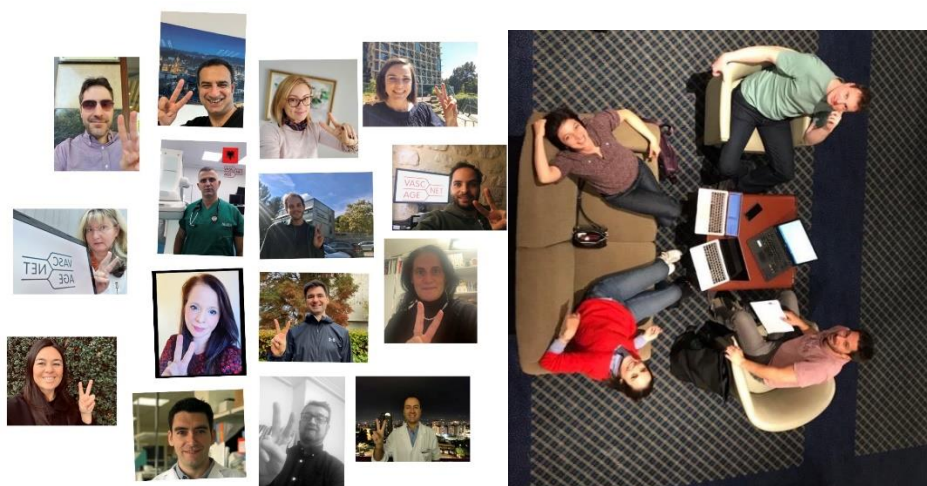


Dear VascAgeNet Participants, here is the latest update on the status and all ongoing activities of our COST Action VascAgeNet.

2 Years of VascAgeNet

On November 5th VascAgeNet reached the 2 year milestone. We are now at the half-way stage of this COST Action and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their hard work and dedication. The network now has almost 300 members from 40 Countries. Outputs during the first 2 years include 11 state-of-the-art webinars, a vascular ageing animation, Croatia training school, 4 STSM, 5 ITC conference grants, 6 VM grants, the first vascular ageing awareness day, educational material (videos, posters in >20 languages, illustrations), the vascular ageing glossary and survey, global big data consortiums, collaborations, publications and much more. A short video summarising the achievements so far can be found on our YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/XPLVIYQsw9U>



In 2 years the network has grown from 4 to almost 300 members!

Croatia Training School- September 6-8th

The first Training School took place in Split (Croatia) from the 6th to 8th of September 2021 and was a great success. 25 trainees from 16 Countries attended the theoretical and hands-on sessions. Thank you to all attendees and speakers especially Andrea Guala and Ana Jeroncic for organising and hosting this event. Please find more information in the Training School summary document.



Croatia Working Group (WG) Meeting Sep 8th-10th

The training school was followed by a hybrid WG Meeting. The WG meeting was an important networking event to showcase current activities from all WGs and to plan future work and joint activities including upcoming Horizon Europe proposals.

Recent changes to all COST Actions

There are new rules for all COST Actions. The New Annotated Rules for COST Actions replace the previous Vademecum. The following changes are of importance for all participants. The COST association has recently eliminated the role of **MC Substitutes** and people were informed about that by email. This does not mean former MC Substitutes are not part of the COST Action anymore - we still count on your active participation! Furthermore, now all **WG members are listed on the official COST Action website** to improve visibility for all participants. Members with an e-COST account may have already received confirmation of your addition to the WG lists. If you have not yet received an email from COST, please check [here](#) and apply to be on the appropriate working group list. Once you apply and as you are already part of VascAgeNet, we can directly approve your application. It is important to keep this list up-to-date, since it is used for the future Grant application. [Action CA18216 - COST](#)

Webinar 11

Thank you to Professor Ana Jeroncic for an excellent webinar on how to correctly perform a systematic review. Catch up on all webinars on our YouTube channel webinar playlist: [Webinars - YouTube](#)



VascAgeNet Glossary

The VascAgeNet glossary first terms are now publicly available on the website. [Official Glossary – VascAgeNet](#) The glossary is intended to support understanding of key terminology used in the field of vascular aging. It is an evolving document which will be adapted as new concepts are identified in the field.

Communication's Local Ambassador Team (LAT)

Thank you to all of the LAT members who have been busy translating the text for the 6 key question posters. The posters have now been translated into >20 languages. If you would like to join the LAT or if you are too busy to help with this role in the future and would like to find a replacement please contact. milicavukicevicmd@gmail.com and chloe.park@ucl.ac.uk

Vascular Ageing Survey- closing soon!

