

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the ERA-NET Cofund TRANSCAN-3

We are proud to present you the new **TRANSCAN-3 project**, the third phase of a challenge initiated in 2011 to support excellent transnational **cancer research**. The current network of 31 partners from 20 countries is engaged, through the coordination of national and regional funding programmes, to **launch transnational call** for proposals, where research collaborations and exchanges are promoted.

This newsletter will be sent on a regular basis (twice per year), each issue will bring you updates on calls for proposals, funded projects, success stories, events, publications and more.

Enjoy reading!

TRANSCAN-3 Coordination Unit

Gaetano Guglielmi, Project Coordinator

Silvia Paradisi, Project Manager

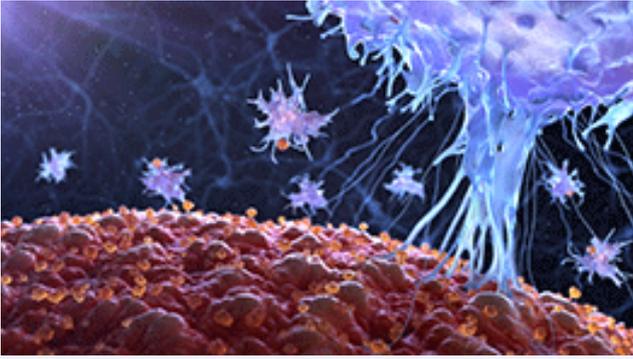
Maria Romero, Financial Project Manager

ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3: Sustained collaboration of national and regional programmes in cancer research

The new project **TRANSCAN-3**, launched on March 1st 2021, represents strong elements of continuity with the previous TRANSCAN and TRANSCAN-2 programmes and has the goal of **coordinating national and regional funding strategies for collaborative transnational research in the area of translational cancer research**.

Since the first initiative on translational cancer research (TRANSCAN), a total of **seven Joint Transnational Calls** focusing on needs and high priority areas in cancer research have been launched and successfully implemented. Thanks to the financial support of participating

funding organisations and core European Union funding, a total of **85.1 million euros** have been invested in **79 funded projects** between 2011 and 2017 involving **406 research groups**.



This new TRANSCAN-3 action is composed of a consolidated and **highly experienced network** of 31 regional and national, public and private funding organisations from 20 European and non-European countries.

Building up on the well-established cooperation amongst the participating funding organisations, through the harmonisation of funding mechanisms and programmes, **TRANSCAN-3** aims at becoming a **catalyst for a sustainable model of funding of cancer research in Europe and beyond**. Furthermore, TRANSCAN-3 seeks to support innovative translational cancer research that could one day have a major impact on the lives of cancer patients.

To reach its goals, TRANSCAN-3 will launch four **Joint Transnational Calls (JTCs)** for research proposals during the project's lifetime.

FIRST JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS (JTC 2021)

On April 6th 2021, ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 launched its first [Joint Transnational Call co-funded by the European Commission \(JTC 2021\)](#) with the support of 28 funding organisations from 19 countries on the following topic:

"Next generation cancer immunotherapy: targeting the tumour microenvironment"

In this first call, the TRANSCAN-3 network aims to foster the translation of new knowledge on tumour microenvironment functions into clinical practices. The expected impact of the call is to improve the efficacy of personalised treatment of cancer patients through the development of new tools and targeted immunotherapy strategies, based on a better understanding of tumour microenvironment functions and of their impact on the disease course.

The specific aims that the proposals will have to cover are detailed in the [Call Text](#). Funding will be made available by each funding organisation for research groups in their country/region according to their specific regulations and eligibility criteria.

- **Submission deadline for pre-proposals:**
June 29th, 2021 at 12:00 (CEST)
- **Electronic proposal submission system:**
<https://ptoutline.eu/app/transcan2021>

For **further information**, please visit <https://transcan.eu/opencall.html> or contact the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS): jtc2021@transcan.eu

ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL 2021 INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING EVENT

TRANSCAN-3 **International Networking Event** focusing on JTC 2021 "*Next generation cancer immunotherapy: targeting the tumour microenvironment*" was held online on **April 22nd 2021**. The event was organized by TÜBİTAK within the scope of Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase-II Project, with the support of co-organizers FCAECC, FICYT and the TRANSCAN-3 network. Around **250 participants** from 18 countries received first-hand information about the JTC 2021 in the morning session and approximately **100 one-to-one meetings** were held in the networking session, giving the participants a unique opportunity to connect with a variety of stakeholders across the EU, Turkey, Israel and Taiwan.

COUNTRIES	VALIDATED	MATCHMAKING
Belgium	3	1
France	17	10
Georgia	1	0
Germany	19	10
Hungary	1	1
Ireland	4	2
Israel	4	1
Italy	35	17
Latvia	2	1
Netherlands	1	0
Poland	2	2
Portugal	11	6
Romania	3	2
Slovakia	4	3
Spain	83	48
Taiwan	2	1
Turkey	74	65
Ukraine	1	1

The event commenced with the speeches of Ms. Özge Gözay from TÜBİTAK and Aleksander Bakowski, Team Leader of Turkey in Horizon 2020 Phase – II Project. Emphasizing the importance of the event and drawing attention to the ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 Cofund Call, they gave the floor to Dr. Silvia Paradisi from the Ministry of Health of Italy (TRANSCAN-3 Coordination Unit) for her speech on the TRANSCAN-3 network, JTC 2021 and procedures. Information about TRANSCAN-3 Project in general framework, the objectives of the JTC 2021 and the application procedures was given. Participants' questions about the call and partnership structures were answered extensively. After Dr. Paradisi's session, Ms. Anne-Charlotte Fauvel, the representative of the European Research Infrastructure for Translational Medicine - EATRIS shared valuable information about EATRIS and delivered a detailed explanation on how to collaborate and utilize the platform for TRANSCAN-3 proposals.

