

European Consensus Finding Study Group on Laboratory Investigation in Rheumatology

Aim

The European Consensus Finding Study Group on Laboratory Investigation in Rheumatology (founded in 1983) is formed by over 40 European laboratories involved in the field of serological diagnostics in Rheumatic Diseases. The aim of the study group is to work towards achieving common consensus in this field: a laboratory result should be the same, independent of the country or laboratory where the result is obtained.

To pursue this aim, the Steering Committee of the Consensus Finding Study Group meets twice a year to organize annual exercises in which sera are distributed amongst the participants. The participating laboratories analyse the sera, and report their data to a central laboratory, where the data are analyzed. Results of this analysis are discussed on an annual basis, during a two-hour workshop, preceding the annual European Workshop for Rheumatology Research.

The serum autoantibodies studied include antinuclear antibodies, antibodies to extractable nuclear antigens, anti-Sm, anti-nRNP, anti-Ro, anti-La, anti-Sc170, anti-Jo1, anti-RA33, anti-rRNP, anti-DNA, ANCA, anti-GBM, anti-phospholipids, anti-histones, anti-centromere antibodies, rheumatoid factors, anti-citrullinated peptide/protein antibodies, myositis related autoantibodies, scleroderma associated autoantibodies and other, less common autoantibodies found in rheumatic and associated diseases.

Steering Committee

Currently, the Steering Committee of the Consensus Study Group is composed of:

- Dr Ruud Smeenk, Sanquin Diagnostic Services, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (chairman)
- Dr Johan Rönnelid, University Hospital, Uppsala, Sweden (chairman-in-waiting)
- Dr Charlotte Dahle, University Hospital, Linköping, Sweden (secretary)
- Dr Dörte Hamann, Sanquin Diagnostic Services, Amsterdam, the Netherlands (treasurer)
- Dr Stephan Regenass, UniversitätsSpital, Zürich, Switzerland
- Dr Martin Blüthner, MVZ Labor PD Dr. Volkmann und Kollegen GbR, Karlsruhe, Germany

Members

Lab #	Members	Institute
2 ¹⁾	Prof. O. Meyer Dr. Bensimon	Service de Rhumatologie, Département d'Hématologie et Immunologie UF Autoimmunité et Hypersensibilités Hopital Bichat Claude Bernard Paris, France
3	Prof. P. Youinou Dr. Y. Renaudineau	Laboratory of Immunology Brest University Medical School Hospital Brest, France
4	Prof. R.E. Schmidt Dr. T. M. Fricke	Abteilung Klinische Immunologie, Zentrum Innere Medizin Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Germany
5	Prof. Y. Shoenfeld	Department of Medicine B Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Sheba Medical Center Tel Hashomer, Israel
6	Dr. R. Alvarez-Doforno	Hospital Universitario La Paz Servicio de Inmunología, Planta Sotano Hospital Infantil Madrid, Spain

8	Dr. A. G. Tzioufas	Department of Pathophysiology School of Medicine, National University of Athens Athens, Greece
9	Ulla M. Bachmann-Holmtoft	Section of Immunochemistry, Department of Clinical and Immunology Statens Serum Institut Copenhagen, Denmark
10	Ms. J Harvey	Dept of Clinical Immunology Royal Free Hospital London, United Kingdom
11	Dr. Kozakova	NURCH Piestany, Slovak Republic
12	Dr. E. Toubi Dr. G. Grushko	Division of Clinical Immunology Bnai-Zion Medical Center, Haifa, Israel
13	Dr. F. Franceschini Dr. R. Cattaneo	Servizio di reumatologia e immunologia clinica, Spedali Civili Brescia, Italy
14	Dr. G. Phimister	Immunology Department Gartnavel General Hospital Glasgow, United Kingdom
15	Dr. Roux-Lombard	Laboratoire d'Immunologie et d'Allergologie, Hopitaux Universitaires de Genève Genève, Switzerland
16	Dr. I. Heijnen	University Department of Rheumatology Felix Platter Spital Basel, Switzerland
17	Nina Ørvim Randi Karlsen	Section for Medical Immunology, Oslo University Hospital Department for Immunology and Transfusion Medicine Ullevål Hospital OSLO, Norway
18	Dr. W. Jérémie	Laboratoire Biochimie Immunopathologie Centre Hospitalier Luxembourg Luxembourg
19	Dr. R.J.T. Smeenk Dr. D. Hamann	Sanquin Diagnostic Services Amsterdam, The Netherlands
20	Prof. S. Bombardieri Dr. P. Migliorini	Division of Rheumatology and Immunoallergology Department of Internal Medicine, University of Pisa Pisa, Italy
21	Dr. T. Kveder	Immunology Laboratory, Department of Rheumatology University Medical Center Ljubljana, Slovenia
22	Prof. A. R. Huber	Zentrum für Labormedizin, Kantonsspital Aarau Aarau, Switzerland
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25	Prof. G. Hauptmann Dr. J. Goetz	Centre de Recherche d'Hématologie et d'Immunologie Faculté de Médecine, Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg, France
26	Prof. J. Vencovsky	Institute of Rheumatology Praha, Czech Republic
27	Dr. J. Zabek	Institute of Rheumatology Warsaw, Poland
28	Prof. L. De Clerck Dr. K. van Cotthem	Antwerp University Hospital Laboratory of Clinical Biology Edegem, Belgium
29	Dr. A. Hänninen	Department of Medical Microbiology University of Turku Turku, Finland
30	Dr. N. McHugh	Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, Bath, United Kingdom
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33	Prof. H. Hooijkaas	Erasmus MC, Dept. Immunology Rotterdam, The Netherlands
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47	Charlotte Dahle	Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine University Hospital Linköping, Sweden

¹⁾ Mission labnumbers are from labs that participated in the past.