OSTEOPROSPINE

Newsletter Issue 1 - September 2019

www.osteoprospine.eu

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Introduction

Dear colleagues and followers of the OSTEOproSPINE Newsletters,

I am pleased to introduce the first eNewsletter of OSTEOproSPINE. We intend to make it an annual publication to present our partners, update you on the latest developments and findings in the project and give a deeper insight into the collaborative work we perform in this project.

Millions of people worldwide suffer from chronic lumbar back pain, which is most often caused by degenerative spine disorders (DSD). This chronic condition has a devastating effect on the quality of life as it impairs the patient's physical, psychological and social functioning. Due to its high incidence (lumbar back pain is the second most common medical condition after common cold) and chronic nature, lumbar back pain drains healthcare resources and, as a frequent cause of absence, has a direct impact on the economy. Two and a half million patients in EU and US are annually treated for chronic back pain by spinal fusion surgery following exhaustion of conservative options to control the pain. The current surgical procedures (spinal fusion), however, have a modest long term success rate of approximately 35%. Thus OSTEOproSPINE as a new therapy for bone tissue regeneration would be a major advancement.

OSTEOproSPINE is a novel bone regeneration therapy composed of OSTEOGROW (recombinant human bone morphogenetic protein 6 [rhBMP6] delivered in autologous peripheral blood coagulum) reinforced with allograft (a compression resistant matrix). It is designed to guide the formation of new bone at extra-skeletal site and replace autograft harvested from patient's iliac crest for the fusion of lumbar vertebrae. By generating new bone, OSTEOproSPINE will restore the spine's weight bearing function, reduce the severity of back pain and improve the success rate of posterolateral spinal fusion surgery.

The program consortium of 12 partners (Genera Research, Medical University of Vienna, University of Linz, Medical University of Graz, Quality by Experts, Clinres Farmacija, Smart Medico, Triadelta Partners, 2KMM, University of Zagreb Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Eurice) from 5 EU member states has been assembled to conduct a Phase II, randomized, patient- and evaluator-blinded clinical trial of OSTEOproSPINE under the lead of University of Zagreb School of Medicine. Three clinical centres will enrol 192 patients suffering from degenerative disc disease to assess OSTEOproSPINE efficacy and safety in comparison with Standard of care (autograft) and Osteogrow. The Central Austrian Ethics Committee in Vienna and Austrian regulatory authority granted the approval for this Phase II trial. As the coordinating institution of the FP7 HEALTH project Osteogrow (Grant No. 279239), we have evaluated Osteogrow in Phase I/II clinical trials for distal radius fracture and high tibial osteotomy. Osteogrow exhibited excellent safety profile in these trials, supporting OSTEOproSPINE safety for administration in humans. A positive outcome of proposed trial will confirm OSTEOproSPINE potential to form a functioning new bone in human and by this restore the spine's function and improve the quality of life in patients with degenerative disc disorders using the ground principle of regenerative medicine: "provide the correct molecular signals to a population of presumptive cells in a permissive microenvironment". The Stage 1 of the study (15 patients) has been finalized, evaluated and approved by an Independent Data Monitoring Safety Board (IDSMB) to allow to continue with patient enrolment in Stage 2 of the study (75 patients).

Best regards, *Slobodan Vukicevic*
OSTEOproSPINE Coordinator

Who we are - the OSTEOproSPINE partners from Croatia

University of Zagreb, School of Medicine - The Coordinator

The University of Zagreb, School of Medicine (UZSM) has a team with longstanding experience in the implementation and management of regional, national and international multidisciplinary grants, including EU grants, both as a partner and as a coordinator. Tasks in the project include coordination of the project, support of clinical studies in OSTEOproSPINE via managing international activities with principal investigators at clinical partner institutions and in conducting all pre-clinical and mechanism of action studies.

UZSM will also conduct analytical assays for new Osteogrow clinical batch related to IMPD update and stability testing. Moreover, UZSM will manage issues related to intellectual property (IP) protection, dissemination of results and transfer of knowledge and IP to potential third parties. Through this project, UZSM will excel as a place for the development of new therapeutic opportunities, which will also be of great importance for the Republic of Croatia as a competitive country in the field of regenerative medicine.

