

**Gordon Research Conference (GRC) meeting “Intermediate Filaments as the Platform to Underpin the "Social Network" of Cells and Tissues” in Barga Italy, June 24-29, 2018.**

*COST Action EuroCellNet (CA15214) disseminators: Pavel Hozak (Czech Republic) and Elly Hol (The Netherlands)*

The program of the GRC meeting was fully in line with the main work packages of EuroCellNet; [1] WG1 Biophysics of cell and tissue structure, [2] WG 2 Structural analysis of biomolecules involved in mechanobiology, [3] WG3 New methodologies to study mechanobiology of cells and tissues, and [4] WG 4 Mechanobiological principles of rare and common diseases. The detailed program can be found here: <https://www.grc.org/intermediate-filaments-conference/2018/>. The meeting was a mix of senior scientists and early stage researchers, and the research topic of many of these scientists was close to the main interests of EuroCellNet. The meeting gave ample opportunity for networking, interacting with early stage researchers, and there was an interesting discussion on the women in science (during the Power Hour). Both disseminators gave an oral presentation: On Monday June 25<sup>th</sup> Elly Hol (MC member and Science Communication Manager of EuroCellNet and former chair of NANONET) talked about “GFAP in reactive gliosis” and the relation with EuroCellNet WG 4. Pavel Hozak (Action Chair) talked on Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> about "Lipid-Containing Nuclear Structures in Genome Regulation" which is part of WG2 and WG3.

On Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon there was a special networking meeting fully focused on the COST Actions, the former NANONET BM1002 and EuroCellNet CA15214. Many EuroCellNet participants were also at the GRC meeting and attended this special EuroCellNet networking meeting to interact with leaders in the field, post-docs and graduate students. The host of EuroCellNet, Prof Pavel Hozak, welcomed all attending scientist and explained the mission and goals of EuroCellNet. He showed that the goals of EuroCellNet perfectly align with the interest of the international scientists attending the GRC and the young researchers attending the Gordon Research School and GRC. He pointed the attendants to the EuroCellNet website, and he advertised the ITC grant possibilities and the STSMs. He continued by acknowledging the hard work of the research community that enabled EuroCellNet and opened possibilities for scientists for exchange visits, organizing meetings, and networking. He welcomed newcomers in the field and invited them to actively participate in the WGs of EuroCellNet. One of the last actions of BM1002 was to start working towards a World Intermediate Filament Society, as decided at the final MC meeting of BM1002 in Turku on 5 November 2014. Since the start of EuroCellNet this idea was further developed and at this EuroCellNet networking meeting in Barga it was announced that the World Intermediate Filament Society was initiated. Individual researchers, but also complete labs can become member of this society, and pay a yearly fee. This fee will be used to support the research field and early researchers in this field. The society is seated in Sweden. The Society was announced and there was a discussion about how to proceed. The mission of the Society is to unite researchers that contribute, from different disciplines (from physics to medicine), to more insight in the intermediate filament biology from structure, to molecular biology, to biochemistry, to disease. An important aspect is also to create public awareness for intermediate filament research and to interact with patient organizations. Anybody who is interested is welcome to join the Society. It was very nice to see that the idea to start a Society a few years ago, was further developed in the COST Actions NANONET and EUROCELLNET, and is now actually a fact. The Society is highly supported by the “godfathers” of the field. They stressed that networking meetings such as EuroCellNet meetings and GRCs are essential for conveying knowledge, interdisciplinary networking, and attracting and training the scientists of the future!