



### 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



**Coordinated by:** 



Rīga Stradinš University Latvia

### **Objective 2**

Enhance reputation, attractiveness and networking channels of the coordinating institution

### **Project partners:**



Università degli Studi di Ferrara

**University of Ferrara** Italy

## **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







**Ulm University** Germany

**Zabludowicz Center** for Autoimmune Diseases at Sheba Medical Center Israel

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



Project Coordinator Assoc. Prof., MD, Ph.D. Modra Murovska

Address: Rīga Stradinš University Institute of Microbiology and Virology 5 Rātsupītes Street, Riga, LV-1067, Latvia **Phone:** +371 67060834 E-mail: Modra.Murovska@rsu.lv www.vira-twinning.eu

Grant agreement No. 952376 Project realisation: 01.12.2020-30.11.2023 Overall budget: 899 992.50 EUR Funded under: H2020-EU Field of science: medical and health sciences, basic medicine, immunology, autoimmune diseases

### **Diseases of central** nervous system: Multiple sclerosis

Encephalopathy Meningitis **Epilepsy** 

### Autoimmune diseases:

Autoimmune thyroid diseases Rheumatoid arthritis Fibromyalgia Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome

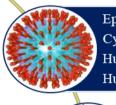
**EXPERTISE** 

### **Malignant processes:**

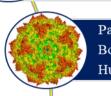
Prostate cancer Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

### **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



**Papilomaviruses** 



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