

SMARTDIAGNOS partner meeting January 18-19, Linz, Austria

Now the EU project SMARTDIAGNOS, an innovation project within Horizon 2020, has been going on for two years which is half of the project time. The main goal with this project is to produce two prototype diagnostic systems, POC and LAB, for sensitive, specific and rapid detection of bacteria in whole blood from patients with suspected sepsis. Both systems are based on molecular methods. This was the 5th partner meeting in the project for the ten contributing institutions and companies. The meeting in Linz was organized by the company Cube Dx, St Valentin, Austria, which is the company that will produce the prototype for the LAB-system that will be used in diagnostic laboratories for detection of bacteria and resistance genes in whole blood. The company Zoetis, Denmark, will produce the POC-system for analysis of whole blood in single use cassettes.

During the two days of the meeting the status of each of the ten work packages was presented. The first work package to be finished was "Systems specifications and requirements", which is a detailed technical specification of what is expected from the two new diagnostics instruments, POC (point of care) and LAB. Furthermore, three other more technical work packages to optimize different processes needed for the new instruments, "Sample concentration methods", "Optical detection methods to improve sensitivity", and "Methods to improve specificity and multiplexing capabilities" are about to finish at this time. Most of this work has been carried out by the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and TATAA in Gothenburg, Sweden, together with the two companies Zoetis and Cube Dx.

The work with detection of specific miRNA as a new biomarker for sepsis is still ongoing and needs further testing, but there are several promising candidates identified so far. This work is carried out by the University of Skövde, Sweden in close collaboration with TATAA. During 2018 the work will intensify in finalizing the two prototypes of the diagnostic POC and LAB systems, so that further testing of the systems can be performed as planned in 2019. Three laboratories in three different countries will perform the tests in the work package "Performance evaluation in clinical settings" organized by the work package leader University of Skövde. The two prototype instruments will be placed at Unilabs clinical microbiology laboratory in Skövde, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and Danube University in Krems, Austria.

The next SMARTDIAGNOS partner meeting will take place in Skövde August 20-21 and is arranged by the University of Skövde. A part of the meeting will be held at Unilabs for a visit to the microbiology and molecular biology laboratories.

To read more about the project see www.smartdiagnos.eu

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