The UZSM Team

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The key associates participating in the project are: Slobodan Vukičević (project coordinator), Lovorka Grgurević (preclinical and formulation leader), Mihaela Perić (toxicology, regulatory and drug product supply leader), Donatella Verbanac, Sanja Pehar (clinical study coordinator), Valentina Blažević (clinical study coordinator) Tatjana Bordukalo Nikšić (assay development and validation leader), Igor Erjavec (preclinical data analysis), Vera Kufner (rhBMP6 stability evaluation), Martina Pauk (rhBMP6 stability evaluation), Jadranka Bubić Špoljar (preclinical quality support), Nikola Štoković (preclinical testing and CRM evaluation), Ruđer Novak (rhBMP6 quality analysis), Smiljka Vikić-Topić (chief financial leader), Lucija Kučko and Ivančica Bastalić (administrative coordination and document archiving).

Genera Research Ltd.

SME Genera Research (GEN), a specialist in recombinant protein production, plays an important role in OSTEOproSPINE. Genera Research scientists were responsible for the scientific development of the Osteogrow bone regeneration drug and for the production of the clinical batch of rhBMP6 which has been used for the "first-in-human" clinical trial. Hermann Oppermann, chief of GEN, brings expertise in the production of recombinant proteins and antibodies. He is a world leader in this field, holding 91 patents and experience from prominent industries in the US and Europe.

The Genera Team

Together with his team (Tamara Božić, Irena Popek, Ivana Gunčić, Karlo Svrze) he guarantees continuous and successful production of rhBMP6, available throughout the project. Their tasks include validation of all production processes and characterization of protein's structure, purity, activity, and stability, using a long list of validated chemical and biological assays. They will also participate in the optimization of the next generation of OSTEOproSPINE product formulation and the development of an application kit for clinical use. Work on this project will be of great importance for the company. GEN will expand their workforce, knowledge and will prove their leading role in recombinant protein production in this part of Europe.

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

The Faculty of the Veterinary Medicine, University of Zagreb (UZFVM) has a leading role in the region, in the field of animal clinical scientific research and cross-institutional cooperation, characterized by interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research projects and collaborative centres of excellence.

The team of UZFVM

The experts from the UZFVM Dražen Matičić, Dražen Vnuk, and Marko Pećin are involved in conducting preclinical studies in rabbits and sheep in order to test new formulation for the final delivery of the close system in superbly equipped veterinary premises. Within the project, UZFVM hired a new PhD student Ana Smajlović to work on various tasks and to obtain a PhD, which will enrich UZFVM with a highly and specifically educated person. In addition, within the framework of the project, conducted scientific research will improve the medical rating of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Zagreb.

Triadelta Partners Ltd.

Triadelta Partners Ltd. is an SME company dedicated to designing, developing and delivering solutions for R&D projects in biomedicine led by Radan Spaventi and Katarina Orešković. They are providing advice on the clinical development of OSTEOproSPINE, based on their extensive expertise and experience, and catalyse the progression of the project in line with industry standards and expectations. Triadelta's engagement will primarily involve planning and reporting, overseeing the execution of planned activities and advice on risk management activities, if needed. With their long-lasting experience in pharmaceutical industry in leading positions like Chief Scientific Officer and Clinical Project's Manager, they can assure timely and reliable delivery of the committed results, as well as swift replies to the other Consortium members to all questions related to the clinical drug development process.

Partnership in the OSTEOPROSPINE consortium results in a number of benefits for Triadelta Partners Ltd., including an opportunity to gain additional knowledge and experience in the therapeutic area of concern, network expansion within academia and European SME community, as well as overall increase in global visibility and track record of the company.

Smart Medico Ltd.

