

The second year of the RNPnet project was in the light of a lot of meetings, trainings and the first RNPnet summerschool. The ESR students saw each other regularly during these events or during the secondments. For an overview on the meetings, trainings and secondments is presented later in this newsletter.

Recruitment

Due to personnel reasons, ESR 14 Satyavati Kharde stopped her position at EMBL and left the RNPnet project after 6 months. Leo Nésme was recruited to take over her project. Welcome Leo to the RNPnet consortium! Unfortunately, Christiane Kowatsch decided in mutual agreement to Frederic Allain to stop her position at ETH Zurich. The vacant position will hopefully be filled soon.

	<p>ESR 14: Leo Nesme From: France Start: 01.06.2013 At: EMBL, Germany Project title: Dynamic regulation of the Vasa protein activity</p>
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RNPnet half-time statistics

- All 16 ESR positions are filled (100%)
- 238.5 out of 576 Fellow-months have been implemented (41%)
- One of two summer schools was held (50%)
- 3 of 7 complementary skills courses were organized (43%)
- One of three workshops were conducted (33%)
- 31 out of 61 deliverables were completed (50%)
- 8 out of 21 milestones have been reached (38%)
- The fellows scored **3** publications in peer reviewed journals¹
- 1.67 of the granted 4.15 Mio. € (40%) were spent.
- The project Manager has sent out more than 1200 Emails.



RNPnet Evaluation

RNPnet was evaluated successfully at mid-term in June 2014. The coordinator wish to thank all member of the RNPnet consortium as well as its project manager Regina Notz for the preparation of this evaluation.

1st RNPnet summer school: Structural Biology of RNP complexes 28 July -03 August 2013, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany

The first RNPnet summer school took place at the EMBL in Heidelberg, Germany. It started on Sunday evening (28 July, 2013) with a dinner. All ESR Fellows were present. Teachers were Teresa Carlomagno, Carsten Sachse, Bernd Simon and Gabel (EMBL); Elena Conti (MPG); Ronald Micura (UIBK); Frederic Allain (ETH Zürich) and Carol Featherstone (Trainer Skills Course). The students got a thorough introduction in NMR followed by a lesson in NMR of RNA-protein complexes. They enjoyed practical modules like “the analysis of protein titration with RNA; visualization of chemical shifts on the structure; calculation of KD” and a training at the spectrometer. The ESR students also learned about the crystallization of RNA-protein complexes, both in theory and hands-on. The students were introduced to the Electron Microscopy and its applications, completed by a module about image processing. Site-specific labeling through chemical RNA solid-phase synthesis and combined approaches using chemical synthesis and enzymatic ligation as well as an introduction to SAS; combination of SANS and NMR to study RNA-protein complexes was on the agenda. The summer school was

¹ ESR4: Huppertz et al., 2013 in METHODS; iCLIP: Protein–RNA interactions at nucleotide resolution (doi:10.1016/j.ymeth.2013.10.011).

ESR7: Brugiolo et al., 2013 in F1000Prime Reports; Counting on co-transcriptional splicing (doi:10.12703/P5-9).

ESR10: Carvalho et al., 2013 in Nucleic Acids Research; Histone methyltransferase SETD2 coordinates FACT recruitment with nucleosome dynamics during transcription (doi:10.1093/nar/gks1472)

closed with a written exam. Besides all the hard work and studying, the students had lots of fun and could interact socially and build networks for their future scientific career.



The RNPnet Students relaxing in the summer sun after a hard day of work @ EMBL

1st RNPnet Workshop: *Research and careers in the private sector* 26-27 August, 2013, Novartis, Basel Switzerland



On August 26 and 27, 2013 the ESRs attended a workshop on the topic “career in the private sector” at the Novartis Campus in Basel. The aim of this workshop was to give the ESRs a realistic perspective about career opportunities and different job profiles within industry, with a focus on, but not only, pharmaceutical research. Scientists from Novartis gave an overview about the scientific drug discovery process in general to highlight similarities and differences between academic and pharmaceutical research. Several case studies of successful and failed drugs from the bench to the clinics were presented by responsible

program leaders to illustrate these general issues with real life examples. Experts from Human Resources covered the topics of recruitment and typical application processes, as well as examples for PostDoctoral programs within big pharma. Scientists at different stages in their career were sharing their personal stories and career experiences in a Q&A session. Throughout the workshop the students had the chance to also engage in individual discussions with Novartis scientists and break out among themselves to discuss and exchange about what they have heard. Finally the workshop was wrapped up with a report back from the students followed by a two hour open panel discussion and Q&A session with all attendants.



Complementary Skills courses

Scientific Career Planning (November, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal)

Half day course, trainer Joana Rosario

Gender issues: Equal Opportunities in Science (02 August, Heidelberg, Germany)

Half-day workshop on managing successful careers and happy families, trainer Carol Featherstone

Scientific Writing and presentation (August 28-29, 2013, Basel, Switzerland)

Two-day workshop "Making sense of writing", trainer Ian Patten



Realized Secondments

- ESR4 at Zavolan lab in October 2013 to perform a computational sequence analysis of iCLIP and PAR-CLIP data
- ESR5 at the Ule lab from 28 April to 6 June 2013 to perform an analysis of CLIP data
- ESR6 at the Neugebauer lab from Jan to March 2013 and in November 2013 to perform CLIP of SRSF5
- ESR7 at the Eyras lab in April 2014 to do analysis of SRSF1/7 CLIP data
- ESR8 at the Carmo-Fonseca lab from 28-11-2012 to 12-12-2012 to look at Gro-seq
- ESR12 at the Carlomagno lab from 18-29th March 2013 to perform 19F NMR spectroscopy of RNA-protein complex
- ESR13 at the Sachse lab for 4 weeks to perform EM analysis
- ESR15 at the Allain lab for several 3-4 days secondments from March 2013 to March 2014, approx. 4 weeks all together, to perform NMR spectroscopy
- ESR16 at the Neugebauer lab for 6 weeks in September and November 2013 to perform iCLIP analysis

Outlook

- **2nd RNPnet Summerschool** Cell and System Biology approaches in RNA biology, (23-27 June 2014, CNRS, Montpellier, France)
- **2nd Workshop** "RNA Surveillance, editing and splicing: RNP: Structure meets function" (3-5 September 2014, Czech Academy of Science, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic)
- **4th skills course** "Ethics in Science", (28 June 2014, CNRS, Montpellier, France)
- **3rd RNPnet Reporting Meeting** (28/29 June 2014, CNRS, Montpellier, France)
- **3rd RNPnet Workshop**: "RNP structure, function and mechanism of action" (October, 2015, Morocco)