



Innovative Medicines Initiative

IMI SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE 2013 – MEMBERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Annex to press release on new IMI Scientific Committee members 2013, issued on 29 November 2013. Members are listed alphabetically by surname.

Johan Askling (new member)

Professor Johan Askling is Professor of Rheumatology and Rheumatic Disease Epidemiology at the Department of Medicine Solna at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. He heads a research group on chronic inflammatory disease epidemiology and holds a clinical position as Consultant Rheumatologist at the Karolinska University Hospital.

Previous positions

- Senior clinical researcher (Swedish Research Council)
- Senior researcher, Karolinska Institutet
- Commissions of trust: Swedish Cancer Society and Swedish Twin Registry
- PostDoc, Karolinska Institutet
- Rheumatology trainee Karolinska University Hospital
- PhD student, Karolinska Institutet

Fields of expertise – Research interests

- Clinical epidemiological studies on disease aetiology, co-morbidity, drug safety, and outcome in rheumatoid arthritis (RA), in relation to biological therapies, based on the combination of clinical quality of care registers with research databases and national registers
- Cardiovascular co-morbidities in patients with chronic inflammatory disease
- Malignancies and their relation to chronic inflammation and immune-modulatory therapies
- Safety of biological therapies
- Workability and long-term outcomes of chronic inflammatory diseases, and of targeted therapeutic interventions

Janusz Bujnicki (new member)

Professor Janusz Bujnicki is currently Professor and Head of the Bioinformatics and Protein Engineering Laboratory at the International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IIMCB) in Warsaw, Poland. He is also an associate Professor (extraordinarius) in the Bioinformatics Laboratory at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poland.

Previous positions

- Visiting Professor (sabbatical), University of Tokyo, Japan
- Visiting scientist, National Institutes of Health, Center for Biotechnology Information, National Library of Medicine (NLM), US
- Senior Research Assistant, Henry Ford Health System, US

Fields of expertise – Research interests

- Theoretical and experimental research on nucleic acids and proteins
- Bioinformatics methods for protein structure prediction and analysis
- Structure and evolution of RNA
- Interactions of small molecules with macromolecular targets
- Developing new computational methods for prediction of molecular interactions, virtual screening, design of new molecules, and the prediction of effect of

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Catherine Brett – Communication and Events Manager

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mutations on genes encoding RNA and proteins, from the level of biochemical functions, to the effect on human health

- Development of solutions involving computational management of heterogeneous data from various sources, and design of predictive systems based on meta-analyses that facilitate interpretation of complex data by the end user

Maria Beatriz Da Silva Lima (new member)

Professor Maria Beatriz Da Silva Lima is currently member of the General Council of the Universidade de Lisboa, Sub-Director of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the Universidade de Lisboa and Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmacotoxicology and Head of Pharmacological Sciences at the university. She is also the Coordinator of the Pharmacological Sciences Research Group at the University of Lisbon's Research Institute for Medicines and Pharmaceutical Sciences (iMED.UL).

Previous positions

- Member of the Research Agenda discussion group which led to the emergence of the IMI research programme, including the discussion on preclinical epigenetic carcinogenesis and IMI training programme
- Preclinical expert at European Medicines Agency (EMA) and Infarmed (Portuguese agency)
- Chair of the Safety Working Party of the EMA
- Portuguese delegate of the CHMP (Committee for Human Medicinal Products of the EMA)
- Member of the CAT (Committee of Advanced Therapies of the EMA)
- Member of the SAWP (Scientific Advice Working Party of the EMA)
- Member of the Non-clinical Working Group of the Paediatric Committee of the EMA
- Member of expert panels assessing Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) grants in the field of nonclinical development of orphan drugs.
- Member of the workshop panel discussing the candidate topics for IMI's 4th Call for proposals

Fields of expertise – Research interests

- Preclinical development of new clinical candidates, data generation / organisation to support first-in-human studies
- Scientific and regulatory aspects
- Molecular mechanisms of metabolic diseases, particularly diabetes
- Cognitive implications of diabetes, and involvement of the angiotensin pathways
- Cellular cascades in smooth muscle contractility and inflammation

Karin Forsberg-Nilsson (existing member)

Professor Karin Forsberg-Nilsson is Professor of Stem Cell Research at Uppsala University, Sweden. She is member of the Board of Directors of the Fulbright Commission in Sweden and Swedish delegate of the International Stem Cell Forum.