SmartMedico Ltd. (SMED) is a Croatian CRO company led by Snježana Martinović. SMED was involved in several bone-related clinical trials particularly osteoporosis, autologous chondrocyte implantation, long bone healing, and rheumatoid arthritis. Experience in an EU funded project Osteogrow and long-time experience in many different clinical trial projects successfully initiated, monitored and closed in last 12 years serve as strong references. SMED activities in the OSTEOproSPINE project include ethics and regulatory approvals for clinical trial preparation and initiation, clinical trial/sites preparation, organization, support and management, Trial Master File management, site initiations and trainings, regular monitoring visits, site closeouts. Through this project, SMED will recruit and train new employees, expand business networks and expertise, which will progress SMED's future business.

Snježana Martinović

Interview with the coordinating team at UZSM: Slobodan Vukicevic, Mihaela Peric and Smiljka Vikic-Topic

OSTEOproSPINE is the second innovative EU project you coordinate in the field of bone regeneration after OSTEOGROW. How has the research evolved since the start of OSTEOGROW and what are the differences between the projects?

These are the only 2 innovative scientific projects the EU Commission of Science granted to a Croatian academic institution. We overcame numerous hurdles to come to this point and form a historical perspective. This is the only example in which academic institution realized all stages from research and development to drug production and clinical testing. Usually, such a process is delegated after initial R&D steps to pharmaceutical industry for a royalty fee. The UZSM Osteogrow team with outstanding partner individuals managed to pass through all drug development steps and it was surely more comfortable with OSTEOproSPINE project since all major development steps were already behind us. New partners in OSTEOproSPINE have been carefully selected and so far we are optimistic that a novel drug for bone repair used be brought to patients with this unmet medical need.

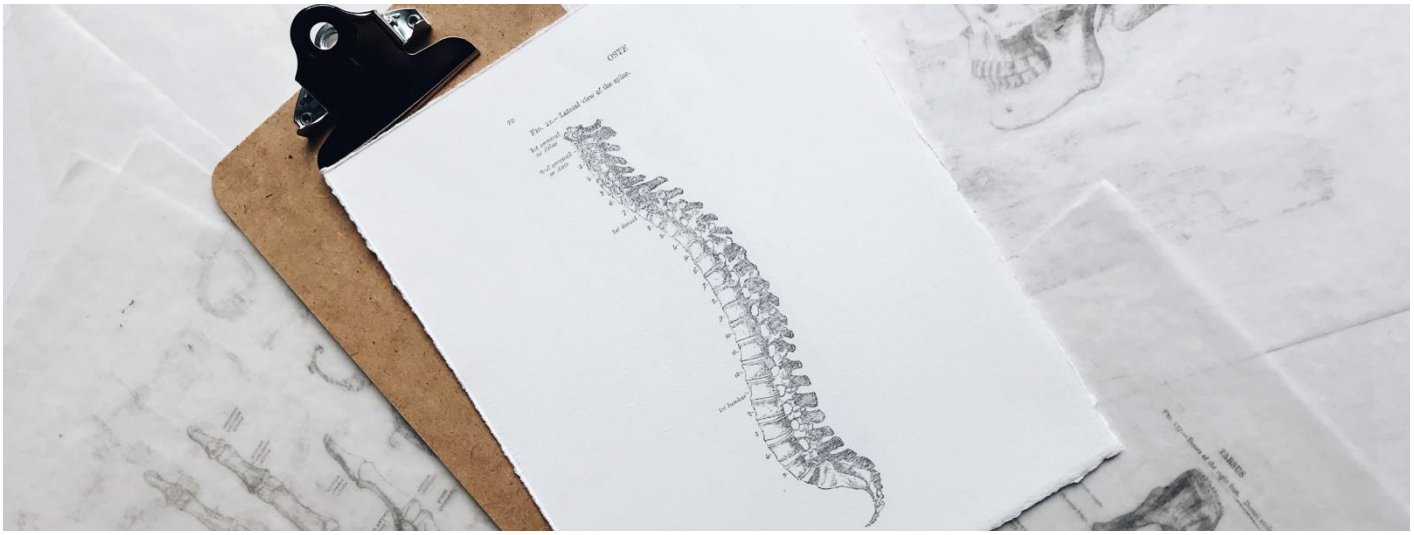
How did you come to idea to develop OSTEOGROW, how did it all start?

