

Dear VascAgeNet Participants,

Here is a short update on the current status and all ongoing activities of our COST Action VascAgeNet – we will try to do it on a regular basis from now on and it will be an important tool within the running COST Action.

First of all, thank you for your active participation in the COST Action! We are happy about all the positive feedback and the already high commitment of all participants!

**So, what was going on in the last weeks and what will happen in the next weeks/months?**

- We received the **positive decision** about our COST Action on Wednesday, 05/06/2019.
- At the **ESH 2019**, on Sunday 23/06/2019, we had a first informal, but very productive, meeting to present the ideas of VascAgeNet and to get to know each other in the **Business Meeting of the ESH Working group on Vascular Structure and Function**. Attached you can find the slides from the meeting.



- At the **ESH 2019**, on Monday 24/06/2019, **Stephane Laurent (Paris, France)** prominently presented VascAgeNet in his plenary lecture on “Should arterial stiffness be included?” in the session on “Controversial Issues in Guidelines”. Attached a picture of his presentation with the VascAgeNet slide.



- The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was published on Monday, 24/06/2019 and thereafter National Nominations started (MoU and current state of nominations can be found at <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18216>).
- **National nominations are still ongoing** and we hope them to be finished by the beginning of September. It is important that they are finished as soon as possible, since the allocated budget (for each Grant period; will be done shortly before the Kick-off Meeting) depends on the number of participating COST countries. Please follow-up with your National Coordinators and do not forget to send your applications.
- The official, organizational **Kick-off Meeting (KO) of VascAgeNet** is finally scheduled from the COST Association, who will host it at their premises in Brussels. The KO meeting will be on **Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 from approximately 09:00 till 17:00/18:00** and will **be just for Management Committee (MC) Members** (or MC Substitutes, if MC Members are tied up with other business) and will handle organizational aspects. Please save the date! Invitations will directly be sent by the COST Association in the next weeks – **please accept (or decline) the invitations as fast as possible**, so MC Substitutes can be invited instead, and proceed with your bookings as soon as you have received the invitation (the COST Association will directly reimburse travel costs (e.g., flight, 2 nights of hotel, meals, etc. will be stated in the invitation)).
- The KO meeting is the official start of our COST Action VascAgeNet which will **run for four years**. After the KO meeting, all COST participants will be assigned to the different working groups. So, you can already think about the working groups you want to contribute to.
- At the **end of 2019/beginning of 2020**, we will organize a **content-related KO meeting combining a MC meeting with Working Group (WG) meetings**. That is the meeting where **all COST Participants (MC Members, WG Participants)** will gather for probably 2-3 days to start the content-related work of VascAgeNet. Information about this event will follow after the organizational KO meeting in Brussels.

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact us! We wish you all a relaxing summer and please finalize your MC nominations.

Best regards and see you all soon,

Christopher on behalf of Rosa Maria, Rachel and Bernhard