

**2019**

*Annual Report*

*June 20, 2020  
Eurolife Coordinator  
University Medical Center Göttingen  
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Germany*

It is my pleasure to introduce the Eurolife Annual Report 2019 – a reflection on last year’s activities and achievements of the Eurolife network. For Eurolife, 2019 marked the 20th Anniversary of the network and for the University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), the successful continuation of the institution’s 3-year coordination of Eurolife.

Over the last 20 years, Eurolife has grown from a project-triggered collaboration to an organization that sets trends and inspires. It has enhanced the trans-national scientific and educational interactions within Europe and continues to foster a coherent policy regarding research and training activities between academic institutions.

The network’s commitment to promote the emergence of promising young talents and hence to attract and support excellent students and researchers continued in 2019 through the Eurolife exchange initiatives, as well as two Eurolife Summer Schools, two Eurolife Lecture Series, and Eurolife Distinguished Lectures. In addition, in 2019 we enhanced and extended the network’s activities with a successful grant application to the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony (Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur - MWK) to support the Eurolife collaboration on a new initiative – a joint Erasmus+ project proposal under the UMG coordination.

Our ambition for the network is to create the maximum impact with the resources entrusted to us. During the UMG’s coordination cycle, we hope to develop a transnational platform for students and researchers from different scientific and medical backgrounds to integrate their expertise and needs in a structured, international framework, with the objective of unifying quality in education and research. Through the new proposed initiatives, we wish to bridge the gap between research and health care and to promote joint European values and standards, contributing towards enhanced medical practice and patient care Europe-wide.

**Professor Tim Gollisch**  
**Chair of Eurolife**  
**University Medical Center Göttingen**  
**University of Göttingen**

**Göttingen, June 2020**

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## 1) Introduction. Objectives, governance and management

The Network of European Universities in Life Sciences (Eurolife) is a consortium of research-driven European universities sharing a similar philosophy. The universities are committed to the highest standard of research and education in the life sciences (medicine and biomedicine).

Eurolife is composed of nine universities located in nine different EU member states:

- University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), Germany
- Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Spain
- Semmelweis University (SE), Hungary
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland
- University of Edinburgh (UoE), United Kingdom
- Medizinische Universität Innsbruck (MUI), Austria
- Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), the Netherlands
- Karolinska Institutet (KI), Sweden
- Université de Strasbourg (UNISTRA), France

Three Eurolife partners are members of the “European Universities” alliances (selections results of the pilot call of the European Commission from 26 June 2019):

- Universitat de Barcelona - Coordinator of CHARM EU (<https://www.charm-eu.eu/>)
- Trinity College Dublin – Partner in CHARM EU
- University of Edinburgh – Partner in UNA Europa (<https://www.una-europa.eu/>)

### Short profiles of the partners

- University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG), Germany

The UMG is a central focus point in health care in Lower Saxony, currently admitting more than 55.000 in-patients and 225.000 outpatients per year. The UMG is associated with 27 teaching hospitals and medical care sites and offers one BSc, two MSC, and 14 doctoral programmes. With about 1.450 beds and 7.900 employees in 30 clinical departments, thereof 2.000 scientists and 3.700 students, the UMG represents one of the largest university hospitals in Germany, offering a fantastic environment for research, teaching and patient care. The UMG is embedded in the scientific world-class hub of the Göttingen Campus, comprising the Medical Faculty, the German Centre for Neurodegenerative Disease (DZNE), the Biology and Natural Sciences departments of the Nord Campus, and four Max-Planck Institutes. Through this collaboration, the UMG has initiated and engaged in a number of projects and collaborative activities of multidisciplinary nature.

- Universitat de Barcelona (UB), Spain

The UB offers 73 bachelor's degrees, 153 university master's degrees, 48 doctoral programmes, over 700 postgraduate courses and some 597 on-site and distance lifelong learning courses, covering as complete selection of courses. The UB belongs to an active network: the League of European Research Universities - LERU, the organization and hosting of the third Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education, and the creation of an Ibero-American University Union, complement and reinforce the University's institutional policies on research, teaching quality, internationalization and transferring knowledge to society. The combination of all these factors has paved the way for the UB to retain its position of leadership among Spain's universities in the main international rankings.

- Semmelweis University (SE), Hungary

The SE is the oldest medical school located in Budapest, Hungary, has been a leading biomedical institution of higher education in Hungary for the last 250 years. Its three-pillar mission is education, research and innovation, and healthcare. SE is among the top 500 universities in the world, and among the top 50 in Europe. The University provides world renowned practice-oriented education based on a strong theoretical foundation. With six faculties, estimated 300 research groups and around 2.5 million patients treated annually in the Clinical Centre of the University, the Semmelweis University provides the highest quality patient care services, as well as teaching and research in Central Europe.

- Trinity College Dublin (TCD), Ireland

TCD has an international reputation as an institution that delivers world class education, consistently ranking as Ireland's top university. TCD is committed to providing a transformative learning environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship at all levels across the university and has developed the Tangent as an 'ideas workspace' to encourage students and staff to collaborate, build and innovate as an engine for economic growth and for social and cultural development. TCD is ranked first in Europe for producing entrepreneurs for the fifth year in a row (Pitchbook Universities Report 2019). From 2013 to 2018 Trinity created over 38 campus companies across all the main sectors of medical devices, pharmaceuticals and ICT. Trinity welcomes engagement with all the key components of the entrepreneurial eco-system.

