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VirA

Reducing networking gaps between Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) and internationally-leading counterparts in viral infection-induced autoimmunity research

Research capacity, able to deliver precise and early diagnostic is of high importance to move towards the development of methods for personalised medicine and better understanding of triggers and mechanisms in autoimmunity, leading to better understanding of chronic diseases and comorbidities and searching for therapy options. VirA project will optimally address the challenges and strengthen the European Research Area in autoimmunity.

OVERALL AIM is to promote autoimmune disease research capacity and fill networking gaps in the institution (RSU) of the low-performing Member State – Latvia, by establishing a consortium with leading research institutions from Italy – University of Ferrara, Germany – Ulm University, and Israel – Zabludowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases at Sheba Medical Center.

Objective 1

Increased research excellence of the coordinating institution in the field of research as a result of the twinning exercise

Objective 2

Enhance reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of the coordinating institution

Objective 3

Enhance scientific and technological capacity of the linked institutions with a principal focus on the university or research organisation from the Widening Country

Raising experience of the staff with short term exchanges	Bringing new knowledge to the institute from expert visits and short-term on-site or virtual training
PROJECT ACTIVITIES	
Conference participation and attendance to help with project dissemination and gathering of new information and global knowledge exchange	Organisation of training workshops and joint summer schools to increase the networking ability of staff and foster knowledge transfer

VirA Contacts



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VirA Project Partners

Coordinated by:

RĪGAS STRADIŅA UNIVERSITĀTE	Rīga Stradiņš University Latvia
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Project partners:

UNIVERSITÀ degli Studi di Ferrara	University of Ferrara Italy
universität ulm	Ulm University Germany
SHEBA Tel HaShomer City of Health	Zabludowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases at Sheba Medical Center Israel

Diseases of central nervous system: Multiple sclerosis Encephalopathy Meningitis Epilepsy	Autoimmune diseases: Autoimmune thyroid diseases Rheumatoid arthritis Fibromyalgia Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome
EXPERTISE	
Malignant processes: Prostate cancer Chronic lymphocytic leukemia	Paediatric diseases: Lower Respiratory Tract Illnesses Acute Gastroenteritis

Epstein-Barr virus
Cytomegalovirus
Human Herpesvirus 6A and 6B
Human Herpesvirus 7

Parvovirus B19
Bocavirus 1-4
Human parvovirus 4

Papillomaviruses

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)

POTENTIAL DIRECTIONS OF COLLABORATION

Life sciences

Persistent viral infections

Newly discovered viruses

Bioimmunology

Medical biotechnology

Statistics and mathematical modelling