



## **Newsletter No 1/2017**

Dear GENIEUR partners and followers,

Heidelberg/Gothenburg, September 15, 2017

With great pleasure we share the latest news of GENIEUR: The major achievements of our COST Action BM1106 GENIEUR have now been summarized in the *Major Outcome Brochure* which could be produced using a Dissemination Grant from the COST Association. It contains the *COST Final Achievement Report* in a nutshell combined with publications to be distributed at conferences and on the website. It was included in the conference bags at the **#neuroGASTRO2017** and every meeting delegate received a copy of it. We will send out ten printed versions to each member for his/her own use/distribution on site in September.

Furthermore, the COST Final Achievement Report was quite well evaluated and approved by the COST rapporteur Dr. Freddy Troost (Maastricht, The Netherlands). His report is available on the [website](#).

The following publications were recently published by our members:

### **STSMs**

**\*\*\*Just a little reminder to those of you who received an STSM grant: Please remember to acknowledge COST for support of your STSM in any publications based/initiated by a STSM\*\*\***

[Beckers et al., 2016](#) (Grantee: Daniel Keszthelyi, Maastricht (NL); Host: Qasim Aziz, London (UK)) wrapped up the current knowledge on *Joint hypermobility syndrome (JHS)/Ehlers-Danlos syndrome hypermobility type (EDS-HT)*, a disorder of connective tissue, in which many patients also suffer from gastrointestinal symptoms/IBS. The aim of the review was to examine the nature of GI symptoms and their underlying pathophysiology in both conditions. In addition, clinical implications of the diagnosis and treatment of JHS/EDS-HT for practicing clinicians in gastroenterology were considered. This represents a first step toward the identification of a new pathophysiological basis for a new subgroup of patients with functional GI disorders.

[Moloney et al., 2017](#) (Grantee: Eloisa Salvo-Romero, Barcelona (ES); Host: Gerard Clarke, Cork (IR)) investigated the microbial influence on hippocampal miRNA expression and found implications for post-transcriptional regulation of kynurenine pathway enzymes. They performed comparative miRNA profiling and validation of miRNA candidates plus target genes in the hippocampus of germ free, conventional and germ free colonised mice. They found the expression of miR-294-5p increased in male germ free animals which was normalised after colonisation. Interestingly, targets of the differentially expressed miRNAs were over-represented in the kynurenine pathway. Thereby they added further evidence that gut microbiota play an important role in modulating non-coding RNAs that influence hippocampal gene expression thereby shaping hippocampal development.

We also would like to highlight another great achievement of GENIEUR members: The *Nature Disease Primers Review* of [Paul Enck et al. \(2016\)](#) on IBS is now included in a new *Nature Online Collection on Gut-Brain Axis*. Furthermore, reviews of our members [Robin Spiller](#) and [Emeran Mayer](#) are included.

Our phenotyping tool is highly appreciated in the field of neurogastroenterology and colleagues from the USA and Canada are interested to implement it in their projects. In addition Mirjana Rajilić-Stojanović from Belgrade (SRB) promoted it at the **#neuroGASTRO2017** within the Postgraduate Course *'The gut microbiome and IBS: The GENIEUR approach to clinical phenotyping'*. Daisy Jonkers from Maastricht (NL) will report on *'The GENIEUR approach to clinical phenotyping'* at the **UEGW2017** in Barcelona.

In March this year, Beate Niesler was invited to the **neurogastro2017** in Iasi, Romania, a meeting of the *Romanian Society of Neurogastroenterology with the Rome IV Regional Central East European Meeting* where she promoted GENIEUR and could interest colleagues from Russia, Bulgaria and Macedonia to join our efforts. Furthermore, Beate Niesler gave a presentation on 'GENIEUR-Genetics in IBS' at the European neurogastro conference **#neuroGASTRO2017** organised by the ESNM in Cork, Ireland, in the symposium 'Biomarkers in IBS' in which also Mirjana Rajilić-Stojanović from Belgrade (SRB) reported on 'Microbiome and IBS' and Hans Törnblom from Gothenburg (SE) spoke about 'Clinical biomarkers in IBS' on behalf of Magnus Simrén (SE).

At the **#neuroGASTRO2017** also a GENIEUR-reloaded session took place which was quite well attended (40 delegates). Within the scheduled 60 minutes, an up-date was given on the current status of GENIEUR-reloaded, ongoing collaborations and initiatives and lobbying for improving the funding situation for IBS research. Currently, the METC of the GENIEUR protocol has been approved in 10 of the 21 European GENIEUR member countries. In order to further lobby for our mission, the leaflet as a basic information resource on GENIEUR in lay language has been translated into 17 national languages of partners involved in GENIEUR. We are currently working on an effective promotion and distribution strategy and will get in touch in due time to ask for your support.

Major outputs have been highlighted, such as the above mentioned STSM outputs, conference presentations and work in progress. Various manuscripts of GENIEUR members on genetics and epigenetics are in pipeline and supposed to be published soon. Moreover, a status report on the [UEG LINK Award Project 'Help EU in IBS'](#) in which groups from the *Netherlands, Germany, Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Malta* are involved was given by Beate Niesler (DE). She also reported on collaborative genetics and epigenetics projects within GENIEUR. Moreover, a progress report on the microbiota pilot study was given by Jonna Jalanka from Nottingham (UK). Furthermore, Dan Dumitrascu from Cluj-Napoca (RO) shared the idea born during the neurogastro in Iasi (RO) to establish a new COST Action European Network on cross-cultural differences in IBS. In a nutshell, studies and knowledge on IBS in East European countries is scarce and most of the inventories used – also in our phenotyping tool are still missing. His team is currently working on a proposal and will get in touch with further details in due time.

The next GENIEUR-reloaded Meeting will take place at the world neurogastro conference [FNM2018](#) in Amsterdam:



We are looking forward to our future collaborations and hope to see you again in Amsterdam.

With kind regards,

Beate Niesler and Magnus Simrén



Chair and Co-Chair of

[www.GENIEUR.eu](http://www.GENIEUR.eu)

This [newsletter](#) can also be found on our website and the GENIEUR-reloaded Meeting presentation is available in the GENIEUR repository.