- University of Edinburgh (UoE), United Kingdom

The UoE is one of the world's top research-intensive universities, ranked 4th in the UK for research power (Times Higher Education, Overall Ranking of Institutions), with 83% of research activity classified as world leading or internationally excellent in the last Research Excellence Framework. UoE is one of the UK leaders in the successful exploitation of intellectual property (IP) generated as a result of the University's world-class research. Through its commercialisation office, Edinburgh Innovations (EI), the University encourages the commercialisation of research and works to build value into

the IP that emerges from the University's research base. EI help commercial organisations to build innovative ideas using the right technologies, expertise and facilities at the university by building partnerships for mutual benefit and seeking to add value at every stage.

- Medizinische Universität Innsbruck (MUI), Austria

With about 3,000 students and over 1,400 employees, MUI is the most important institution for medical research and education in Western Austria and the only institution in Austria offering a Master course in Molecular Medicine. In collaboration with the University Hospital of Innsbruck, the largest patient care hospital in Western Austria, with 1,560 beds in 89 units, MUI has made a deep commitment to provide top quality teaching and training and to fostering research innovation and excellence with the aim of creating knowledge to advance health, with medical innovation like the development of cochlear implants, gene-therapies or innovative cancer therapies. Among physicians and scientists, MUI has a reputation as a place where faculty and students can pursue creative and novel ideas in a collaborative and supportive environment.

- Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), the Netherlands

LUMC is affiliated with Leiden University (LU), the oldest university in the Netherlands. It has approximately 8400 employees and provides study facilities for approximately 2500 bachelor and master students. It is a centre for research, education and patient care with a high quality profile and a strong scientific orientation. It has a unique research practice, ranging from fundamental medical research to applied clinical research. Education at the LUMC is closely linked to patient care and research, ensuring that students experience the latest advances in medical science and practice. The collaboration between LUMC, LU and the Leiden Bio Science Park creates unique possibilities for medical innovation. Key aspects of the education are internationalization, blended and interprofessional learning and research based teaching.

- Karolinska Institutet (KI), Sweden

KI is one of the world's foremost medical universities with the vision to advance knowledge about life and strive towards better health for all. As a university, KI is Sweden's single largest centre of medical academic research and offers the country's widest range of courses and programmes in the field of medicine and health sciences, with approximately 6,000 full-time students taking educational and single subject courses at Bachelor and Master levels. Research at KI spans the entire medical field, from basic experimental research to patient-oriented and nursing research and is conducted in 22 departments, most of which are situated or adjacent to Stockholm's teaching hospitals. This creates ample opportunities for translational research in which new experimental results are rapidly implemented for patient benefit, and where clinical observations provide a basis for new research ideas.

- Université de Strasbourg (UNISTRA), France

European by nature and international by design, UNISTRA'S fundamental training and research goals include forging partnerships with European and international universities. Located on four campuses spread all over the city, the University is one of the largest universities in France, with more than 52 000 students. UNISRA offers 60 international degrees in partnership with universities around the world. The university is committed to promoting student mobility and has many cooperation agreements with institutions in Europe and beyond. As a leading European centre for training and research, the University of Strasbourg has developed a strong French-German cooperation and is now a privileged partner among the Upper-Rhine universities. UNISTRA emerges among Europe's foremost research universities and is a founding member of the League of the European Research Universities (LERU).

## Objectives

The Eurolife objectives are:

- To promote trans-national scientific and educational interactions at a European level;
- To ensure a favourable framework to develop collaborative academic and research activities;
- To foster cooperation between members;
- To achieve even greater success in research and training activities than could be achieved by the individual universities operating alone by combining resources;

Eurolife aims to achieve its objectives through:

- Research and Teaching Collaborations
- Student and Staff Mobility
- Student lecture series
- Summer and Winter Schools
- Academic Symposia and associated Lecture Series
- Joint transnational project - Erasmus+: Strategic Partnership

In 2019, the objectives and strategy of the Network were evaluated internally with the aim to review the continuous accuracy of the goals and actions of the Network and analyse the prospects of new initiatives. Eurolife introduced further improvements and enhancement of the collaborative activities, one of the main ones being the joint innovative project on biomedical Big Data (BBD).

## Governance and management

As of 1 March 2018, the Network has been coordinated by the University Medical Center Göttingen with initially Prof. Steven Johnsen, now Prof. Tim Gollisch acting as the Chair

and Ms. Agnieszka Buelens as the Coordinator. The Network operates on the 6<sup>th</sup> Eurolife Collaboration Agreement (2018-2020) signed at the end of 2017.

### *Chairs*

1999-2001 Rotating  
2002-2004 University of Edinburgh  
2005-2007 Karolinska Institutet  
2008-2011 Trinity College Dublin  
2012-2014 Leiden University Medical Center  
2015-2017 University of Barcelona  
2018-2020 University Medical Center Göttingen

## **1.1 Activities**

### **Philosophy of joint activities**

Eurolife institutions undertake joint activities, preferably involving all parties. However, institutions may choose not to participate or participate only to a small degree in the different proposed activities. This can be the case where the joint activity is not in line with the strategy of the institution, when finances for the activity cannot be arranged, or when the institution is subject to rules that prevent it from complete participation. This is the case for the Eurolife Scholarship Program for Early Career Researchers, where not all institutions have funding available to provide the scholarship, but all institutions are, in principle, willing to receive candidates.

