the Institute of Nuclear Sciences VINCA, Belgrade, Serbia, expressed wishes of the authorities in Serbia to organize the next COST ACTION B28 "Array technologies for BSL3 and BSL4 pathogens and the "7th Management Committee and WG1, WG2, WG3, WG4 and WG5 meetings in Belgrade, Serbia. The proposed date for the meeting

is April 2009. The MC members approved this proposal by voting. More information on the agenda, site and date of the meeting will be announced by the Organizing Committee in due course. For this meeting, a fund of 3000 € will be provided in order to support the organization of the meeting.

It was suggested to look for invited speakers from Russia and from CDC Atlanta (US).

It was suggested to keep in mind the offer of Italy (Catania, Sicily) and the former offer of UK (London).