Previous positions

- Deputy Secretary General, Swedish Research Council Medicine and Health, Sweden (2004-2010)
- Chair, ERA-Net EuroNanoMed (2009-2010)
- Infrafrontier Project Management Committee (ESFRI) (2008-2010)
- Deputy, "Riksjukvårdsnämnden" (National Board for Highly Specialized Care) at - The National Board of Health and Welfare (2007-2010)

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- Chair, NordForsk Stem Cell Mobility Program Reference group (2007)

Fields of expertise - Research Interests

- Regulation of neural stem cell growth, differentiation and migration
 - Malignant brain tumours
 - Brain tumour initiating cells/"cancer stem cells"
 - Extracellular matrix interactions by stem cells and brain tumour cells
 - In vitro differentiation of mouse embryonic stem cells
 - Transgenic mouse technology
 - Traumatic brain injury and stem cell transplantation
 - Regeneration of the nervous system
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Jens Heisterberg (existing member)

Dr Jens Heisterberg MD is Chief Medical Officer at the Danish Medicines Agency. He is member of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) under the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and External Lecturer at the University of Copenhagen.

Previous positions

- More than 10 years in pharmaceutical industry within clinical drug development

Fields of expertise - Research Interests

- Clinical pharmacology
 - Regulatory medicine
 - Drug development methodology
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Pierre Laurent-Puig (new member)

Professor Pierre Laurent-Puig is currently Professor of Oncology at the Paris Descartes Medical School in France. He is also a Director of the Cancer Research for Personalized Medicine (CARPEM) grouping together two university hospitals (European Georges Pompidou and Cochin) and 22 units dedicated to research in oncology. He is also Director of the INSERM Research Unit working on the molecular bases of the response to xenobiotics and is manager of the functional unit of clinical oncogenetics at the European Georges Pompidou Hospital in France.

Fields of expertise – Research interests:

- Molecular biology
 - Genetics, oncogenetics
 - Next-generation sequencing
 - Prognostic and predictive biomarkers of anticancer agents
 - Evidence of the role of KRAS in the resistance to antiEGFR therapy in colorectal cancer
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Carole Longson (existing member)

Professor Carole Longson is an Executive Director at the UK's National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and professor of Health Technology Assessment at the University of Manchester. She is also Vice President of Health Technology Assessment International, and a member of various boards and committees, including the UK Office for Life Sciences/Department of Health Life Sciences Innovation Delivery Board, the European Commission Joint Action on Health Technology Assessment, and the Health Technology

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International Policy Forum.

Previous positions

- Director, Health Technology Appraisal Programme, NICE (2000-2008)
- Director, Evidence Research Unit (now Complete Market Access), Complete Medical Group (1997-2000)
- Research Leader, GlaxoSmithKline R+D (1988-1995)

Fields of expertise - Research interests

- Biological research in both industry and academia
- Directing large, multidisciplinary research programmes and managing large scientific departments
- Diagnostic assessment methodology
- Innovative medical technologies
- Medical devices
- Technology appraisal process development
- Evidence synthesis and decision analysis
- Psychiatric diseases

Françoise Meunier (existing member)

Professor Françoise Meunier MD, PhD, is Director General of the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), a unique pan-European academic clinical research organisation operating as a non-profit association under Belgian law. She is responsible for the organisation of scientific activities, public relations and medium-term EORTC strategy as defined by the EORTC Board.

Françoise Meunier is in charge of the coordination and administration of all EORTC activities since 1991 with the mandate to promote the EORTC as a major European organisation in the field of oncology with a network of 2500 oncologists in over 300 universities and a headquarters staff of 160 representing 17 different nationalities.

