

EFCCA PROJECTS DIGEST

FEBRUARY, 2024

#3 ISSUE

SUMMARY

PROJECT UPDATES



METHYLOMIC

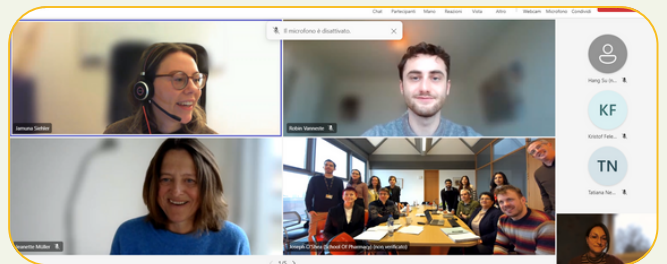
• SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The METHYLOMIC Project Consortium members gathered in Amsterdam for their 2nd General Assembly. The event featured presentations on ongoing activities by Work Package leaders.

GENEGUT

• 4TH GA ONLINE

GENEGUT 4th General Assembly was held online on 17 January 2024. The meeting signalled the good progress of the project.



GlycanTrigger

• NEW PODCAST SERIES

Our CEO has been one of the speakers in the first episode of this series: an initiative aimed at providing a space to learn more about the issues involved in the project.



FIBROTARGET

- **VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

On 8 January 2024, EFCCA attended the virtual FIBROTARGET General Assembly, the last meeting before the consortium’s summit in Athens on March.

IDEA-FAST

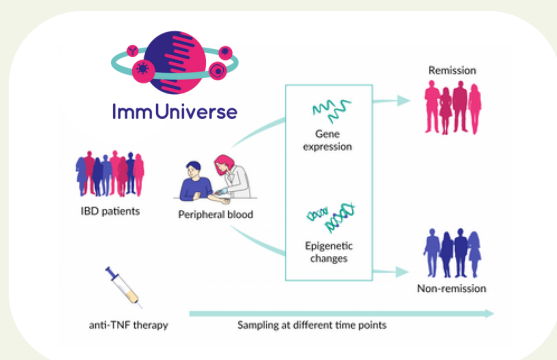
- **YEAR IN REVIEW**

In December 2023, the Idea-Fast Horizon 2020 project shared on its website a brief overview of its activities throughout the past year. A good opportunity to take stock as the initiative enters its fifth year of existence.



ImmUniverse

- **NEW PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY OF PUBLICATION**



ImmUniverse has published its first Plain Language Summary of Publication. An initiative aimed at delivering scientific content in simple and understandable language for a non-specialist audience.

PROJECT UPDATES

METHYLOMIC 2ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

After one year since project initiation, members of the METHYLOMIC Project Consortium convened in Amsterdam for its second GA

The gathering, held on 13 December, included presentations from leaders of various Work Packages, providing updates on the ongoing activities within the consortium.

EFCCA and CCNL (the Dutch IBD patient association) highlighted their communication achievements, including the website, social media channels, podcasts and outlined upcoming plans for the online first Stakeholder Workshop in autumn.

Our association plays a vital role in Work Package 6 of METHYLOMIC by contributing to the implementation of dissemination, exploitation and communication strategies, in collaboration with Vita-Salute San Raffaele University and other partners. EFCCA's involvement is aimed to



enhance the project's impact on the patient, scientific, economic and societal levels.


Following the Consortium General Assembly, three break-out groups focused on the upcoming study to be launched by the consortium, involving sites in the Netherlands, UK, Slovenia, Italy, Belgium and Hungary. EFCCA will share all details with our members in the mentioned countries once the survey is finalised and approved by the ethics committee.

THREE QUESTIONS FOR...

The [2nd issue](#) of METHYLOMIC's monthly interview series features our CEO Luisa Avedano, who outlines the primary objectives of EFCCA's participation in the project and identifies the main challenges of its goal to achieve a better understanding and treatment of the disease and to enhance patients' quality of life.

The series has also included a 3-question interview with Andrew Li Yim, Tenure Track Assistant Professor at Amsterdam UMC, along with the answer to the patients' question, "What is epigenetics?"





 This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under grant agreement No 101095449.

GENEGUT ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On 17 January, the GENEGUT consortium convened for its 4th GA. Discussions reflected on the first sixteen months of the project and strategising for its second year.

The meeting, led by Prof. Caitriona O'Driscoll from Cork University, focused on project management and collaboration among different work packages (WPs) to boost overall project success.

WPs leaders presented their updates, including the synthesis and characterisation of therapeutic RNA-based nanoparticles, cellular specificity and mechanism, formulation development for regional specificity, proof of efficacy under diseased conditions and early health technology assessment and regulatory preparedness.

  This project has received funding from the European Union (GA 101057491) and is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract number 22.00119.

GlycanTrigger NEW PODCAST

GlycanTrigger has launched a new 12-episode podcast series designed to facilitate dialogue among experts and patient representatives on IBD, lifestyle management and patient empowerment.