### **General**

The in-person collaboration between the Eurolife members is structured around semi-annual meetings, held at partner institutions on rotating basis. In 2019, the meetings were hosted by the Leiden University Medical Center and the Trinity College Dublin. Due to the collaboration on and planning of the joint transnational project – Erasmus+: Strategic Partnership, the Eurolife Education Alliance together with the Eurolife Coordinator held an additional meeting on 15 November in Frankfurt, as well as a virtual meeting on 23 September 2019.

### **Eurolife meetings**

- Steering Committee meetings 2019
  - 23 May 2019, Leiden University Medical Center
  - 25 November 2019, Trinity College Dublin
- Education Alliance meetings 2019
  - 23 May 2019, Leiden University Medical Center
  - 23 September 2019, video conference
  - 15 November 2019, Frankfurt airport
  - 25 November 2019, Trinity College Dublin

- Administrators meetings 2019
  - 23 May 2019, Leiden University Medical Center
  - 25 November 2019, Trinity College Dublin

Planned for 2020

- **Steering Committee Meetings**
  - 18 May 2020, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm
  - November 2020, University Medical Center Göttingen (TBC)
- **Administrators and Eurolife Education Alliance (EEA) meetings**
  - 19 May 2020, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm
  - November 2020, University Medical Center Göttingen (TBC)

The meetings create a communication platform for members to review the actions of the Network and quality of their implementation, as well as constitute an opportunity to develop and discuss new ideas and enhancements. Besides the institutional Eurolife representatives, Eurolife welcomes talks and presentations by other institutional members, both administrative and academics.

In 2019, Eurolife representatives listened to the presentations of:

- ✚ Prof. Maria Yazdanbakhsh - Head Dept. Parasitology and Chair of the LUMC Internationalization Committee (*Steering Committee Meeting. Leiden, May 2019*).
- ✚ Gael Parent - Project Lead, Education and Development, CRDI, Dublin (*Steering Committee Meetin. Dublin, November 2019*)

In addition, each Eurolife meeting is accompanied by an academic symposium, which welcomes academic talks from globally recognised academics: in 2019, partners, students and other invited guests had the privilege to participate in two academic Symposia on:

- *Research Innovations in Oncology*
- *Eurolife Neuroscience Research Symposium*

## **Eurolife 20th Anniversary**

2019 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Eurolife network. On 23 May 2019, Eurolife network members, guests and academic speakers gathered together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the network. To mark this special occasion, the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) hosted the Eurolife semi-annual two-day meeting together with the Eurolife Mini Symposium on Research Innovations in Oncology, followed by a reception and anniversary dinner.

In the course of the two-day Eurolife meeting, the network continued to explore ways in which we can foster joint transnational initiatives, which will continue to harness our individual institutional strengths. The 20th Anniversary of the network was a special occasion, which celebrates the Eurolife's contributions to the European education and research, and the field of life sciences.



To bring the story of the founding of the Network a bit closer to the audience, the Honorary Guest, Prof. Stephen G Hillier from the University of Edinburgh and the founding father of EuroLife presented the early history of EuroLife.

Prof. Hillier described the events, which led to the founding of EuroLife and emphasised that: “You can’t make a network, it needs to be grown”. He explained that EuroLife is a cooperation that has evolved organically, through regular meetings and close discussions, as well as shared interests and ambition of its Members.

Prof. Hillier reports: *“It was a huge privilege to have been part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, and to have had the opportunity to review the network’s early years. Clearly, things have gone from strength to strength. Above all, EuroLife’s achievements over two decades testify to the benefits of pan European partnering in the life sciences. Long may it continue”*. Prof. Hillier acknowledged the early encouragement provided by the European Commission through the good offices of Dr. Bill Baig (DGXII-E4).



Prof. Hillier also thanked his Colleagues from the University of Edinburgh – Prof. Colin C Bird, the first Chairman of EuroLife and Dr. Dorothy Watson, the first Administrative Coordinator of EuroLife. The Honorary Guest was then presented with the EuroLife medal, which marks his contributions to the Network and great impact on the early history of EuroLife.

In addition, Prof. Jan Carlstedt-Duke, former EuroLife Chairman from Karolinska Institutet, and Prof. Ruud Kukenheim, EuroLife Founding Father from LUMC, also honoured the Members with their presence at the event. In appreciation for their great impact on the Network, all EuroLife Chairmen present at the event were invited to the stage.

Prof. Carlstedt-Duke joined by the recent EuroLife Chairmen, Prof. Pancras Hogendoorn from the Leiden University Medical Center, Prof. Francisco Ciruela from the University of Barcelona and the current Chairman - Prof. Tim Gollisch from the University of Göttingen were presented with small gifts. The former EuroLife Chairman and Founding Fathers were flattered to be invited to participate in the Anniversary celebrations and were delighted to note the continuing development of EuroLife and its transcontinental initiatives.



