



Advancing a Precision Medicine Paradigm in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer:
Systems based patient stratification solutions.

Welcome to the Winter 2019 Newsletter for the COLOSSUS Project



The COLOSSUS consortium of 14 partners from 8 countries at the December 2018 plenary meeting hosted by Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology in Barcelona.

IN THIS EDITION:

COLOSSUS Overview.....	Page 2
Message from COLOSSUS Coordinator Prof Annette Byrne, RCSI.....	Page 2
Dissemination highlights.....	Page 3
Translational trial progress report.....	Page 3
Partner in the Spotlight: Cancer Trials Ireland.....	Page 4
COLOSSUS partners.....	Page 4



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 754923. The material presented and views expressed here are the responsibility of the author(s) only. The EU Commission takes no responsibility for any use made of the information set out.

COLOSSUS overview

COLOSSUS is an EU-funded, Horizon 2020 research project led by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) that aims to provide new, more effective ways to classify patients with a difficult-to-treat subtype of metastatic colorectal cancer: microsatellite stable RAS mutant metastatic colorectal cancer (or MSS RAS mt mCRC), and to develop new treatment options for them. Our ultimate goal is to deliver a personalised medicine approach for patients with MSS RAS mt mCRC that is currently not available.

COLOSSUS researchers will study patient samples and apply advanced multi-omic computational modelling approaches to identify new MSS RAS mt specific subtypes. This strategy is designed to help us predict patient outcomes under standard treatment and to enable the design of more targeted and personalised regimens.

Newly described MSS RAS mt classifiers will be validated within the COLOSSUS translational trial – a multicentre study for advanced MSS RAS mt mCRC patients that will be conducted across Spain, Germany and Ireland. To learn more, please visit www.colossusproject.eu.

Message from COLOSSUS Coordinator Prof Annette Byrne, RCSI



Prof Annette Byrne
COLOSSUS Coordinator

MSS RAS mt mCRC is a type of colorectal cancer that is difficult to treat. Treatment is currently based primarily on 5-fluorouracil based chemotherapy +/- bevacizumab, but this approach doesn't work for everyone and many people develop resistance to these drugs. We established the COLOSSUS consortium to identify new ways to predict patient outcomes under standard treatments and to discover more targeted and personalized treatment approaches. As we start the COLOSSUS project we are excited by the potential to ultimately provide improved treatment options for MSS RAS mt mCRC patients. Please keep an eye on our website for progress updates!

For more information visit the project
website:

www.colossusproject.eu

Join the conversation

on Twitter  @COLOSSUSEU,
Facebook  Colossus Project and
Researchgate  Colossus Project

Our #PPI 2019 plans are shaping up to include the launch of a COLOSSUS explainer video and a public event to be held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in Dublin on 30 April 2019 in celebration of Colorectal Cancer Awareness month. The theme for the event is: "Colorectal Cancer – How is research in Ireland addressing the challenges?"



Recent dissemination highlights

- Florent Petitprez, of INSERM, presented COLOSSUS at The European Society of Medical Oncology ((ESMO)'s MAP 2018 – Molecular Analysis for Personalised Therapy meeting. Florent's talk entitled: *'Immune classification of soft tissue sarcoma and its association with molecular characteristics, and clinical outcome'* was delivered on 15 September 2018.
- On September 21, 2018, the Patient Voice in Cancer Research event took place at University College Dublin in Ireland. At this interactive event, RCSI's Dr Alice O'Farrell presented COLOSSUS at an exhibition alongside several other Dublin-based cancer research projects with Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) aspects. The event drew a crowd of more than 100 people who were invited to choose from eight laboratory tours and short talks.
- Dr Rodrigo Dienstmann of Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain presented COLOSSUS at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Intestinal Stem Cells and Colon Cancer: Biology to Therapy conference. The four-day meeting ran from the 27-30 September 2018 in Washington, DC, USA. Rodrigo's talk was titled, *"Risk stratification as a basis for targeted therapy in colon cancer"*.