It started in my Laboratory at UZSM many years ago due to our own long time interest and contributions to the BMP field. Important was the discovery that autologous blood coagulum is a natural carrier for BMPs and that BMP6 is resistant to its inhibitor Noggin. Major contribution was done by Lovorka Grgurevic and Hermann Oppermann a renowned scientist who came from US to work with us. Lovorka than made numerous experiments proving that BMP6 has a high affinity for blood coagulum proteins and subsequently tested different formulations to finally come with an appropriate formulation for the implant to be used in patients with lumbar back pain.

How will the outcomes and findings in OSTEOproSPINE change the treatment of lumbar back pain?

Lumbar back pain is an unmet medical need. We are in parallel working on improved formulations to be able to induce in patients with pain new bone between the transverse processes of the lumbar vertebrae which will be well fused, biomechanically very strong and stable, and most importantly non-resorbable over a prolonged period of time.

Prof. Slobodan Vukicevic, OSTEOproSPINE Coordinator



Lumbar back pain surgically treated is a worldwide significant medical issue and if successful we might bring to these patients and relieve of pain over a prolonged period of time and a very much improved quality of life.

What do you think are the respective roles of publicly funded research projects like OSTEOproSPINE and research from the private sector in the field of regenerative medicine?

Publicity founded research enables an open collaboration between best academic institutions, and fully novel learning process of drug development and regulation of clinical testing to young investigators and to those more experienced give an appropriate to develop new therapies independently of rigid pharmaceutical companies procedures in academic institutions and must importantly funding from venture capital usually destroys academic freedom to continuously improve drug production procedures prior to "freezing" the process upon entering the final Phase III clinical testing to apply for the pre-marketing approval from EMA (European Medicinal Agency).

What was the regulatory pathway for OSTEOproSPINE project?

The beneficial fact for OSTEOproSPINE project was that OSTEOGROW, previous FP7 project investigating the very similar bone regeneration product, was a success. The product proved to be safe in two Phase I/II clinical trials that involved treatment of long bone fractures (radius and tibia). The OSTEOproSPINE project builds on these results and expands the use of the product into the new indications. OSTEOproSPINE involves a Phase II clinical trial that investigates the safety and efficacy of lumbar fusion after implantation of rhBMP6 in autologous blood coagulum carrier in patients treated for degenerative disc disease. Spinal fusion is a surgical procedure of high complexity so the team of experts started preparing the clinical trial protocol well before the deadline of the H2020 call. The study was conditionally approved before the proposal submission and we believe that this was regarded as a very positive aspect by the panel of experts evaluating the proposal. The protocol improvements based on Ethics committee suggestions took almost 8 months to complete. This process was followed by the submission of necessary documentation to the national regulatory authority. The approval was fortunately very smooth and within the minimal legal timeframes. Nevertheless, the whole process from the initial idea through final clinical trial regulatory approval and initiation of patient enrolment required more than a year and a half to conclude. Fortunately, all this was taken into account when the project was planned so the implementation of all the tasks was on time. Many projects do not take into account potential regulatory delays and logistical challenges that each clinical study entails so having

experienced partners and thorough understanding of the processes proved to be the key to success.

What is the most challenging part of the drug development?

Drug development is a costly and resource demanding endeavour. Again, OSTEOproSPINE project build on the results and experience of OSTEOGROW project where all the activities were performed in a way to focus the use of resources, maximize the outputs and reduce any redundancies. Both consortia, OSTEOGROW and OSTEOproSPINE brought together the necessary knowledge in various stages of pre-clinical and clinical development as well as expertise in academic, industrial, regulatory and clinical research thus capitalizing on all partners' skills and know-how. The drug development requires thorough understanding of the complexity of the process, strong team work and dedication to bring the product from the pre-clinical to higher stages of clinical testing. Quality of generated data is of utmost importance, both for the patients' safety and for the future of the medicinal product perspective and this is the priority of all OSTEOproSPINE project activities.

