

TRACE

Translational Research on Antimicrobial resistance
and Community-acquired infections in Europe

Summary

Uncertainties in infectious disease management have resulted in prescriptive promiscuity, which largely explains the escalating antibiotic resistance of common bacterial respiratory pathogens in the community. Technologies and solutions are available to address these issues, and the individual areas of expertise do exist in Europe, but the problem is in integrating these.

Therefore, TRACE was launched on June 16 2011, in Antwerp, supported by ESF (European Science Foundation), 17 GRACE (Genomics to combat Resistance against Antibiotics in Community-acquired LRTI in Europe; (www.grace-lrti.org) and 5 other partners. TRACE aims to consolidate the expertise integrated in several research programmes, in particular within the GRACE Network of Excellence, beyond EC funding, and to apply it to steer ongoing and to deploy new research activities, and to disseminate its results. GRACE has been a unique and successful Network of Excellence encompassing 20 Primary Care Networks in 15 EU countries, human and microbial genomics, collaboration with the major infectious disease and

primary care societies, SME's, integrated by means of state-of-the-art ICT. The GRACE concept serves as a model for TRACE aiming to complement the ongoing activities substantially.

TRACE produced a brochure, a website and a newsletter. To disseminate the results of GRACE, but also of other EU funded projects like CHAMP (www.champ-antibiotics.org) and HAPPY AUDIT (www.happyaudit.org) represented by their coordinators in TRACE, train-the-trainer courses will be organised. For that purpose, we are also very grateful that the European Respiratory Society (ERS; www.ersnet.org) is willing to maintain the GRACE e-learning platform (www.ers-education.org/events/courses.aspx), established with the support of both the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Europe (ESCMID; www.escmid.org) and ERS. Since the start, 8 ESF Science Meetings and 4 Steering Committee Meetings have been organized. A 9th ESF Science Meeting and a 5th Steering Committee meeting will be organized in Galway, Ireland in October 2015.

TRACE also facilitates the development of new translational research applications. It is for example involved in PREPARE (Platform for European Preparedness Against (Re-)emerging Epidemics; www.prepare-europe.eu), a European Commission 7th Framework project;

Together with our partners in 16 EU countries, and our partners in Australia and Hong Kong*, we truly hope that TRACE will succeed in sustaining the translational research on antimicrobial resistance and community-acquired infections in Europe and beyond, and in providing compelling evidence for the wisdom of further investment in Networks of Excellence in Europe.

Herman Goossens, Coordinator (Chair)
Samuel Coenen, Manager
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* An International Coordination Action granted by the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) supports TRACE internationally (iTRACE).

Funding

- **Bond University**
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- **University of Antwerp**
Belgium
- **University of Gent**
Belgium
- **Chinese University Hong Kong**
Division of Family Medicine School of Public Health and Primary Care | China
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- **Suomen Akatemia** *
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- **Comité Départemental d'Éducation pour la Santé of the 06 area (CODES 06)**
France
- **Collège Azuréen des Généraliste Enseignants (CAGE)**
France
- **University of Rostock**
Germany

- **Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO)** *
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- **University of Oslo**
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- **University of Tromsø**
Norway
- **Medical University of Bialystok**
Poland
- **Medical University of Lodz**
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- **Consiliul National al Cercetarii Stiintifice din Invatamantul Superior (CNCSIS)** *
National University Research Council, Romania
- **Civil Organization Healthy City**
Slovakia

- **Osnovno zdravstvo Gorenjske (OZG)**
Slovenia
- **Concorci Institut d'Investigacions Biomediques August Pi I Sunyer**
Spain
- **Vetenskapsrådet (VR)** *
Swedish Research Council | Sweden
- **Karolinska Institutet**
Sweden
- **Schweizerischer Nationalfonds (SNF)** *
Swiss National Science Foundation | Switzerland
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