



# Newsletter

## September 2016

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## A Word from the Coordinator

It was a great pleasure to meet with all of you again in Amsterdam in April for our last Naturimmun meeting. I have very much enjoyed working as the coordinator during the last two years and for Erhard during the first two years of the project. In our opinion you have been and are still a really great and enthusiastic consortium.

Sadly the Naturimmun project will end at end of September but, in order to have something which reminds us of our great and interactive

work in the future and to show the EU how successful we've been, I managed to set up a special topic in *Frontiers Immunology*.

In summary, our consortium has accomplished quite a lot of science and interaction in the last 4 years and most importantly all of you have contributed to the success of our meetings and the overall milestones of Naturimmun.

My special thanks go to all the hosts of our winter and summer schools, who gave these events the structure and the atmosphere they needed to succeed. In addition I want to thank Erhard as my co-chair and our main chair in the first period – very active he has set up our consortium and prepared excellent progress reports based on your contributions.

And finally, but not least I want to thank Carole for her outstanding activity and help to manage our consortium, to keep the group informed about both,

financial background as well as rules with regard to the EU

and about outreach activities presented in her great newsletter.

And for sure, I like to thank all of you for your continuous, fruitful and most supportive collaboration! May your future be filled with good job opportunities, joy, happiness and success!

Yours,  
Ulrike on behalf of Erhard and Carole



Naturimmun, a new Lager...

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# Final Meeting in Amsterdam

Despite an unusually cold and wet weather for April, the last meeting of the NatuImmun consortium was a success!

The NatuImmun fellows presented their thesis in front of the whole consortium. The presentations led to very engaging discussions.

The presentation session was followed by a Supervisory Board meeting. After a summary of achievements of the NatuImmun project, the supervisors discussed the potential outcomes and directions for future research and a follow-up project.

The two coordinators of the project, Erhard Hofer (1/10/2012-30/06/2014) and Ulrike Köhl (from 01/04/2014 onward) warmly thanked the whole consortium, PIs and students, for their enthusiasm. The Supervisory Board meeting concluded with a photographic look back at four years of NatuImmun which displayed



photos of the members of the consortium taken at various workshops and meetings since the beginning of the project.

We would like to thank Tanja de Gruijl and John Veluchamy for the flawless organization of the meeting and for the entertaining group outings.



After a relaxing dinner at a famous local brewery, the meeting continued the next day with presentations from experts in immunology and regenerative medicine.



The consortium members were then able to enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city of Amsterdam. The group met again in the evening for a farewell-dinner on a boat while cruising the canals of Amsterdam.

## Publications

### NaturImmun fellows prepare abstracts for Frontiers

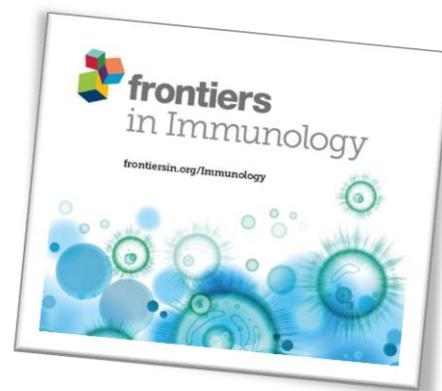
Two thirds of the NaturImmun fellows have decided to take advantage of the opportunity offered by Ulrike Köhl to publish an abstract in Frontiers Immunology.

Ulrike Köhl and two other co-editors, Gianfranco Pittari and Antoine Toubert, had been invited by the journal in early spring 2016 to set up a special research titled "*Tailoring NK Cell Receptor-Ligand Interactions: an*

*Art in Evolution*". Ulrike Köhl had then encouraged the NaturImmun fellows to submit a paper in order to increase the number of publications to submit with their thesis.

This is a great opportunity for the fellows as Frontiers Immunology has just received his first official Impact Factor of 5.695. "It has become the largest and the most cited open-access journal in Immunology, and the 7<sup>th</sup> most cited amongst all journals in Immunology"\*.

It will also help assess what the NaturImmun consortium has accomplished during the four year-long grant programme.



The deadline for submitting the abstract was June 30 and the deadline for submitting the full manuscript is 2 November 2016, just in time for the NaturImmun Scientific Report.

\*Frontiers in Immunology: "Quality and Impact Analysis: Frontiers in Immunology"

### Erhard Hofer invited for an interview on the NaturImmun project in EU Research

As discussed at the final meeting in Amsterdam, Erhard Hofer's contacted the EU Research magazine. EU Research agreed to write an article in the form of an interview.

This is another great opportunity to promote the NaturImmun project and to strengthen the outreach activities of the consortium.



EU Research is an open access publication for scientific research and dissemination. It specializes on writing, editing and publishing articles on scientific project bringing findings to a large audience therefore enabling cooperation and development.

The two-page article will include a short biography of NaturImmun's coordinators, a description of the project and consortium as well as an interview

with Erhard Hofer.

The article should be published on 23 September 2016 and the electronic version will be accessible at: <http://www.euresearcher.com>.

## Outreach Activities

### John Veluchamy's Interview with I amsterdam

Our NaturImmun fellow in Amsterdam, John Veluchamy, was interviewed by **I amsterdam**, an online "guide to visit, enjoy, live, work & invest in Amsterdam". The story was part of an Amsterdam's promotion event to interview expats from different sectors working in Amsterdam. The international profiles can be found on their website. John, whose name had been proposed by a colleague, was chosen under the Science / Medical Research category.