## 2) Eurolife Education Alliance (EEA)

The Network's Education Alliance is dedicated and committed to developing new pan-European standards of excellence in life science education and recognises the need for increased collaboration and mobility of students within Europe. Together, the Network works towards streamlining of the education policies in Europe.

In 2019, the EEA organised two Eurolife Summer Schools as well as drafted a joint EU academic proposal on BBD – DATAETHICS, coordinated by the University Medical Center Göttingen.

### New Chairman of the EEA 2018-2020

Argyris Papatontis, Professor of Translational Epigenetics from the University Medical Center Göttingen joined the Eurolife Education Alliance and will act as the Chairman of the EEA during the UMG's coordination of the Network.

### 2.1 Eurolife Mobility Program

Each year Eurolife offers 27 grants to undergraduate and master students of the partner institutions to carry out the practical part of their studies – research – at one of the Eurolife institutions. The students undertake a period of research of 3-6 months at the partner institution, in a project that is discussed in advance between the student, the Mentor at the home university, and the Mentor at the host university, so that it is tailored to a particular research area and requirements, while building a research network.

Eurolife exchange students get a **tuition fee waiver** at their host university.

In addition, Eurolife institutions have been encouraged to update previous Erasmus+ agreements or to sign new ones with the Eurolife partners. The table presenting current Erasmus+ agreements was uploaded to the website and students have been encouraged to apply for both, Eurolife and Erasmus+ grants simultaneously.

Erasmus +	AT - MUI	DE - UMG	ES - UB	FR - UNISTRA	HU - SE	IE - TCD	NL - LUMC	UK - UoE	SE - KI
AT - Innsbruck Medical University (MUI)	x	Med.:B/M:4, S:1	B/M:2;S:1	B/M:2; S:1	B/M:2;S:TBC	B/M:2; S:2	B/M:2; S:2	B/M use Erasmus SMT	B/M use Erasmus SMT; Biol:M:2;S:1
DE - University Medical Centre Göttingen (UMG)	Med.:B/M:4, S:1	x	Biol.:B/M:2	Ended (until 2017/18)	Med.:M:2	Med.:B:2;M:3;S:1	Biol.:B/M:1;Med.:M:1;Med.:S:	No	Biol:B/M:1;S:1
ES - Universitat de Barcelona (UB)	B:2;M:2;S:1	Biol.:B/M:2	x	B:5;M:5;S:1	Under negotiation	B:2;M:2;S:2	B:2;M:2;S:1	No	Biol: B/M:2 ; S:1 Med: B/M:2 ; S:1
FR - University of Strasbourg (UNISTRA)	B/M:2; S:1	Ended (until 2017/18)	B:5;M:5;S:1	x	Yes	Yes (until 2020/21)	Yes (until 2020/21)	No	Biol: B/M:2 ; S:1 Med: B/M:2
HU - Semmelweis University (SE)	B/M:2; S:TBC	Med.:M:2	Under negotiation	Yes	x	Under negotiation	Under negotiation	No	New in negotiation
IE - Trinity College Dublin (TCD)	B/M:2; S:2	Med.:B:2;M:3;S:1	B:2;M:2;S:2	Yes (until 2020/21)	Under negotiation	x	Yes	To be renewed	Biol:B/M:2;S:1
NL - Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC)	B/M:2;S:2	Biol.:B/M:1, Med.:M:1;Med.:	B:2;M:2;S:1	Yes (until 2020/21)	Under negotiation	Yes	x	Yes	Biol: B/M:14; S:2
UK - University of Edinburgh (UoE)	B/M use Erasmus SMT	No	No	No	No	To be renewed	Yes	x	Biol: B/M:2 ; S:1 Med: negotiation
SE - Karolinska Institutet (KI)	B/M use Erasmus SMT; Biol:M:2;S:1	Biol:B/M:1;S:1	Biol:B/M:2;S:1 Med: B/M:2 ; S:1	Biol: B/M:2 ; S:1 Med: B/M:2	New in negotiation	Biol: B/M:2;S:1	Biol:B/M:14;S:2	Biol: B/M:2 ; S:1 Med: negotiation	x

In the academic year 2017-2018, thirteen students: Bachelor (6) and Master (7), were granted Eurolife scholarships. In 2018-2019, also thirteen students: Bachelor (6) and Master (7) were awarded Eurolife grants. So far in 2019-2020, 9 students: Bachelor (4) and Master (5) have been awarded Eurolife grants.

## 2.2. Eurolife Summer Schools

The decision on the event is made internally, by the Eurolife Steering Committee. In order to select/organise a summer school, a document has been prepared with guidelines for putting forward a proposal for being submitted to the Eurolife Steering Committee. In this short manual, the scope, size and structure of the proposal are detailed.

The Eurolife partners ran internal calls in order to select students to take part in the course. The promotional and dissemination activities for the Schools 2019 were to a large extent centralised and information distributed by the Eurolife central coordination office in Göttingen.

Eurolife considers the video testimonials filmed on the occasion of each Eurolife school as the best practice and effective promotional and informative tool for the future participants.

At the end of each Eurolife School, each Eurolife Grantee receives a Certificate of participation, which additionally states the number of ECTS credits students can claim at their Home institutions for the participation.