Researchers and private sector representatives presented their project ideas in the pitch-presentation session, in which they had the opportunity to network and answer questions regarding their research. The event concluded successfully with virtual one-to-one meetings to discuss project proposals for the JTC 2021.

The event received positive feedback with several participants indicating that they found the event informative and helpful in forming consortia for the call. The full morning session recording and the presentation slides are available in the following [website](#).

KICK-OFF MEETING: 1ST MEETING OF THE NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE



The kick-off meeting of the ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 was held online on **April 27th-28th 2021**. The meeting was chaired by the project coordinator, **Dr. Gaetano Guglielmi** from

the Italian Ministry of Health (IT-MoH) and counted on the participation of **47 representatives from the different partner institutions** that form the TRANSCAN-3 consortium. During the two-day meeting, participants discussed and agreed on the work plan for 2021.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AND INITIATIVES IN TRANSNATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH

The kick-off meeting celebrated on April 27th-28th 2021 included a round table to comment on important events and activities related to translational cancer research within each organisation/region/country. **The following initiatives were highlighted:**

- EUROPEAN CANCER RESEARCH SUMMIT 2021

Last May 3rd 2021, the [European Cancer Research Summit 2021](#) took place at the new Porto Comprehensive Cancer Center, under the umbrella of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and it included, with the participation of Fatima Carneiro and Ulrik Ringborg, members of the TRANSCAN-3 Scientific Advisory Board.

This Summit aimed to promote the discussion on clinical research in oncology at European level, focusing on the role of translational research, clinical and prevention trials and outcomes research infrastructures, as well as transatlantic cooperation. It followed the [joint declaration](#) on effective cancer research Union Council Presidency Trio, when the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan was also adopted, in order to guide future directions for research and related links with the health system throughout Europe.

On the occasion of this recent international event, the [Porto Declaration on Cancer Research](#) was presented to call the EU Commission, national governments, scientists, patient organisations and all stakeholders for strengthening research in all stages of cancer, including prevention, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up towards a comprehensive cancer research approach covering the entire cancer research continuum, from prevention to care.

To **endorse this Declaration** please [sign it](#) electronically.

- NATIONAL DECADE AGAINST CANCER

The **National Decade Against Cancer project** is a joint initiative launched by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and comprises relevant stakeholders from politics, cancer researchers, the research funding system, healthcare, industry and society. This **10-year programme** (2019-2029) has the goal to improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and to bring **innovations** to cancer patients faster.

The Strategy Committee is chaired by **Thomas Rachel**, Parliamentary State Secretary to

the Federal Minister of Education and Research, and co-chaired by **Professor Michael Baumann**, Chairman of the DKFZ German Cancer Research Center. With a view to defining the most pressing research needs and launching effective strategies as quickly as possible, the Strategy Committee has established **three working groups** on the following topics: "Major Unanswered Questions in Cancer Research", "Prevention" and "Generating knowledge by Networking Research and Healthcare".

For more information, visit the [project website](#).

- FIGHTING CANCER THROUGH CROSS-BORDER AND TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

Last March 16th 2021, the virtual event "**Look to the future**" with the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium celebrated the re-signing of the International Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reinvigorate and re-prioritize the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium (The All-Ireland Cancer Consortium (AICC)).

This partnership pursues to reduce cancer burden and mortality on the island of Ireland through cross-border and transatlantic collaborations in cancer research and education. The signed MoU will build on the strong foundations laid by the original partnership and serve as an enabling framework to support cancer research strategic priorities, cancer care and training opportunities with consequential benefits for cancer patients and the economy.

The virtual event broadcast of the official signing ceremony was followed by a series of presentations from leading cancer research experts involved in the consortium who outlined the valuable work being undertaken via the MoU. During the event there were also stories presented by patient advocates who have personally benefited from cancer research projects enabled by the original partnership.

For more information about this partnership and priorities, read the [press release](#) on the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium.

- WORLD CANCER RESEARCH DAY

The **World Cancer Research Day (WCRD)**, launched in 2016, is an annual international event taking place on September 24th that aims to promote global collaboration for cancer research and to increase survival, facilitate access to scientific advances worldwide, and reduce the global burden of cancer. This initiative creates and consolidate a yearly momentum to raise awareness and commitment for research on cancer and highlights the goals of the [World Declaration for Research on Cancer](#) to be achieved by 2025.

Research knows no borders and the Covid-19 pandemic has proven the power of partnership to accelerate advances and the delivery of innovative products to society. This year, the WCRD campaign will focus on the concept "*now that we know research works, it's time to strengthen and continue to drive progress and discovery in cancer research for a cancer-free future*".

More than **600,000 people** and a total of **103 entities from over 20 countries** around the world have endorsed the WCRD and actively contribute to spread the campaign key messages and reach people from every corner of the globe. To learn more about this global call to action for cancer research, you can read the following [perspective article](#) published last year.

For further information on the WCRD global campaign and to join this global movement, please visit the website www.worldcancerresearchday.com or contact the WCRD technical secretariat worldcancerresearchday@gmail.com.

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