Testing on humans evokes many ethical issues. How is this addressed in OSTEOproSPINE?

Activities involving ethics questions are in the core of OSTEOproSPINE project. Involvement of human participants in research activities harbours risks for exercising and observing human rights and fundamental freedoms and respect for human dignity. OSTEOproSPINE researchers are operating on the principle that the interests and welfare of the individual have a priority over the rights and interests of research. Experienced clinical staff performs Informed Consent Procedure before any study related procedure and the patient confirms its voluntary participation in the study by signing the Informed Consent Form (approved by the Ethics Committee). Patients' data are collected, processed and stored in the manner, which protects the privacy of the information according to the valid legal framework (including the GDPR regulation). All the OSTEOproSPINE researchers are focused on thorough evaluation of the tested treatment benefit that needs to outweigh the potential risks associated with the use of the new medicinal product.

Is it hard for you to be a coordinating institution?

Yes, there are many things that are more complex when you are coordinator in comparison with "just" being a project partner.

Being a coordinator is demanding in many aspects, you are responsible for creation of the scientific outlines of the project, but also for impact, ethics, resources, consolidating partner profiles, allocating tasks and for leading the whole proposal writing process. Later, coordinator is the one who initiates and leads negotiation process, but the toughest job is coordination of the project performance. Coordinator is responsible for the overall success of the project, must be active constantly, on disposal for every partner's question, helping those who are less experienced. Coordinator communicates with EC, organizes meetings, reporting, takes care of the budget etc. However, coordination brings visibility, prestige, reputation, possibility to define and lead project concept, selection of the consortium partners and all the resources to perform the project.

That is something that you cannot have as a partner.

How did you manage and learn all of these tasks?

In OSTEOproSPINE we are lucky to be supported by the partner EURICE, an SME with large experience in management, but also communication, dissemination and exploitation aspects of the project. EURICE helps us a lot with activities, which we are not as familiar and experienced. Our collaboration started long ago, we were working together also on our previous project OSTEOGROW.

What is the benefit for your institution for being a coordinator of the large EU framework project?

Our institution learned a lot about framework programmes and EU projects even before entering the EU, we coordinated FP7 project OSTEOGROW started in 2012. It brought new mindset and changed culture of our institution, especially our research administration used to different research funding.

What is the most important for success of the project?

Coordination of the project is demanding task. As a person, coordinator should have excellent scientific and technical skills, but also some knowledge about administration and finances. He or she should also have self-confidence and power, be able to take responsibility and decision-making.

However, above all, the most important is creative and self-motivating - excellent team, consisting of outstanding researchers and project partners as well as professional project manager and other staff members. In addition, support of all partnering institutions is crucial for successful performance of the project.

So, if you ask me about the administrator's point of view, how to "manage" coordinators and organize good project, the key is mutual TRUST. Understanding, at least partially, the job of the other team members (and respect it), communicate and meet regularly, resolving all the issues openly and timely.

We hope to implement all of these during execution of OSTEOproSPINE and fulfill all of the project tasks successfully!