Translational trial progress report



As a translational study, the COLOSSUS trial needs local ethics approval from each participating hospital. The COLOSSUS team prepared submissions to Research Ethics Committees (RECs) for 10 participating hospitals. Approval has been received for 7 hospitals, and is still pending for 3 hospital sites. Initiation visits, where training on the study is provided to team members by Cancer Trials Ireland, have been performed at two sites; these sites are now activated and open for recruitment. Five additional sites were initiated and are awaiting their activation.

Ireland: There are five participating sites in Galway, Cork and Dublin.

- University Hospital Galway was the first site to open for accrual in September 2018. The Principal Investigator (PI) at this site is Dr Gregory Leonard.
- Bon Secours Hospital is a private hospital located in Cork and was initiated in December 2018. The PI at the site is Dr Brian Bird.
- Tallaght University Hospital is a teaching hospital located in Dublin and was initiated in December 2018. The PI at the site is Prof Ray McDermott, who is also the Irish Chief Investigator for the COLOSSUS trial.

- Prof McDermott is also the PI at St Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin; REC approval is pending for this site.
- We are also intending to open a site at Beaumont Hospital Dublin where the PI is Dr Patrick Morris.

Germany: Three participating sites are in Mannheim, Speyer and Heidelberg.

- University Hospital Mannheim was initiated in November 2018. The PI at this site is Prof. Dr. Matthias Ebert, who is also the German Chief Investigator for the COLOSSUS translational trial.
- Onkologische Schwerpunktpraxis Speyer is a private clinic that was initiated in November 2018. The PI at this site is Dr med. Lars Scheuer.
- Onkologische Schwerpunktpraxis Heidelberg is also a private clinic with the PI Dr Stefan Fuxius. REC approval is in place and the initiation visit to this site is currently being planned.

Spain: Prof Josep Tabernero, Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO) is the Chief Investigator for the study in Spain. There are two sites participating in the COLOSSUS study. Both are located in Barcelona and were initiated in December 2018.

- The PI at Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron is Dr Rodrigo Dienstmann, who is part of the Scientific Coordination Team of the COLOSSUS project.
- The Institut Català d'Oncologia is located at L'Hospitalet de Llobregat and the PI is Dr Ramon Salazar Soler.



Partner in the Spotlight: Cancer Trials Ireland

Cancer Trials Ireland was established in 1996 under the name of Irish Cooperative Oncology Research Group (ICORG). The organization was launched when a group of cancer consultants decided to try to create more opportunities for patients to access cutting edge treatments by putting a formal structure in place, which could make Ireland more attractive as a location for international cancer research groups and the pharmaceutical industry. In 2000, the membership was expanded to include Northern Ireland. Cancer Trials Ireland is a not-for-profit registered charity, partly funded by the Irish Cancer Society and Ireland's Health Research Board (HRB). They also receive greatly appreciated donations from members of the public. Cancer Trials Ireland works closely with local investigators, international collaborative groups and global pharmaceutical companies.



Working with foremost Medical, Surgical and Radiation Oncologists, as well as Haematologists, Oncology Research Nurses, Translational Scientists, Data Managers, and Pharmacists, since 1996 more than 15,000 patients have taken part in over 350 cancer trials. Cancer Trials Ireland also provides training, facilitates co-operation between all professionals working in the area and supports cancer trials research units throughout Ireland. Cancer Trials Ireland helps to set policy and champion the opening of more cancer trials in Ireland through engagements with key stakeholders both in Ireland and internationally. Last year, Cancer Trials Ireland members were involved in 13 articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and 28 abstracts accepted for highly regarded international cancer conferences. To learn more visit www.cancertrials.ie.



Dr Verena Amberger-Murphy
Translational Research
Leader



Dr Orla Casey
Translational Project
Manager

COLOSSUS partners



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI TORINO



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386



geneXplain

ICR The Institute of
Cancer Research

Inserm



finding cancer early
epigenomics



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 754923. The material presented and views expressed here are the responsibility of the author(s) only. The EU Commission takes no responsibility for any use made of the information set out.