

Dear VascAgeNet Participants,

Here is a short update on the current status and all ongoing activities of our COST Action VascAgeNet. Again, 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! Anyway, there are questions arising on a regular basis and we want to use this newsletter to answer at least some of them.

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

- At the **ESC 2019**, several informal meetings regarding our COST Action took place. Rosa Maria, Rachel and Bernhard were bustling and discussed possible collaborations with ESC working groups (e.g., Working Group on Aorta and Peripheral Vascular Diseases), the ESC Council on Hypertension, and the ESH Working group on Arterial Function and Structure.
- **National nominations are still ongoing.** Anyway, the current status (19.09.2019) is that we have already **25 parties (countries), 42 MC members and 24 MC Substitutes** represented in our network (see <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18216/#tabs|Name:parties>). It is important that the nominations 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 parties/countries. Please follow-up with your National Coordinators and do not forget to send your applications.

Furthermore, it is important that 2/3 of all parties/countries are represented at each MC Meeting (incl. the Kick-off Meeting) to be able to take decisions according to COST rules. Thus, the **nomination of more than 1 MC member per country** is appreciated.

- At the **Artery 2019** meeting in Budapest (10-12/10/2019; <http://www.arterysociety.org/our-activities/our-conference/>) VascAgeNet will be represented in various activities although not yet started. We want to use this chance to further prepare and discuss all issues related to the COST Action with as many people as possible – so, looking forward to meeting you there. The following activities are planned (see <http://www.arterysociety.org/our-activities/our-conference/programme/>):
 - A VascAgeNet booth in the exhibition providing some information about the COST Action. Looking forward to meeting you there at coffee breaks for informal get-togethers.
 - Christopher will talk about “The EU-COST Action VascAgeNet” in the Young Investigator Session on “When industry comes to science: technology transfer for better knowledge in cardiovascular research” on Friday, 11/10/2019.
 - A Satellite Symposium entitled “The EU-COST Action VascAgeNet: update and discussion” on Saturday, 12/10/2019, to discuss urgent questions and to give a short update on all ongoing activities.
- The official, organizational **Kick-off Meeting (KO) of VascAgeNet** is – as already communicated – scheduled from the COST Association, who will host it at their premises in Brussels. The KO meeting will be on **Tuesday, 5th 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 by the end of September – **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. – reimbursement rules will be stated in the invitation).

- The KO meeting is the official start of our COST Action VascAgeNet, which will **run for four years**. At the KO meeting, the Working Group (WG) leader will officially be elected. After the KO meeting, all COST participants will be assigned to the different WGs. So, you can already think about the WGs you want to contribute to and can contact the WG leaders after the KO meeting.
- **In the 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 the best and see you soon.

Best regards,

Christopher on behalf of Rosa Maria, Rachel and Bernhard