### Eurolife Summer Schools 2019

The call for proposals for the third and fourth **Eurolife Summer Schools** has resulted in two applications and the proposals of the Leiden University Medical Center in cooperation with the University of Edinburgh entitled ***Immune modulation in human and animal infections: impact on health, disease and therapy*** and by the Trinity College Dublin entitled ***Biology of Brain Disorders (BBD) 2019: Frontiers in Innovation*** were selected. The proposals presented a very complete and high-level programmes, included intensive interactions with professors from other Eurolife partners, as well as pitch presentations by the students, and targeted some of the main Eurolife research themes (i.e. Neurosciences, Immunology and Infectious Diseases).

## 2.2.a Eurolife Summer School 2019, Leiden



The Eurolife Summer School, Leiden was held on 8th – 12th of July 2019 at the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) in the Netherlands. This was the third Eurolife Summer School (the first one held in July 2017 at the University of Barcelona and the second at the Leiden University Medical Center in July 2018). The Summer School received very positive comments from the participants.

The event was organised in cooperation with the University of Edinburgh and Eurolife awarded 8 grants to students and researchers from Eurolife partner universities.

The Eurolife Summer School, LUMC welcomed 29 participants of 16 nationalities – (bio)medical Master students, PhD students, as well as early stage post-doctoral scientists interested and medical doctors in one or more of the following fields: immunology, microbiology and metabolism. The participants joined the School to increase their knowledge on human and animal infectious diseases, immunotherapy for inflammatory diseases, microbiota interventions and host-directed therapies against infectious diseases, clinical trials as well the industrial production of vaccines and antimicrobial therapies.

The participants were divided in tutor-guided groups and each group developed a research proposal on a topic of their choice based on new information gathered during the summer school. In addition, there was a social debate on public engagement and science in the media, a pub quiz and a boat tour through Leiden. The participants also had the opportunity to get to know each other's research through a well visited poster session.

In result of their participation, the students and researchers gained an understanding of vaccine design and immunotherapy, preclinical testing, and clinical evaluation.

The Eurolife Coordinator now dedicated a page on the Eurolife website to this event, where visitors can watch and listen to the video testimonials of the Eurolife grantees:

<http://eurolifeuniversities.org/eurolife-summer-school/eurolife-summer-school-2019-leiden/>

## 2.2.b Eurolife Summer School 2019, Dublin



Between 16th and 25th of June 2019, 30 students and 15 speakers of 17 different nationalities participated in the 4th edition of Eurolife School, the Eurolife Summer School 2019 titled ***Biology of Brain Disorders (BBD) 2019: Frontiers in Innovation*** held by the Trinity College Dublin.

For the 4th time, participants and presenters from different institutions and other countries gathered to manifest the objectives of the Eurolife Network – to enhance scientific interactions and contribute towards scientific developments. 5 students received the Eurolife grant to participate in this Eurolife Summer School.

The event, mostly sponsored by EIT Health, constituted part of a series created to promote the education in the mechanisms altered across brain disorders. Top speakers from industry and academia presented the basic and advanced state of research in the field. Thanks to the support of EIT Health, participants could also take part in the training in Innovation delivered in TCD by the Tangent Team. The scientific talks were held in Slane Castle, Co. Meath (16th-21st of June) while the innovation workshop/entrepreneurship training in Trinity College Dublin Business School (22nd-25th of June). The blending of science and creative thinking was a success and the students had an empowering experience during which they learned new insights in the field of brain disorders and new ways of approaching solutions.

This experience offered students a transformational learning environment, which fostered their personal and professional growth and provided with skills to translate their knowledge and ideas into innovative strategies for diagnostic and treatment of brain disorders. This was an empowering experience to embrace the challenges and opportunities of innovation for the care of brain disorders.

Biology of Brain Disorders 2019 was a scientific and training event which proposed an alternative view of brain disorders, with a focus on mechanisms operating across different disorders rather than the pathophysiology of each specific disorder. The main goal was to deepen our understanding of brain pathologies and to consider treatments currently used in some disorders for repositioning to others.

The Eurolife Coordinator now dedicated a page on the Eurolife website to this event, where visitors can watch and listen to the video testimonials of the Eurolife grantees:

<http://eurolifeuniversities.org/eurolife-summer-school/eurolife-summer-school-2019-dublin>

### 2.3. Eurolife Lecture Series

The Eurolife Lecture Series are the initiative of the Eurolife Education Alliance towards Bachelor students in biology/biochemistry. Lectures are organised by the partner institutions. This new initiative is addressed at freshmen from the Eurolife Universities. The typically 45-50-minute lectures are offered by academics, who are widely known for their work in the field. Each lecture is followed by a face-to-face discussion. The lectures facilitate and encourage educational and scientific interactions with the goal to contribute towards developing new pan-European standards of excellence in life science education and to increase institutional collaboration.

The first (1<sup>st</sup>) series were organised by the University of Strasbourg and approximately 600 bachelor students in biology/biochemistry took part in the lectures between September – December 2018.

The second (2<sup>nd</sup>) and third (3<sup>rd</sup>) series were held in 2019 and were offered to freshmen from two Eurolife partner universities: University of Strasbourg & Medical University of Innsbruck. The series were a success and attracted large audiences of students.