She has been a member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine (Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique) since 2006. She is also Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (UK), Fellow of the Pharmaceutical medicine in UK, Fellow of the European Academy of Cancer Sciences and a member of numerous international oncology-related scientific societies.

Françoise Meunier authored over 150 peer-reviewed articles.

Previous positions

- Head of the Infectious Disease Department at the Institut Jules Bordet in Brussels, Belgium.

Fields of expertise - Research Interests

- Medical Oncology
- Internal Medicine
- Pharmaceutical Medicine

Markus Perola (new member)

Professor Markus Perola is Research Professor at the National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) and a Group Leader at the Institute of Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM). He is also a Visiting Professor at the Estonian Genome Project at the University of Tartu. Professor Perola is also a section editor for the European Journal of Human Genetics. He is a vice-chair of the coordinating ethical board of the Helsinki University hospital district and has positions of trust in

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the Finnish Medical Association. His publication list includes over 200 original articles. Dr Perola is also a practicing physician in Helsinki Western Emergency Hospital, Finland.

Previous positions

- DNA-extraction core unit and storage leader in the National Public Health Institute, Finland
- Genetic advisory board member, ASCOT (multinational research project on hypertensive medication and genetic variation)
- Scientific Secretary of the Steering Group, GENOMEUTWIN (EU-funded project)
- Team Leader, Common Disease Genetics, National Public Health Institute, Department of Molecular Medicine
- Genetic Steering Group member, GEHA (Genetics of Healthy Aging) project
- Leader of several work packages in various EU projects

Fields of expertise – Research interests

- -omical associations of diseases of public interest (genomics, epigenomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics, phenomics)
- Genetic and other risk factors for common disease
- Pathophysiology of diseases
- Public health matters, prevention
- Leadership of genomic research of large population cohorts in THL
- Coordination of and collaboration with large biobank projects in THL and internationally

Daniele Piomelli (existing member)

Professor Daniele Piomelli, PhD, is Director of the Drug Discovery and Development (D3) Research Unit, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Genoa, Italy (since 2007). He is also the Director of the Centre for Drug Discovery, University of California Irvine, where he is Professor of Pharmacology and Biological Chemistry and Louise Turner Arnold Chair in the Neurosciences.

Previous positions

- Co-founder of the biopharmaceutical start-up Kadmus Pharmaceuticals.

Fields of expertise - Research Interests

- Role of arachidonic acid as an intracellular second messenger; molecular mechanisms by which this compound regulates neural activity
- Pathways involved in the formation and deactivation of brain cannabis-like substances; physiological functions and potential pharmacological uses of these compounds
- Role of the natural lipids oleoylethanolamide (OEA) and palmitoylethanolamide (PEA) in the control of satiety and energy balance
- Physiological roles of the endogenous cannabinoid system
- Development of therapeutic agents that target anandamide and 2-arachidonylethanolamide metabolism

Torsten Schwede (new member)

Professor Torsten Schwede is currently Professor for Bioinformatics at the Biozentrum at the University of Basel in Switzerland. He is also Group Leader and a member of the Executive Board of Directors at the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics.

Previous positions:

- Staff scientist, GSK GlaxoSmithKline R&D, Geneva
- Postdoctoral researcher, Glaxo Wellcome, Geneva

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Fields of expertise – Research interests:

- Bioinformatics & knowledge management
 - Computational structural biology
 - Molecular modelling & structure-based drug discovery
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Leonie Sundmacher (new member)

Professor Leonie Sundmacher is currently Professor for Health Services Management at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany.

Previous positions

- Professor for Economics of Primary Care, Berlin University of Technology
- Senior Research Fellow in Health Economics, Berlin University of Technology
- Research Fellow in Health Economics, Brunel University

Fields of expertise – Research interests

- Quality measures for health care
 - Economics of primary care
 - Economics of population health
 - Economic evaluations
 - Capacity planning
 - Spatial analysis
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