FACTS AND FIGURES

60 Months
DURATION

12 Partners
6 Countries
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY

6 Mio €
EU FUNDING

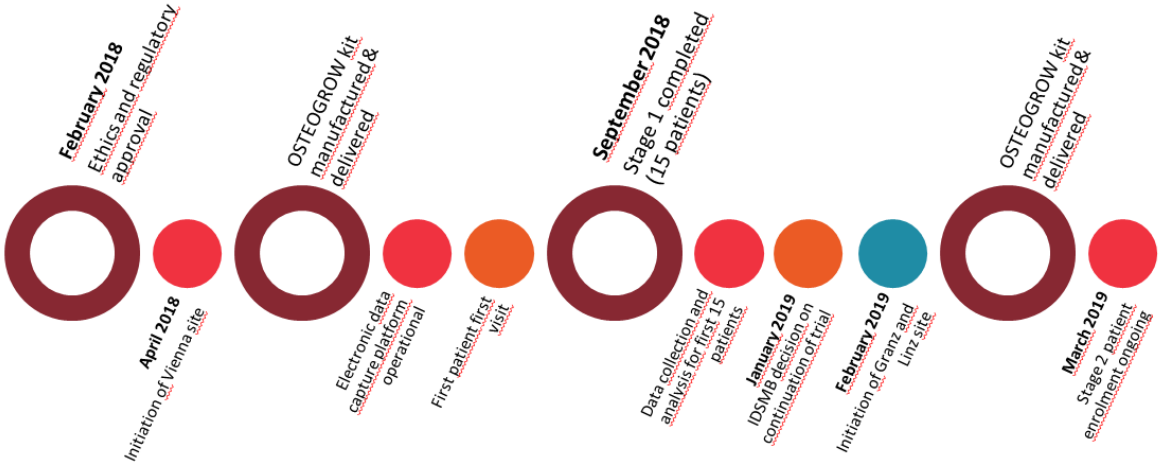
OSTEOproSPINE clinical study – from the set-up to a proceeding study

After the project start in January 2018, a lot has been happening in OSTEOproSPINE. The project has been set-up, first important decisions were made and several meetings took place. Thus, in this section, the consortium wants to give a short update on how the clinical study has developed since the activities started.

To ensure that there is no delay in our clinical research, the preparations to obtain ethical and regulatory approval for the OSTOEproSPINE trial began even before the consortium was informed that the project will receive funding. Due to this early work, both the ethics and regulatory approvals for the clinical study were successfully obtained in February 2018 already. In the course of the activities until summer 2019, two subsequent amendments of the clinical trial protocol were approved by the competent authorities.

Genera immediately started to work on the production of the OSTEOGROW kit to ensure that Stage 1 in Phase II of the clinical trial could start in time. Once the kit was manufactured and delivered, in April 2018 the Vienna site was successfully put into operation and Stage 1 was initiated.

Only one month later, the electronic data capture platform went online. Also in May 2018, another important milestone was met with the first patient visit. The enrolment of first fifteen patients planned for this initial stage of the trial was completed in September 2018. Their data were collected and used for the first analysis.



The IDSMB (Independent Data Safety Monitoring Board) decided in January 2019 that the available safety data support the continuation of the trial to Stage 2. For this stage the OSTEOGROW kit was manufactured and delivered in February 2019, so Graz and Linz initiated the trial in their facilities as part of Stage 2. The patient enrolment and treatment in all clinical sites is on-going, and the data are regularly and meticulously being collected.

OSTEOproSPINE Consortium meetings – collaboration on a European level

To discuss the most important steps altogether and in the respective working groups, the partners met in different settings.

Already at the beginning of the second project week, the partners met at the kick-off meeting for the first time on January 8-9, 2018 in Vienna. Invited by the Coordinator (the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine) and the local host (the Medical University of Vienna) the 12 partners – clinicians, research organisations and SMEs – came together to discuss the first steps for a successful cooperation in the new project.

After a warm welcome by project coordinator Prof. Slobodan Vukicevic who also gave an overview over the main project activities, the partners presented themselves and their responsibilities in the project. Afterwards, the work packages were outlined and discussed in the plenary. Administrative topics as well as general and clinical trials management were outlined and discussed. The presentation and discussion of the action plan for the first project year was followed by a session of intense group work. Three different working groups discussed the clinical studies, the management of the clinical trials and project management topics to ensure a smooth project start.

1st progress meeting

On November 22-23, the OSTEOproSPINE consortium followed the invitation of their coordinator, Professor Slobodan Vukicevic (UZSM), and met in the capital of Croatia for their first progress and investigators meeting. On the premises of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts in the heart of Zagreb, the partners found perfect conditions to discuss the project progress and define the next steps

to take. Also Dr. David Gancberg, EC Project Officer, attended the meeting and gave valuable advice to the partners as well as an outlook on the Horizon Europe programme.

