

Dear VascAgeNet Participants,

Here is a short update on the current status and all ongoing activities of our COST Action VascAgeNet.

Kick-off meeting held on the 5th of November

On the 5th of November 2019, the official kick-off Meeting of VascAgeNet was held at the premises of the COST Association in Brussels. The kick-off Meeting was the official start of four years of networking to initiate joint research activities across Europe and beyond. Forty-five nationally nominated Management Committee members were present at the meeting in Brussels. The meeting was used to present the COST policy and rules by the COST Association, the election of the Action Roles, such as Chair and Working Group Leaders and to commence discussions on ways to address the Action's research coordination and capacity-building objectives.



Management committee members in Brussels. Those in the picture have given their consent for publication by being in the photo.

We have included a summary from the kick-off meeting with this newsletter. Please feel free to circulate this within your Institutes to promote your involvement in the COST Action, as has already been done in Austria and Spain. We have also included some of the Spanish media articles courtesy of Enrique Rodilla Sala.

Elected Action roles:

Chair of Action: Christopher Mayer (Austria)

Vice-Chair of Action: Elisabetta Bianchini (Italy)

WG 1 Leader: Bernhard Hametner (Austria)

WG 1 Vice Leader: Barry McDonnell (United Kingdom)

WG 2 Leader: Jordi Alastruey (United Kingdom)

WG 2 Vice Leaders: Patrick Segers (Belgium), Arno Schmidt-Trucksäss (Switzerland)

WG 3 Leader: Dimitris Terentes-Printzios (Greece)

WG 3 Vice Leader: Verena Dittrich (Germany)

WG 4 Leader: Rosa-Maria Bruno (France)

WG 4 Vice Leaders: Ernst Rietzschel (Belgium), Koen Reesink (The Netherlands)

WG 5 Leader: Rachel Clime (France)

WG 5 Vice Leaders: Andrea Guala (Spain), Sekib Sokolovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Short Term Scientific Mission Manager: Giacomo Pucci (Italy)

ITC Grant Manager: Ioana Mozos (Romania)

Science Communication Manager: Milica Vukićević (Serbia)

Join a Working Group!

To join a WG please select your preference [here](#). Please state your preferences stating your full name till **Sunday, 24th of November 2019**. We suggest participants join 1 or 2 WGs at the most, in order to effectively contribute to the WG (see [MoU](#) for detailed WG description). Once we have collected your preferences, the WG leaders will contact you directly.

You do not need to select your preference for a WG if you have already contacted us about this or done so at the kick-off meeting.

Next VascAgeNet meeting – Paris, 19th to 21st of February 2020

The next VascAgeNet meeting will be a 3-day seminar in Paris at Paris Research Center Cardiovasculaire (PARCC), 56 Rue Leblanc, 75015. At this meeting, action plans for the next 4 years of the COST Action and the first tasks of all WGs will be discussed and commenced.

MC members are expected to attend and WG participants will be invited. However due to the costs involved for reimbursement and the limited available budget, places are limited. Of course, others are welcome to join, but expenses cannot be covered for everyone.

An official invitation will be sent by mid-December. Please wait until you have received the official invitation to proceed with travel and accommodation bookings.

Social media

VascAgeNet is already on social media! Follow @VascAgeNet on Twitter. Further social media channels and website will follow soon. Stay tuned and help us spread the VascAgeNet word!

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact us! We wish you all the best for the upcoming festive period. See you in the New Year!

Best wishes,

Christopher (Chair), Rachel, Andreas and Sekib (WG5 leaders) and Milica (Science Communication Manager).