The Vascular Ageing Survey remains open but will be closing very soon. If you are yet to forward the link onto relevant individuals in your department and local societies please do so ASAP. [Knowledge and Perceptions about Vascular Ageing \(cut.ac.cy\)](https://cut.ac.cy)

New Publications

Well done to all members who contributed to the excellent Vascular Ageing Special Edition of Heart, Lung and Circulation. [Heart, Lung and Circulation | Vascular Ageing – Translating Research Into Clinical Practice | ScienceDirect.com by Elsevier](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/heart-lung-and-circulation) Special congratulations to guest editor and WG5 lead Rachel Clime.

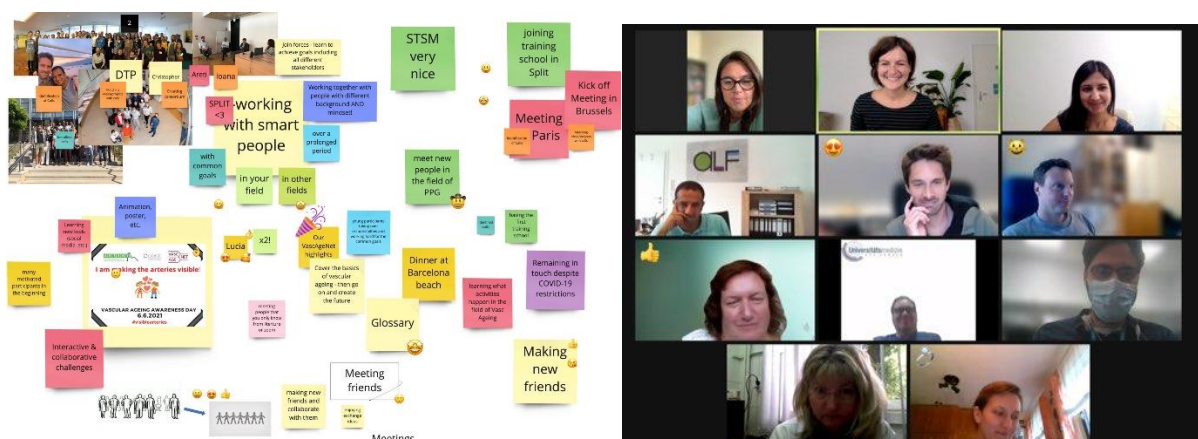
Vascular Ageing Animation now in French, Spanish and German



French: https://youtu.be/qN9Jij_xslw
 German: <https://youtu.be/O-CyQM1BrBo>
 Spanish: <https://youtu.be/Hi1LBXUWeRk>

Virtual Mobility Grants

Over the past few months the Virtual Mobility Grant Awardees have been busy performing their objectives. One of the successful awards was for a Virtual Midterm Team Workshop in which the team reviewed achievements to date and discussed future plans.



Artery 2021

VascAgeNet members were very active presenting and chairing sessions at the hybrid Artery 2021 in Paris from October 21st-23rd. VascAgeNet related presentations included an update

of the CARTESIAN Study by Rosa-Maria Bruno, the Vascular Ageing Survey by Andrie Panayiotou as well as an introduction to the Glossary by Elisabetta Bianchini. STSM projects also featured in the Young Investigator session with presentations by Saverio Fabbri and Stavria-Artemis Elia.



Conference Slides, VascAgeNet Overview PDF

If you have a presentation at an upcoming (virtual) meeting, please advertise the Action using the official VascAgeNet Conference slide. [VascAgeNet 3-slide-overview 16x9.pptx \(ait.ac.at\)](#).

STSM Update

Since our last newsletter 2 STSM have been completed. Stavria-Artemis Elia worked on the qualitative analysis of vascular ageing survey at the School of Medicine of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Maria Raffaella Martina analysed digital artery images acquired by ultra-high frequency ultrasound (UHF-US) at INSERM, Paris.