In Strasbourg, the lectures were held between September – December 2019 and each lecture was followed by a face-to-face discussion. This year, four scientists from the Eurolife partner universities took part in the series at UNISTRA:

- Joern Pütz. Vice-president for Franco German Relations. Professor of Molecular Biology, UNISTRA
- Christoph Schwarzer. Professor at the Department of Pharmacology, MUI
- Ross McManus. Professor of Molecular Medicine, TCD
- Xavier Gasull. Professor at the Department of Biomedicine, UB

The Eurolife Lecture Series pave students' way from Eurolife Lecture Series to Eurolife Student Mobility Program or other Eurolife initiatives. Already as a result of the participation in this initiative, one Bachelor student spent 2 months at Trinity College Dublin under the supervision of Prof. Ross McManus and further three Master students plan to visit Leiden University Medical Center in 2019/2020.

In Innsbruck at MUI, two scientists from the Eurolife partner universities offered lectures in December 2019:

- Argyris Papattonis. Professor of Translational Epigenetics, UMG
- Cornelis Pieter Tensen. Professor of Molecular Dermatology, LUMC

### 3) Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series

The Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series (EDLS) offers a platform for inviting distinguished researchers from other Eurolife institutions to present cutting-edge research at one host Eurolife University.

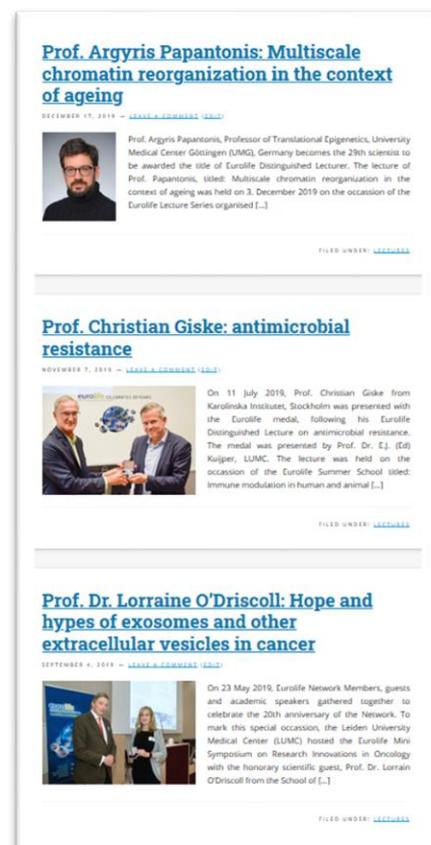
The format of the series allows for an active dialogue between lecturers, researchers and students, and fosters awareness and branding in partner institutions.

The topics of the lectures cover Eurolife key research areas: neuroscience, imaging, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, inflammation, genetics of complex diseases, and international health. Three EDLS were organised in 2019:

Prof. Dr. Lorraine O’Driscoll: *Hope and hypes of exosomes and other extracellular vesicles in cancer*

Prof. Christian Giske: *Antimicrobial resistance*

Prof. Argyris Papanonis: *Multiscale chromatin reorganization in the context of ageing*



### 4) Research

#### 4.1. Eurolife Postdoc Mobility and Knowledge Exchange Grants

##### Former Short-term Research Exchanges

This action is addressed to junior scientists. In 2019, Eurolife held one call for Postdoc grants: the 5<sup>th</sup> call. The goal of the call was to facilitate exchanges aiming at further development of the research collaborations between Eurolife member organisations.

In 2019, the members agreed to change the name of this scholarship program to Eurolife Postdoc Mobility and Knowledge Exchange Grants.

The grants support travel and living expenses for junior researchers (post-docs within the first 8 years of employment after having received their PhD) to work in another Eurolife laboratory and perform research for a period equal to or longer than 2 weeks (10 working days). In 2019, Eurolife offered 9 grants and the amount of support per grant was 1,500€ per researcher. Each Eurolife institution conducted its own selection. The call was published on 2. September 2019 for mobility between 1 February – 31 December 2020. Four researchers were granted support:

<u>Home University</u>	<u>Host University</u>
University Medical Center Göttingen	Medical University of Innsbruck
University of Edinburgh	Karolinska Institutet
Semmelweis University	Leiden University Medical Center
Semmelweis University	Karolinska Institutet

The table presents the distribution of grants in the 5th round between the partner universities.

#### 4.2. Eurolife Scholarship Program for Early Career Researchers

The Memorandum of Understanding between Eurolife partners for the Exchange of Early Career Researchers was signed at the end of 2017. The scholarship facilitates research stays in laboratories of other Eurolife partners. Each institution (in case of having available funds for this initiative) adopts its own procedure and regulations. The Eurolife Coordinator has now also developed a template *Bilateral Agreement* for the purpose of this action.

In 2019/2020, four scientists: three from LUMC and one from SE have participated in the initiative, under the supervision of Prof. Zlatko Trajanoski, Prof. Nic van der Wee, Prof. Josef Priller and Prof. Arne Ostman. Two exchanges already resulted in ongoing collaboration between the Leiden University Medical Center and the Medical University of Innsbruck on the development of computational tools to efficiently analyse complex datasets derived from (single cell) RNA sequencing, imaging mass cytometry, and multispectral microscopy.