Starting with the protocol and patient enrolment, which was presented by the clinical trial lead, the Medical University of Vienna as well as Clinres Farmacija, the partners discussed regulatory affairs – presented by Mihaela Peric (UZSM) and Bernhard Liegl from the newly added partner QBEX. Przemek Mistur from 2KMM gave a status update on data management and Herman Oppermann and his team from Genera, who are responsible for the BMP6 production in OSTEOproSPINE presented the

progress of the clinical batch of the investigational medicinal product used in the study. Also the progress in the studies to boost the differentiation of the allograft and the market potential of the drug was shown. In the second part, innovation management – communication, dissemination and exploitation was discussed, before the status of the project was shown from a project management point of view. Last but not least, the ethics requirements status was presented. After a general discussion and wrap up, EC project officer David Gancberg gave short and constructive feedback on the progress shown and the challenges ahead of the consortium. At the investigators meeting the partners discussed the next steps and challenges ahead in the clinical trial in detail.

At the occasion of this first progress meeting, the partners were honoured with a reception by the mayor of Zagreb in the Palace Dverce. Mr. Milan Bandic welcomed the consortium and offered finger food and wine in the famous wine cellar of the Palace in the heart of Zagreb.

Working group meetings and site visits

In the first 18 months of OSTEOproSPINE, several working group meetings and site visits have taken place.

The Data Management working group came together on 24 April 2018 to a first meeting on the overall data management in the project and to prepare the first version of the Data Management Plan. At the Eurice premises, the data that will be created in the project were presented and assessed once again. Afterwards the partners discussed all open issues concerning data management, e.g. the Open Research Data Pilot in H2020 and the new data protection regulation. After lunch, the group elaborated a strategy to be implemented and further developed throughout the project lifetime.

On May 7 and 8, 2019, members of the

At the PDE Meeting in Zagreb

OSTEOproSPINE consortium came together in Zagreb to discuss the next steps for communication, dissemination and exploitation in the project. Kindly hosted by the project coordinator, UZSM, the working group consisting of members from TDP, UZSM, GEN and Eurice refined the exploitation strategy and the preparation of a first version of the plan for the dissemination and exploitation (PDE). Possible exploitable results and the best routes for their use were discussed as well as upcoming events and opportunities to disseminate the project work. In addition to that, upcoming exploitation workshop concepts were outlined and discussed.

OSTEOproSPINE news

„Let the Stars Shine“: OSTEOGROW presented in the European Parliament

On June 19th, 2018 at the “Let the Stars Shine” exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels project OSTEOGROW, coordinated by the University of Zagreb, School of Medicine, was presented as one of five most significant Croatian projects financed by the European Union.

“Let the Stars Shine” is a joint initiative by nine representatives in the European parliament with the goal to support European community and solidarity and promote and stimulate visibility of superior and creative projects which have had a positive impact on the life of citizens of the European Union. As a part of the initiative, five most significant projects financed by the European Union have been chosen from each of the nine participating countries (Croatia, Bulgaria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania and Slovenia). Office of the Croatian European Parliament representative Ivana Maletic organized the contest, and out of seventy applications five were selected as the best – “OSTEOGROW” University of Zagreb School of Medicine, “Znanjem do toplog doma” City of Petrinja, “Revitalization of St. Michael’s Fortress” City of Sibenik, “Sisacko-moslavacka zupanija Srediste gaming-industrije” Sisacko-moslavacka county, and “Coworking Zadar – Innovation through Collaboration” City of Zadar.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by the head of the OSTEOGROW project Prof. Slobodan Vukicevic, Dr. Mihaela Peric, Ivancica Bastalic and Lucija Kucko. Prof. Vukicevic emphasized the importance of this innovative scientific project for the academic community.