Short-term Scientific Missions

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) are exchange visits aimed at:

- Supporting researchers' individual mobility
- Strengthening existing networks
- Fostering collaboration

Apply now!
www.vascagenet.eu/short-term-scientific-missions

Applications for the next round of STSM are now OPEN! Apply here: [Short-Term Scientific Missions – VascAgeNet](#)

New Presentations on YouTube

New presentations available on YouTube include WG2 invited presentation by Kristina Gopcevic 'Pathophysiology of circulating biomarkers and relationship with vascular ageing: a review of the literature' https://youtu.be/PZ_f4nKNoFk and a review by Peter Nilsson titled 'Fountain of Youth for ageing arteries. Drugs and the arterial wall.' <https://youtu.be/rC9CGbgZrA>

New Societal Connections Database

The creation of interdisciplinary or widening of individual network connections is a fundamental aim of the VascAgeNet. In order to highlight “who” and “what” our members are connected to, we have created a “societal connections” document listing for all members to access. We would like ALL members of the VascAgeNet to add their links (Academic, Clinical, Industrial, Political & Others) to the various societies or partners they may have.

Please have a quick read of the “How To” document before adding you start adding your connections - ([How To VascAgeNet Societal Connections.pdf \(ait.ac.at\)](https://ait.ac.at/VascAgeNetSocietalConnections.pdf)) To access document - [VascAgeNet Societal Connections Database.xlsx \(ait.ac.at\)](https://ait.ac.at/VascAgeNetSocietalConnectionsDatabase.xlsx) If there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact WG1 vice-leader Barry McDonnell: bmcdonnell@cardiffmet.ac.uk

MC meeting December 14th



The latest Management Committee meeting took place on December 14th. Thank you to all presenters and Attendees.

Working Group Updates

WG1- Dynamic Exchange

Over the last months, WG1 was investigating funding opportunities from the Horizon Europe framework which are suitable for performing research within the aims of VascAgeNet. Several calls were identified and currently efforts are undertaken to establish teams for proposal writing. Using the framework of a Virtual Mobility Grant, methods to identify and systematically collect the various connections of VascAgeNet members to other societies or entities have been developed. Guidance on how you can participate in this process is presented in the Societal Connection section above. Since some rules for COST Actions have changed with the beginning of the new grant period, WG1 will closely work together with the CORE Group to implement necessary changes in VascAgeNet.

Bernhard.Hametner@ait.ac.at

WG2- Physiological and Technical Background

WG2 members continue to contribute to VascAgeNet's broader activities and to collaborate with other WGs. At the recent training school in Split, WG2 successfully organised a session on computational blood flow modelling and its application to vascular ageing. Progress has also been made on the four papers that the group is currently working on. Possible applications for joint funding with other WGs are now being explored.

jordi.alastruey-arimon@kcl.ac.uk

WG3- Technological aspects

Currently there are 7 consensus documents in several phases (from final drafting/pre-submission to accepted for publication) on the most essential techniques and consequently devices used for assessment of vascular ageing (Invasive, Imaging, Oscillometry, Tonometry, Machine Learning, Photoplethysmography/Contactless, Chemical Biomarkers/SCOREs) · A second paper with the provisional title Atrial fibrillation and markers of vascular ageing is in a more early stage. Expert groups are meeting monthly to provide a framework to support the development and validation of innovative techniques, especially in view of changes in device regulations (we have previously published a comprehensive review about regulations of devices) and to provide a framework to support the development and validation of innovative techniques, especially in view of changes in device regulations. This will lead to translation of vascular ageing approaches from research to industry.

dterentes@gmail.com

WG4- Data and Studies

WG4 subgroups have developed reports on different aspects concerning data collection and management, including data structure and data organization, and are completing their literature reviews to identify knowledge gaps in clinical significance of vascular aging biomarkers. The CARTESIAN study preliminary results have been presented at the Artery 21 meeting in Paris. The Youth Vascular Consortium is entering the next stage, data analysis. The WG will focus now on grant proposal writing.

rosa-maria.bruno@inserm.fr

WG5- Dissemination and education

WG5 have been working on a number of outreach activities. We have been developing some infographics for the general public and also medical professionals which have been translated into >20 languages, thanks to many within the Network. We were awarded a Virtual Mobility Grant which we have used for some training in marketing so that we can promote the work of VascAgeNet and vascular ageing in generally more effectively. We will be organising a seminar for all within the Network in the New Year. The survey on perceptions related to vascular ageing is still open. Please encourage your colleagues to complete it as it will help to inform directions for future work. Rachel and Andrea would like to thank all of the members

of WG5 for their hard work during this second year of VascAgeNet. We look forward to working with you all further in the years to come!

rachel.climie@inserm.fr

Thank you, take care and Merry Christmas

As always, if there are any questions, do not hesitate to contact us! Best wishes,
Rachel, Chloe, Milica and the Core Group

