



November  
2018

## this issue:

EQIPD: groundwork for the future

Creating awareness in the USA

EQIPD promoted at ECNP Congress

Stakeholder meeting in Barcelona

General Assembly: highlights

Join us on social media

To the website



## EQIPD is laying the groundwork for the future of preclinical research

The aim of the EQIPD project is to improve the quality of preclinical studies, a critical factor in the development of future treatment for patients in all the areas of medicine, including neuroscience. To support this goal the [consortium](#) is developing a series of tools to help scientists ensure more reliable and reproducible data in preclinical research, including guidelines, a user-friendly quality system and a web-based training platform. Once these tools have been validated, they will be released to the scientific community.

Ultimate success though depends on uptake, and uptake relies on communication. To prepare the ground and help get the message out – to students, lab supervisors, clinicians, industry researchers, policy makers, publishers and investors – the consortium is also developing videos, to explain the project and its value.

The first of these, featuring Thomas Steckler (Janssen Pharmaceutica NV), the EQIPD project leader, introducing the project, its genesis, outputs and long-term goals, is due to be released shortly.

Watch this space!



## Creating awareness in the USA

The EQIPD project was presented at the Pre-Neuroscience 2018 Seminar and Networking event that took place on 2 November 2018 in conjunction with the Society for Neuroscience's annual meeting in San Diego, California, USA.

At the symposium, entitled 'Quality in preclinical data: Increasing the robustness and validity of behavioural and physiological testing in animal studies', experts from the EQIPD consortium proposed and discussed possible tools, such as a fit-for-purpose quality management system (QMS), which could incorporate best practices from clinical research to advise on experimental design (e.g. number of animals, blinding and randomisation of treatments). Symposium speakers discussed the challenges in reproducibility, the requirements for a quality management system, the design of the system,

and the experiences of users.

View complete programme [here](#).



## Project being promoted during ECNP Congress

Valuable awareness of the project was also created during the [31st ECNP Congress](#), 6-9 October in Barcelona. A large information panel was displayed at the entrance of the venue accompanied by a digital terminal at which delegates of the congress could learn about the EQIPD project, post questions and contact members of the consortium.

ECNP will follow up this activity by promoting the EQIPD project to early career scientists at the [ECNP Workshop for Early Career Scientists in Europe](#), 7-10 March 2019, Nice, France, one of the key educational venues for translational neuroscience education in Europe, annually attracting 100 of the region's best young researchers.



## Stakeholder meeting in Barcelona

We also used the opportunity of the annual ECNP Congress in Barcelona to hold an EQIPD stakeholder, which was organised by Anton Bespalov. Stakeholders consist of individuals with an interest in preclinical data quality from various organisations worldwide. They receive regular updates from the consortium and provide us with some feedback in return, which allows a sanity check on whether the consortium is on the right track.

To become a stakeholder, people had to sign a confidentiality agreement, as much of the information presented was still unpublished. The stakeholder meeting was well attended, partly by people that were already at the ECNP Congress, and partly by people calling in. Most of the discussions centred on the quality management system that is currently under development and several suggestions for further improvements were made.



## Highlights of the General Assembly (GA)

Its first year successfully completed, the consortium got together during the second GA that took place on 30 September to 2 October 2018 in Paris to assess progress and map out the road ahead.

As well as the twenty-nine members of the consortium, the meeting was also joined by external advisers Catriona MacCallum and Glenn Begley (SEABs), as well as associated collaborators Patri Vergara (ICLAS), Javier Guillén (AAALAC International) and Shai Silberberg (NIH). Each project leader presented the status of

the different work packages and discussed future plans of actions.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the poster session, featuring presentations by EQIPD PhD students and young researchers Kaitilyn Hair and Ezgi Tanriver-Ayder from the University of Edinburgh, under the supervision of Malcom MacLeod and Emily Sena (senior lecturer and WP2 co-lead). M. Arrojo Arraujo from the University of Groningen, under the supervision of Martien Kas, also presented a poster during the meeting.



## Join us on social media

In order to keep up-to-date with the activities of the EQIPD project we invite you to join our LinkedIn group. It is the best and the quickest way to stay informed about the project, and allows you to reach out to project members. All you need is a LinkedIn account. Join the EQIPD LinkedIn group [here](#).

If you already have a Facebook account, we also invite you to like/follow the [EQIPD page](#). As well as activities related to the project, we also post updates about interesting workshops, courses and symposia in the field. Stay tuned!



imi

EU

efpia



Copyright © EQIPD 2018 Powered by ECNP

*This project has received funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No 777364. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA.*

*This newsletter reflects only the authors' views neither IMI JU nor EFPIA nor the European Commission are liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*

Message in junk mail folder? Please add communication@ecnp.eu to your address book.  
Don't want to receive our mail anymore? Please click here. Manage your subscriptions here

If you can't read this e-mail click here.