

## DIAMAP Project – Newsletter No. 4

June 2009

### *DIAMAP (FP7 200701) Mid-term Meeting Brussels, 23 April 2009*

This was the occasion to present to the European Commission (Research Directorate General) what had been achieved during the first 12 months of DIAMAP. As EURADIA is the co-ordinating organisation of the project representatives from all EURADIA members had been invited to take part in the Mid-term meeting. Ms Nathalie Vercrusse (European Commission Project Officer) and Prof. Toomas Podar (External Scientific Reviewer) carried out the evaluation, while Dr Manuel Hallen, Head of Unit F2, from the Research Directorate General was a very welcome presence.

### *Presentations*

Prof Philippe Halban, Coordinator of DIAMAP started the meeting by presenting basic and background information on the rationale for DIAMAP and some hints about the challenges encountered during the first year. This was followed by a presentation on undertaking the road mapping process, by Michelle Cissell, PhD (strategic consultant for the JDRF) who informed the audience of the outcomes expected from the expert Focussed Sub-groups. Her presentation showed step by step the overall strategy and what is hoped to be achieved.



**Participants at the Mid-term Meeting, 23 April 2009, Brussels**

## *The Focussed Sub-Groups*

*Each of the six Focussed Sub-Groups (and the Horizontal Issues group)* was represented during the Mid-term meeting and each presentation provided insights into the mapping process and what had been achieved so far. These presentations allowed for the first time an insight into the scientific depth and creativity of the discussions within each group for the past 9 months. Two Focussed Sub-Groups, namely Clinical Science and Care and Horizontal Issues had begun the mapping process later and each group had their own first meeting in March 2009. Their initial results were also presented and included new and inspiring ideas, which challenged current thinking on organisational aspects of clinical research around Europe. All groups will continue drawing up their road maps and accompanying documentation with the aim of completing this process by autumn 2009.

**Participants in each of the Focussed Sub-Groups are listed on [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu).**

## *Research Questionnaire*

DIAMAP is not only about the future of European diabetes research but also plans to provide a snapshot of the current state of research. The **DIAMAP research questionnaire** was also presented at the meeting and the early data were received with great interest. Information gathered from the Research Questionnaire will continue to be used after the project has ended to create a searchable database providing information on individual investigators in all fields of diabetes and related research from all over Europe. It is the intention to make the database a solid networking tool that can be exploited by individuals, provide networking opportunities and tap into the potential for industry and enterprise development.

**Online Research Questionnaire: [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)**

**Word version of the Questionnaire:**

**<http://www.diamap.eu/Questionnaires/Research-Questionnaire.doc>**

Researchers who have not yet completed the questionnaire still have time to ensure their research areas and national/local diabetes research expertise are included in DIAMAP, and in order to be part of the database from the outset.

## *Funding Questionnaire*

Information from the survey of European funding agencies was also presented. This database will also be made available in part to the public once the project is finished. It will provide a useful collection of organisations where researchers can apply for funding. Collection of data is still ongoing and we strongly recommend that you contact funding agencies to ensure that their details are included in the report. The funding survey will provide **unique** information on the current state of diabetes funding across Europe. Without this information it is difficult to make assessments of where more funding is required and how it can be allocated.

## **How you can help put your national funding agencies on the Funding Map:**



Go to **[www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)** and follow the link to the DIAMAP Funding database. Then click on your country to see which organisations have provided information. (Note that only names of organisations are provided, no other details).

If the funding agencies/organisations (public or private) that you know to be active in supporting diabetes research in your country are not listed, please contact them and encourage them to complete the “funding questionnaire” online, or contact DIAMAP directly ([sarah.hills@euradia.org](mailto:sarah.hills@euradia.org)).