

This newsletter aims to keep you updated about the latest activities of the European Training Network "OPATHY". It will appear every 3 months. **To subscribe to the newsletter please click here.** You can unsubscribe from the newsletter at the bottom of the page.



From Omics to Patient: Improving Diagnostics of Pathogenic Yeasts

Newsletter 03/2019

www.opathy.eu



OPATHY 3rd winter school on entrepreneurial skills in Utrecht, Netherlands

The third OPATHY winter school took place from 16th till 18th of January at QVQ and Westerdijk premises in Utrecht, Netherlands. Lectures comprised topics like "Working in a company after studies", "From science to value: identification and evaluation of new results, projects and ideas", "How can a company be taken over (IPA deal)?", "How can a company taken over a small company?", Budapest treaty and Nagoya protocol. ESRs also received practical training in identifying valorisation potentials of their own research projects. You can find some more information about the winter school [here](#). Westerdijk also produced a [video](#), in which ESRs explain the potential applications of their results in the business sector.

[Read more about the winter school](#)



Participation in Dance your PhD competition

Marina Pekmezovic, ESR at Hans-Knöll Institute Jena,



OPATHY activities during European Researchers' Night



Marina Pekmezovic wins MCAA best poster award

ESR Marina Pekmezovic

Germany, coordinated the production of the video "Candida infections: a disbalance in the interaction with the human host and its microbiota", which was submitted in the "Dance Your PhD competition", organized and sponsored by AAAS and Science journal.

[See the video here](#)

Giuseppe Buda di Cesare participated in the European Researchers' Night 2018 at the University of Aberdeen and explained his research to the public in PechaKucha format. In parallel, OPATHY coordinator Toni Gabaldon and ESR Veronica Mixão explained together with representatives of 6 other ITNS their networks in a public event in Barcelona.

[More about the ERN](#)

received the award for the best poster at the 6th Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA) general assembly and annual conference in Vienna, Austria. The poster entitled "PhD is more than science" was focused on her engagement in outreach activities and the importance of science communication.

[Read more](#)



MCAA 6th annual meeting, 24-25 February 2019, Vienna

The 6th MCAA general assembly and annual conference was held on February 24-25th, 2019 in Vienna, Austria. Under the umbrella topic "Research and Innovation beyond the Information Age" about 600 participants from all over Europe and beyond came together in the impressive venue of the University of Vienna. Researchers, entrepreneurs, politicians and science managers and communicators discussed in more than 24 sessions how to utilize technology and information to communicate research effectively to the public, and to realise its potential in the market. Also two OPATHY representatives from HKI, Germany and CRG, Spain participated the meeting. All main sessions can be seen in full length on youtube: [Day 1](#), [Day 2](#)

[Learn more about MCAA](#)

EFLM

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF CLINICAL CHEMISTRY
AND LABORATORY MEDICINE



Microbiome: an emerging topic in medicine

OPATHY coordinator Toni Gabaldón (Centre for Genomic Regulation, Spain) opens the section 'Hot Topics in Laboratory Medicine' in the last EFLM newsletter talking about the importance of microbiome and its alterations involved in many diseases. Therefore, the understanding of the microbiome with our health is fundamental to improve the treatments of many pathologies. Of particular interest to the clinical laboratory is how can the microbiome composition be assessed and how the advances in sequencing technologies have enabled us to access the composition of the microbiome in a fast and comprehensive way.

[Read the newsletter](#)

Did you know: First phase 3 data back Scynexis' new-class antifungal Ibrexafungerp

Scynexis has recently developed a novel, intravenous and orally bioavailable antifungal, Ibrexafungerp. After the promising results shown in **earlier studies**, the new drug (called previously SCY-078) is now going through phase 3 and the first data looks very positive. This is really good news (together with the FDA approval of **TOLSURA™** in the United States for the treatment of systemic fungal infections) as few antifungal drugs are available on the market and the resistance rates to the treatment are increasing.

[Read more](#)

Meet our ESRs: ESR#1 Verónica Mixão in interview



[See the video about Veronica's project](#)

Outlook



HFP2019: Molecular Mechanisms of Host-Pathogen Interactions and Virulence in Human Fungal Pathogens
18-24 May 2019 | La Colle sur Loup, France

The final OPATHY assembly will take place in France

All good things come to an end and the OPATHY consortium will have its final meeting during the Advanced FEBS course at La Colle sur Loup. The assembly will meet on the 17th and 18th for short presentations of the ESRs' projects and have the chance to participate in the FEBS course, which takes place every two years for the 8th time and gives the opportunity to young scientists to learn more about specific topics, present their work, and network. This year, the course will be focused on molecular mechanisms of host-pathogen interactions and virulence in human fungal pathogens. Apart from the main events of the course, OPATHY ESRs have planned plenty of activities like a world-cafe, sports games and awards for the best speaker and poster. In the OPATHY booth on the site, all information about the consortium can be found and ESRs will let you know about the very funny activities, which are planned. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone in France!

[Read more about FEBS 2019](#)

Have a look at our latest scientific publications

[Vatanshenassan M](#), Boekhout T, Meis JF, Berman J, Chowdhary A, Ben-Ami R, et al. *Candida auris* Identification and Rapid Antifungal Susceptibility Testing Against Echinocandins by MALDI-TOF MS. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol.* 2019;9. doi:10.3389/fcimb.2019.00020

[Iracane E](#), Donovan P, Ola M., Butler G., Holland L. Identification of an Exceptionally Long Intron in the HAC1 Gene of *Candida parapsilosis*. *mSphere*, 2018 vol: 3 (6) pp: e00532-18. doi:10.1128/mSphere.00532-18 (2019).

Lombardi L, [Oliveira-Pacheco J](#), Butler G. Plasmid-based CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing in multiple *Candida* species. *Genetics*. bioRxiv; 2019.

[Arastehfar A](#), Daneshnia F, Kord M, Roudbary M, Zarrinfar H, Fang W, et al. Comparison of 21-Plex PCR and API 20C AUX, MALDI-TOF MS, and rDNA Sequencing for a Wide Range of Clinically Isolated Yeast Species: Improved Identification by Combining 21-Plex PCR and API 20C AUX as an Alternative Strategy for Developing Countries. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol.* 2019;9. doi:10.3389/fcimb.2019.00021

[Arastehfar A](#), Fang W, Daneshnia F, Al-Hatmi AM, Liao W, Pan W, et al. Novel multiplex real-time quantitative PCR detecting system approach for direct detection of *Candida auris* and its relatives in spiked serum samples. *Future Microbiol.* 2019;14: 33-45.

[Arastehfar A](#), Fang W, Al-Hatmi AMS, Afsarian MH, Daneshnia F, Bakhtiari M, et al. Unequivocal identification of an underestimated opportunistic yeast species, *Cyberlindnera fabianii*, and its close relatives using a dual-function PCR and literature review of published cases. *Med Mycol.* 2019; doi:10.1093/mmy/myy148

[Arastehfar A](#), Daneshnia F, Salehi M.R., Zarrinfar H., Khodavaisy S., Haas P.-J., et al. Molecular characterization and antifungal susceptibility testing of *Candida nivariensis* from blood samples – an Iranian multicenter study and a review of the literature. *Journal of Medical Microbiology*. February 2019.

[Arastehfar A](#), Bakhtiari M., Daneshnia F., Fang W., Khanjar S., Al Hatmi A., et al. First fungemia case due to environmental yeast *Wickerhamomyces myanmarensis*: detection by multiplex qPCR and antifungal susceptibility. *Future Microbiology*, January 2019.

[Find all our scientific publications](#)

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