The journalists came to John's laboratory at VUmc and the interview covered topics such as life with his family, work, hobbies, and what John likes most in Amsterdam. The journalists also shared some useful tips about Amsterdam, which John found very interesting to explore. As part of the interview, John enjoyed a fancy photoshoot in the laboratory.

John explains that the goal of the promotional event was "to encourage other expats or people willing to relocate to Amsterdam to learn more about what life is like in Amsterdam directly from people who've already made the move. They also wish to introduce Amsterdam's city life to a wide variety of people from around the globe who've chosen to develop their career and live their life in the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area, finding new work,

making new friends and enjoying a wealth of opportunities".

John thinks and hopes that the interview "helped people from research sector as well students looking to do PhD, to be made aware of benefits expats get choosing Amsterdam as their destination".



The complete interview can be accessed at:

<http://www.iamsterdam.com/en/local/live/who-is-here/international-profiles-john>

The picture and extracts are being used with the authorization of **I amsterdam**. The team, who was extremely helpful and friendly, also sent us a special brochure on "Amsterdam in Business – The knowledge issue", which showcases Amsterdam as dynamic business centre and features an article on Cancer research on page 116. The brochure can be viewed at: [https://issuu.com/iamsterdam/docs/ams\\_plus\\_insert\\_lr](https://issuu.com/iamsterdam/docs/ams_plus_insert_lr)

\* <http://www.iamsterdam.com/en>

### Video Clip

A few months ago, the NaturImmun fellows had written a script as an additional outreach activity, in order to explain NK cells and NK cell therapy to a larger audience.

After trying to create a comic strip based on the script as discussed in the final meeting in Amsterdam, the team in charge of this activity, decided to film a short clip instead.

Volker Huppert from Miltenyi Biotech along with Prof. Uwe Heinlein (Corporate Communications) is organizing the

filming of the video clip. The script for both video has been finalized and proofread, and the cast, a grandfather, a grandmother and a granddaughter, has already been selected.

Filming has started and editing will follow shortly. The two-minute long video should be finalized by mid-September.

## Next Steps

### **Final reporting to the European Commission:**

The consortium must submit the following documents to the European Commission at the end of the project:

A **Final Report** comprising

- a) A **final publishable summary report** covering the results, conclusions and socio-economic impact of the project. This summary will be published on the CORDIS website.
- b) A **report covering the wider societal implications** of the project (gender equality actions, ethical issues, efforts to involve other actors and spread awareness, plan for the use and dissemination of foreground). This report will include the **scientist-in-charge questionnaire**.

A **Periodic Report** including

- a) The **financial Statements** (Form C) from each beneficiary as well as the **certificates on the financial statements** if applicable. The Form C must be completed and submitted online. Once the coordinator/management team approves the financial statement, each beneficiary prints out the Form C (3 copies), signs it (scientist-in-charge or financial officer) and sends 2 copies to the coordinator.
- b) A **Summary Financial Report** generated by the coordinator based on the individual financial Statements.
- c) A **Periodic Report** with:
  - i. A **declaration by the project coordinator**
  - ii. A **publishable summary**
  - iii. An **overview of the work progress** towards the objectives of the project (achievements, milestones & deliverables, dissemination activities)
  - iv. A **project management overview**
  - v. A **list of submitted certificates**

Once the European Commission has reviewed and approved all documents mentioned above, it will transfer the final payment to the coordinator.

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### **Researchers Questionnaires:**

Each recruited researcher must commit him/herself to complete questionnaires.

**At the end of their training period**, all fellows need to complete the evaluation questionnaire. This questionnaire is designed to give the REA some feedback on the overall impact of the network's activity.

**Two years after they have finished their appointment**, all fellows will complete the follow-up questionnaire. The follow-up questionnaire is composed of three sections: (i) Career progress; (ii) Recognition of research excellence; (iii) Scientific outputs.

The information requested in the questionnaires will be kept in strict confidence by the Commission and the REA and will mainly be used for assessing the level of satisfaction of the fellows and scientists taking part in the project as well as for assessing the impact of the action. The questionnaires are accessible for researchers from direct SESAM link:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/sesam-fp7/questurl.do>

In order to access questionnaires, fellows need to type only the 6 digits of the project number [317013 for Naturlmmun].

## NaturImmun Calendar

<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p>	<p><b>1-29 September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All previously agreed secondment opportunities to be completed.</li> <li>• All expenses and pending payments related to the project must be completed <b><i>before</i></b> <u>30 September 2016</u>.</li> </ul> <p><b>30 September</b>      The NaturImmun project is officially over. The accounts are closed.</p>
<p><b>OCTOBER</b></p>	<p><b>14 October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of <b>Forms C</b> by <u>each beneficiary</u> via the Participant Portal as well as the <b>Certificate on the financial statements</b> (if applicable).</li> <li>• Submission of overview of <b>work progress</b> (achievements, deliverables, etc) by <u>each beneficiary</u> to coordinator/management team.</li> </ul> <p><b>14-31 October</b>      Revision by the management team and eventual resubmission of <b>Forms C</b> by the beneficiaries if any changes are necessary.</p>
<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p>	<p>The Coordinator submits the following documents to the European Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Periodic report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Periodic report</b></li> <li>○ <b>Financial Statements - Forms C</b></li> <li>○ <b>Summary Financial report</b></li> <li>○ <b>Certificates on financial statements</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Final Report</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Within 30 days of EU's final payment</b></p>	<p>The Coordinator submits the <b>Report on the distribution of the EU financial contribution</b></p>

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