FP7 HEALTH project „OSTEOGROW - Novel Bone Morphogenetic Protein 6 Biocompatible Carrier Device for Bone Regeneration" is the first scientific competitive project that was granted for coordination by the European Commission for Science to a Croatian institution, University of Zagreb School of Medicine, together with eleven European partner institutions. The project officially started in January 2012 and successfully ended in December 2017. The goal of the project was to develop a safe, effective and affordable therapeutic solution that would promote bone healing and prevent bone non-unions, and it was based on the discovery by Prof. Slobodan Vukicevic, Prof. Lovorka Grgurevic and Dr. Hermann Oppermann that bone morphogenetic protein-6 (BMP6) in small quantities accelerates bone regeneration when administered in a carrier that is individually adapted to each patient. OSTEOGROW research continues in the new

HORIZON 2020 project "OSTEOproSPINE - Novel Bone Regeneration Drug "Osteogrow": Therapeutic Solution for Lumbar Back Pain" as a part of the clinical trial in a new indication involving patients with chronic back pain. OSTEOproSPINE project, which was also presented at the exhibition in Brussels, started on January 1, 2018, and 11 patients have so far been included into the clinical trial. At the OSTEOGROW / OSTEOproSPINE info desk the exhibition attendees could obtain relevant information on both projects. There were more than 200 parliament representatives and other visitors attending the opening of the exhibition which is significant for a good visibility of the projects as well as the University of Zagreb School of Medicine.

The initiative organizers issued a special European Parliament publication on the presented EU projects which have introduced positive changes, and a video clip was produced for each project, which you can see at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmETq9Zitzs

OSTEOproSPINE featured as Horizon 2020 Success Story in Croatia

In the section on societal challenges of its latest brochure "Horizon 2020 – Success Stories in Croatia", the Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU programmes has included a feature on OSTEOproSPINE. The national agency is responsible for the promotion and implementation of several EU research and mobility programmes in Croatia, including Horizon 2020. Until June 2018, Croatia has reached 381 H2020 participations and 285 projects with a total of 173 organisations involved.

The feature on OSTEOproSPINE and our partners can be found on page 57-59 of the brochure which is available online.

More news can be found on the OSTEOproSPINE website.

Acronym:	OSTEOproSPINE
Full title:	Novel Bone Regeneration Drug Osteogrow: 'Therapeutic Solution for Lumbar Back Pain'
Call Topic:	H2020-SC1-2016-2017
Contract N°:	779340
Duration:	60 months (01/01/2018 -31/12/2022)
Funding:	6.040.152 €
Partners:	12
Website:	www.osteoprospine.eu

OSTEOproSPINE – Events

Regenerative Medicine of the Musculoskeletal System in Trakoscan

"Regenerative Medicine of the Musculoskeletal System" is a regional conference gathering leading clinicians in the field of diagnosis and treatment of musculoskeletal system and basic researchers investigating bone and cartilage regeneration. It will be held at Hotel Trakoscan in Trakoscan, Croatia from **24th to 27th October 2019**.

Special emphasis will be on innovative medicines and regenerative equipment that enhance bone healing and innovative IT solutions that offer new opportunities in prevention and diagnostics.
The congress will host a one-day course of clinical densitometry accredited by the International Osteoporosis Foundation, where participants will have the opportunity to listen leading world experts for diagnosing and treating of osteoporosis.

The Congress is organized by the Croatian Society for Calcified Tissues and the University of Zagreb School of Medicine within the framework of Scientific Center of Excellence for Reproductive and Regenerative Medicine.

13th International Bone Morphogenetic Protein Conference in Dubrovnik

The 13th International Bone Morphogenetic Protein (BMP) Conference will be held at Valamar Conference Center in Dubrovnik, Croatia from **7th to 10th October 2020** and organized by University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, and Scientific Center of Excellence for Reproductive and Regenerative Medicine.

Plenary lectures, oral presentations, poster sections, harmonized discussions give all participants the opportunity to share information related to scientific research, new ideas and best practices from current research to commercial implementation of new technologies. At the same time, we will explore further communication and collaboration through social activities during the conference. This Conference will also provide a great opportunity for all participants do discuss together and recruit and train young researchers.

We want you to take advantage of your stay for a pleasant gathering during the Conference in beautiful Dubrovnik.

Partners and experts in OSTEOproSPINE

The PERISCOPE consortium brings together internationally renowned scientists with many years of experience in orthopedics, orthopedic surgeries, BMP6 research, and clinical trial management.