In its first installment, "Where are we and where do we want to go in IBD prediction and prevention?", the host engaged in a conversation with gastroenterologist Joana Torres and EFCCA's CEO, Luisa Avedano, who explored the current landscape of IBD prediction and prevention, offering valuable insights into the challenges and recent advancements in this field.

GENEGUT

4th General Assembly




The session served to identify synergies and exchange opportunities among project disciplines, aimed at advancing in a groundbreaking, safe RNA-based ileal Crohn's Disease therapy.

The next in-person General Assembly meeting is scheduled for June 2024 in Porto, Portugal, hosted by GENEGUT partner i3S.

Visit the [GENEGUT website](#) for more info.



The episode is available on [Spotify](#) and on the GlycanTrigger [YouTube channel](#).

 This project is funded by the European Union under the Grant Agreement no. 101093997.

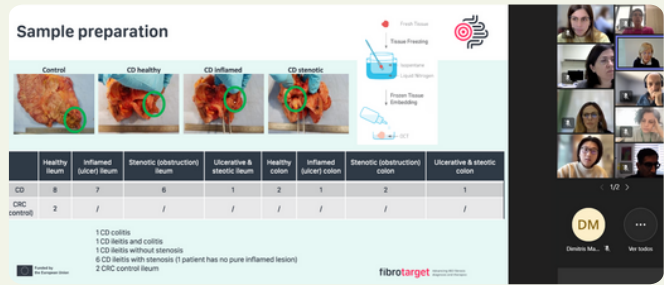
FIBROTARGET ONLINE GENERAL MEETING

The GA took place on 8 January, chaired by Coordinator KU Leuven Professor Séverine Vermeire

The meeting began with the introduction of new members and updates from member institutions, and also presented plans for the year 2024, including the Face-to-Face General Assembly Meeting, that will take place in Athens on 21-22 March.

Updates on different work packages (WP) were shared. WP1 revealed progress in defining a fibrosis-associated biomarker signature in IBD, with Xenium gene list finalised. WP2 focused on the pharmacological evaluation of C3, Tyk2 and NLRP3 inhibitors in cellular and animal models of IBD.

WP3, focused on diagnostic pathways for monitoring intestinal fibrosis in CD patients using cross-sectional imaging techniques.



Ethical approvals are pending, and risks related to patient recruitment and data collection were acknowledged, with proposed actions.

WP4, finally, disclosed plans for a first-in-human randomized controlled trial with C3/Tyk2/STAT3 inhibitors for fibrostenotic Crohn’s Disease patients.

The Training Academy update featured plans for a webinar on evaluating fibrosis under the microscope, with an outline completed and involvement of various experts.

Visit [FIBROTARGET’s website](#) to learn more about the project!



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe Research & Innovation programme under grant agreement No 101080523.

NEW PAPER ON NLRP3 INHIBITION



A new study, led by the First Department of Medicine and Deutsches Zentrum Immuntherapie at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, explores NLRP3 expression in mucosal immune cells.

The results suggest that NLRP3 inhibition could be a pharmacologic target for treating IBD, offering potential anti-fibrotic benefits and addressing unmet medical needs in the field.

Click [here](#) to know more.

IDEA-FAST YEAR IN REVIEW

The Horizon 2020 project shared a brief report on its activities throughout 2023 in December, marking the fourth year of the initiative since its inception

As of December 18, 2023, the study boasts an enrolment of 920 participants, surpassing the 1000-participants milestone in January of the current year. So far, the project has recruited 194 IBD patients, out of a target of 500.

This achievement confirms the study as one of the world's largest for wearable device research. Noteworthy for its vast collection of clinical and patient-reported outcome data, the IDEA-FAST study enhances the understanding of the impact and advantages of wearable



technology in the fields of IBD and neurodegenerative diseases.

This aligns with the recent inclusion of two new partners in the consortium: pharmaceutical company Bristol

Myers Squibb, and University College Cork, a top Irish institution for research and innovation.

Check out [IDEA-FAST Year-in-Review](#).



This project has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No 853981.

FIRST EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND PUBLICATION SUMMARY BY ImmUniverse

ImmUniverse was established as a transdisciplinary consortium with the aim of understanding the role of the crosstalk between the tissue microenvironment and immune cells in disease progression and response to therapy in Ulcerative Colitis and Atopic Dermatitis.

Through its Plain Language Summary of Publication (PLSP), the project aims to simplify complex scientific information,

bridging the gap between research and non-specialist audiences.

Its first publication on '[Chronic inflammatory bowel diseases: Predicting the success of biologics](#)' provides a concise summary of the recent work by different consortia including ImmUniverse, Syscid and 3TR, which focuses on identifying biomarkers that can predict a patient's responsiveness to specific therapies from the outset.



This project has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No. 853995 with EU Horizon 2020 and EFPIA support.

Disclaimer

The information contained in this newsletter is for general information purposes only. The information is provided by the project consortiums and whilst we endeavour to keep the information up-to-date and correct, we make no representations or warranties of any kind, express or implied, about the completeness, accuracy, reliability, suitability or availability with respect to the information in this newsletter for any purpose.