### 5) Communication, dissemination of information and promotion

The Eurolife report 2018 was finalised and uploaded on the website in Winter 2019.

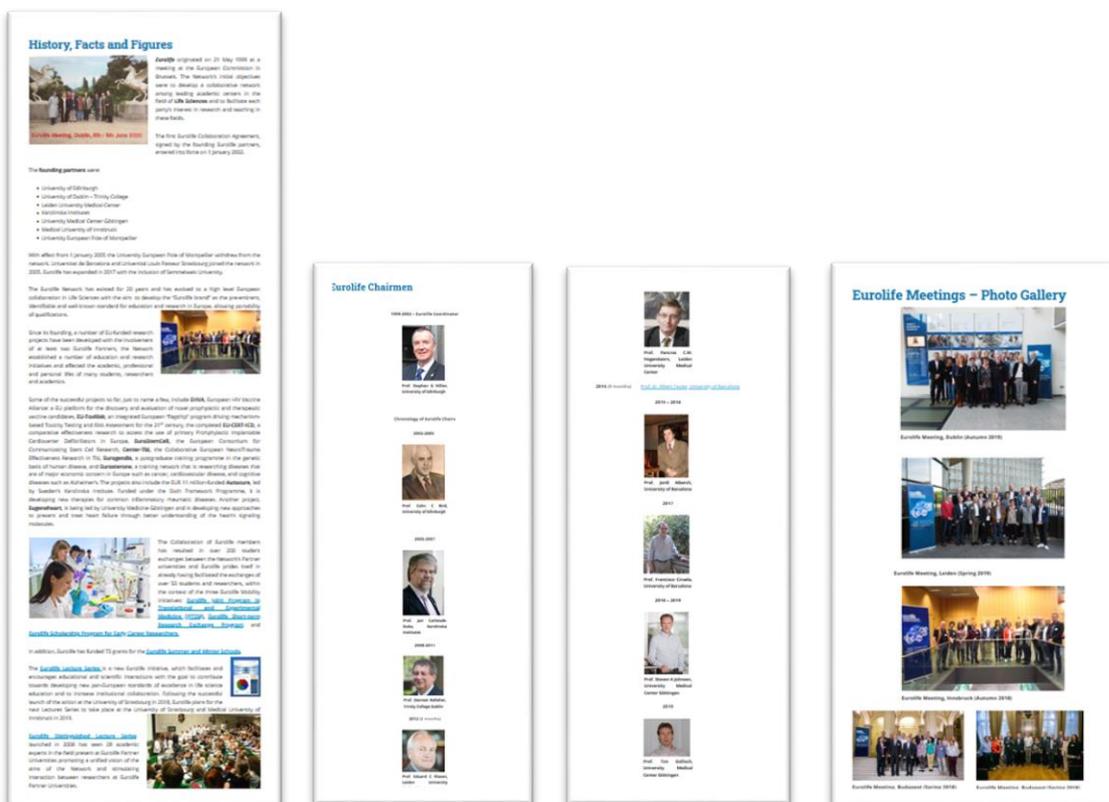
The communication tools of the Network:

- Eurolife semi-annual meetings
- Video conferences
- Eurolife website
- Institutional websites of Eurolife partners
- Emails
- Telephone calls
- Dropbox
- Social media

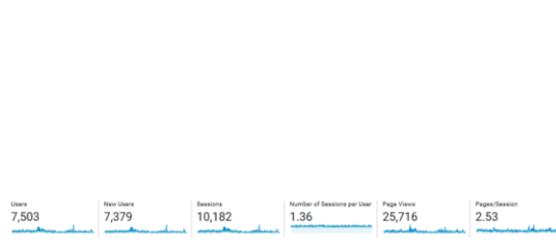
The in-person collaboration between Members is structured around semi-annual meetings, held at partner institutions on rotation basis. In 2019, the meetings were hosted by the LUMC and the TCD. In addition, the EEA Members held a project meeting in Frankfurt. The meetings create a communication platform for members to review the actions of the Network and quality of their implementation, as well as constitute an

opportunity to develop and discuss new ideas, projects and enhancements. Regarding the Eurolife website, the agenda and the news sections have been permanently updated. Moreover, 23 news items were published on the website during the course of the year.

Eurolife continuously strives to improve the quality of its actions and communication platforms. In 2019, the Eurolife coordinator continued to redesign the individual sections of the Eurolife website to include a more detailed information on the Network and its founding, as well as to allow for more transparent and effective information-sharing. Additional pages and headings were added to improve the clarity of the content of the website, as well as to provide more appropriate space for the relevant information. Following are some examples of the changes:



According to the feedback received from the partners and grantees, the Eurolife website proves a strong source of information on the activities of the Network. Following is the 2019 data on the visits to the Eurolife website, as well as information on location of the users:



The information on the network and its activities, all open calls and testimonials is regularly updated on the institutional partner websites or shared through internal institutional communication channels.

Finally, the Eurolife Dropbox has been updated with new documents and folders.

## 6) Eurolife quality assurance

The Eurolife coordinator designed and implemented a number of quality assurance and monitoring activities.

