

Meeting Report

EASI Steering Group

Porto, September 11th, 2008



Participants: Allan Wiik (DK), Ricard Cervera (E), Munther Khamashta (UK), Pier-Luigi Meroni (I), Yehuda Shoenfeld (Isr),

Info: Cees Kallenberg (NL), Jean-Charles Piette (F), Reinhold E Schmidt (D),

Phadia: Michael Haaß (D) (*Protocol*), Nina Olschowka (D)

Discussion Topics and Decisions

EASI Projects for 2008/2009

1. Booklet for family doctors

The example chapter of the Family Doctors Booklet about *Mysthenia Gravis* was prepared by Jan Damoiseaux and Marc de Baets from The Netherlands.

Co-Authors are A. Fontana (CH), H. Schneider (D) and F. Blaes (D). Their feedback to the manuscript is still missing. Michael will send a reminder and ask for comments within the next week.

To speed up the preparation of the booklet, the example chapter should be sent to the other authors without waiting for the comments from the co-authors.

In the accompanying letter the authors will be asked to confirm within two weeks that they agree to write the chapter within the time frame given. The authors should keep in mind that the booklet is for general physicians and not for specialists and scientists.

The deadline for the preparation of the chapters is December 31st, 2008.

The authors should send the chapters of the booklet to Michael, who will prorate them to the EASI Steering Group members for final reviewing.

Publication of the booklet is planned for the Dresden Symposium on Autoantibodies in September 2009. There are two options for the publication of the booklet:

- Public publisher
 - like PABST Scientific Publishers, Lengerich, Germany
 - Springer Verlag, Berlin
- Printing and distribution through Phadia

Michael will check the conditions with the public publishers as well as with the Phadia agency.

2. *EASI Website*

The draft version of the new EASI Website was presented.

Each national EASI team will get two web-areas for their local communication. Both will be run in the local language. One area will be public for everybody who is interested in the activities of the national teams. One area will be restricted for EASI team members only (login with password protection).

The EASI Steering Group will run the websites in English. Here also an overview about the activities of the whole EASI Network will be given.

It is planned to go online with the first version of the international website in January 2009.

The administration of the website will be supported by Phadia:

- Webmaster of the website is Catharina Wollert, Phadia AB, Uppsala, Sweden.
- Main administrators are Michael and Nina for the whole EASI Network
- Local administrators are the Phadia coordinators of the EASI Teams.

The link to the EASI Network websites is www.easi-network.com.

Proposals for additional pages of the website:

- Congress list (with links to the congresses websites)
- Comments about congresses held (organizer of the congress should be asked to present a short summary about the congress with the most important results and messages)
- Pictures
- Comments about books which were recently published (summary, recommendation, content list, cover picture)

Actual publications from the area of autoimmunity (Nina Olschowka will send interesting autoimmunity-related articles to the EASI Core Group members. Each member will grade the paper with points of a scale from 1(worst) - 5 (best) and send the grade to Nina Olschowka. With an average grade of 3 or more per member the article will be put in the EASI literature list as "interesting to read". A pdf of the article could be put on the restricted areas of the website).

The members of the EASI Steering Group should also send papers they identified to Nina to be included in the review.

3. *Comparative evaluation of automated methods for autoantibodies testing as a multicentre study in Europe*

The multicentre study about the performance of the different automated methods used for autoantibody testing in comparison with gold standard methods was discussed at the IUAS committee of the ACR. The committee decided to run the study in the USA.

To evaluate the performance of different assay systems also in Europe, the EASI Steering Group will initiate a similar study.

The study should be divided into

- a routine study with samples randomly selected by the laboratories from their daily practice
- a clinical study including
 - clinically well defined samples provided by different centres of the different EASI groups (2 samples from each centre of a volume of at least 5ml). The patients should show

- no definite signs of the disease at the time of the blood drawing
- the full blown picture of the disease
- control samples as disease samples from non-autoimmune diseases with the same clinical background information and at least 5ml volume
- blood donors.

All samples will be collected centrally, coded and prepared for the shipment to the manufacturers.

At least 10 companies with new technologies in early diagnostics should participate.

The manufacturers who will be selected to participate in the study will be contacted by the EASI Steering Group members and invited to participate in the study. They should run the samples on their test systems and provide the data to the EASI Steering Group for evaluation of the results.

Next Steps:

- To design the concept of the study, Allan and Pier-Luigi will prepare a suggestion.
- Discussion at the next EASI Steering Group meeting:
 - how does the final design of the study look like
 - where to collect and aliquot the samples
 - which manufacturers (systems) to be included
 - which centres confirmed to participate
 - time frame

The new projects will be presented to the EASI Forum members

Next EASI Steering Group Meetings

The next EASI Steering Group Meeting will be held attached to

- the 14th International Vasculitis & ANCA Workshop in Lund-Copenhagen, June 6-9, 2009
- or
- the EULAR Congress 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark, 10-13 June 2009

Freiburg, September 29th, 2008

Michael Haaß

Attachments:

- List of authors for the EASI Family Doctors Booklet
- Instructions for the Authors
- Letter to the authors
- Model Chapter about Myasthenia Gravis