BactiVax, a European Anti-Bacterial Innovative Vaccine Training Network

BactiVax (anti-Bacterial Innovative Vaccines) is an innovative European Training Network funded by EU, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, that will provide high-level training in vaccinology to 15 high-achieving Early Stage Researchers (ESRs), and equip them with a wide range of transferrable skills for thriving careers in vaccine research within academia and industry. BactiVax focuses on developing novel vaccines to tackle the huge challenge of antimicrobial-resistant human pathogens that cause chronic, life-threatening respiratory and/or systemic infections. This network comprises 14 Principal Investigators with expertise in vaccinology, proteomics, medicine, microbiology, biochemistry, immunology, structural biology, medicinal, peptide and glycochemistry from 9 European countries and two companies which will collectively train ESRs in entrepreneurship, commercial vaccine development and bioprocessing. The project is coordinated by the University College of Dublin (Prof Siobhan McClean) whereas research coordination is at CNR-IBB (Dr Rita Berisio).

The World Health Organisation has identified antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as one of the three greatest threats to mankind. There is an urgent need to train innovative ESRs in the development of new vaccines against AMR infections. BactiVax will tackle the societal challenge caused by the emergence of AMR pathogens and have significant impact on pathogens causing chronic, life-threatening respiratory and/or systemic infections. BactiVax training will cover critical areas of vaccinology from early antigen discovery to optimisation of host response and delivery of vaccine antigens. It will also encompass the increasing problem of vaccine hesitancy in its public engagement. The specific research objectives at CNR-IBB are the production and characterization at a molecular level of novel, protective vaccine antigens against target pathogens and their improvement in terms of host response using a structural vaccinology approach [1-4].

References:


Keywords: Bacterial infections, respiratory disease, protein structure
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http://www.enova-adjuvant.eu/scientific-missions/Host-Institutions/

Other:
Funding:
- CNR-IBB (R. Berisio) is Research coordinator di H2020 ITN Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions BactiVax, Grant agreement number 860325.
- CNR-IBB is host institution of ENOVA - European Network of Vaccine Adjuvants (http://www.enova-adjuvant.eu/scientific-missions/Host-Institutions/)
- CNR-IBB is involved in a CNR/NRF Italy-Korea cooperation programme “Structure and function of a vaccine candidate against tuberculosis” (Berisio-Kim).