Purpose of Quality Assurance and Monitoring

- Revision of the objectives of the Network
- Revision of actions with respect to established objectives ➡ identification of problems ➡ corrective actions
- Success of actions, achievements of objectives and dissemination of Best Practice

Implemented evaluation activities - evaluation methodology based on five development assistance criteria:

1. Relevance of the actions
2. Efficiency of the implementation of the actions
3. Effectiveness of the implementation and actions
4. Impact of the actions
5. Sustainability

The Coordinator designed and runs a post-mobility Grantee survey, where she reviews and analyzes the Eurolife mobility actions. The collected results are analyzed by the partnership and further improvements and enhancement of the collaborative activities are discussed accordingly.

The Network also implemented further evaluation tools, to ensure the quality of the implementation of its actions. In 2018, Eurolife introduced Eurolife video testimonials filmed on the occasion of each Eurolife Summer/Winter School. The partnership produced two new videos in 2019 and they are shared with a wider audience through the Eurolife website.

In addition, the survey results upon the completion of Eurolife Summer/Winter Schools were collected by the central Eurolife office and uploaded into a post-event report, later analyzed and reviewed by the Eurolife members. The findings are taken into an account when planning the next schools.

## 7) Facts and Figures

Student exchanges (Erasmus+ mobility programme between Eurolife institutions)

	2019/2020	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB	SE
<b>FROM</b>	<b>UoE</b>		2	3	3	-	-	4	1	-
	<b>TCD</b>	-		2	4	-	1	1	2	-
	<b>LUMC</b>	7	2		13	-	-	1	1	-
	<b>KI</b>	3	-	13		-	-	-	4	-
	<b>UMG</b>	-	-	-	-		1	-	-	1
	<b>MUI</b>	-	1	-	-	1		-	1	1
	<b>UNISTRA</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-		1	-
	<b>SE</b>	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
	<b>UB</b>	1	2	1	4	-	1	1	-	-
	<b>TOTAL:</b>									

### Eurolife mobility program

	2019/2020
Exchange of BSc and MSc	9

### Eurolife Distinguished Lecture Series (EDLS)

Eurolife Distinguished Lectures	2019
	3

### Eurolife Postdoc Mobility and Knowledge Exchange grants

	5 <sup>th</sup> round -2019/2020
Number of grants	4

### Eurolife Summer & Winter Schools 2018

<b>Eurolife Summer School, Leiden</b>	<b>2019</b>
Number of grants	8
<b>Eurolife Summer School, Dublin</b>	<b>2019</b>
Number of grants	5

### Website

	2019
Number of news	23

### European research projects

Some of the 2019 projects which include a collaboration of researchers located at the Eurolife partners are:

- **The CENTER-TBI** project is a collaborative European NeuroTrauma Effectiveness Research in TBI coordinated by the University Hospital Antwerp. Eurolife partners: University Medical Center Göttingen, Karolinska Institutet and the Leiden University Medical Center
- **PROPAG-AGEING** is a H2020 EU-funded project that aims at identifying new molecular signatures for early diagnosis of Parkinson Disease (PD), coordinated by the Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale di Bologna. Eurolife partners: University Medical Center Göttingen and Karolinska Institutet
- **Human Brain Project** Specific Grant Agreement 2 (HBP SGA2) with the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne coordinating the project. Eurolife partners: Leiden University Medical Center, Medical University of Innsbruck, Karolinska Institutet, University of Edinburgh and University of Barcelona
- **EU-ToxRisk**- An Integrated European 'Flagship' Program Driving Mechanism-based Toxicity Testing and Risk Assessment for the 21st Century. Eurolife partners: Karolinska Institutet, Leiden University Medical Center, Medical University of Innsbruck
- **Rheuma Tolerance for Cure** coordinated by Karolinska Institutet in cooperation with two further Eurolife partners: Semmelweis University and the Leiden University Medical Center
- **Biomarkers in Atopic Dermatitis and Psoriasis** involving cooperation of three Eurolife partners: Karolinska Institutet, Trinity College Dublin and the Leiden University Medical Center

### H2020 projects

	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB	SE
UoE		1	5	4	-	2	3	3	
TCD	1		3	5	-	-	3	2	1
LUMC	5	3		12	3	6	1	6	2
KI	8	5	12		3	6	4	8	2
UMG	-	-	3	3		1	1	1	-
MUI	2	-	6	6	1		1	2	1
UNISTRA	3	3	1	4	1	1		2	-
UB	3	2	6	8	1	2	2		1
SE	-	1	2	2	-	1	-	1	
TOTAL	15	10	38	44	2	17	7	19	8

The table presents the collaboration between Eurolife partners in H2020 projects (active in 2019).

## ERC grants

	UoE	TCD	LUMC	KI	UMG	MUI	UNISTRA	UB	SE
<b>StG</b>	4	7	5	10	3	-	10	2	-
<b>CoG</b>	4	6	4	15	2	-	9	-	-
<b>AdG</b>	7	1	4	12	2	3	5	1	-
<b>PoC</b>	1	1	2	-	-	-	3		-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

The table presents the number of ERC Grants (biomedical research) active in 2019.

StG: ERC Starting Grants; CoG: ERC Consolidator Grants; AdG: ERC Advanced Grants; PoC: ERC Proof of concept.