
Minutes EASI Forum

Dresden, September 24, 2015; 12:30 – 14:00 h

Participants: Yehuda Shoenfeld (IL), Luis Eduardo Andrade (BZ), Bettina Becker (DE), Nicola Bizzaro (IT), Xavier Bossuyt (BE), Jan Damoiseaux (NL), Ulrike Demel (AT), Carlos Dias (PT), Marie-Agnes Dragon-Durey (FR), Catharina Eriksson (SE), Andrea Griesmacher (AT), Manfred Herold (AT), Jussi Kantele (FI), Thorsten Krieger (DE), Lucile Musset (FR), Aresio Plaza-Lopez (ES), Johan Rönnelid (SE), Maria José Sousa (PT), Markku Viander (FI)

Thermo Fisher Scientific: Nina Olschowka (Global Marketing AI)
Josefina Alander (FI), Carmen Andalucia (ES), Martin Brandenburg (DE), Felipe Calderero (ES), Felix Gastager (AT), Thomas Horn (AT), Juan Jimenez (ES), Lilian Larsson (SE), Eckart Mummert (Global Marketing AI), Anne Omholt (NO), Jari Siuro (FI), Sune Sved (FI), Petra Zieglmayer (AT), Gerben Zuiderveld (NL)

Protocol: Nina Olschowka

Agenda

1. ANA, CCP and RF questionnaires for Clinicians
2. Questionnaire on ANCA for labs
3. Questionnaire on ANCA for clinicians
4. Dutch initiative: national validation of autoantibody assays for certified labs
5. New IFCC Reference Material – how is EASI involved?
6. Results from the International Autoantibody Standardization (IAS) Workshop
7. www.easi-network.com
8. ICAP translations
9. EASI session in Leipzig
10. Summary and Outlook; next EASI Forum meeting

1. ANA, CCP and RF questionnaires for Clinicians

Questionnaire is ready and can be distributed via the AI-network as agreed in the last meeting. Jan Damoiseaux will check for the final version of the questionnaire and send it to Nina. We will work with the agency OmniQuest who is specialist in digital questionnaires. They need some input in terms of mobile optimization, how many languages etc. Jan volunteered. The digital questionnaire will be put on the website of the AI-network. If not enough clinicians answer, alternative approaches are to be considered.

2. Questionnaire on ANCA for Labs

Jan Damoiseaux shows very first results. In total 414 labs from 11 European countries participated. 78% of these labs do ANCA on Immunofluorescence, 22% don't. It is still possible for countries to participate as long as they are able to deliver their results to Jan until December of 2015.

3. Questionnaire on ANCA for Clinicians

Jan will contact Jan-Willem Cohen-Tervaert to find out the current status of the questionnaire. Eventually, the questionnaire can be distributed via the AI-network in the same way as the ANA/CCP/RF questionnaire.

4. Dutch initiative: national validation of autoantibody assays for certified labs

As a try-out a national validation has been performed for the new EliA anti-topoisomerase I antibody test. The validation report has been made available to all interested Dutch laboratories. From this try-out a protocol is being prepared. More information will be provided at the next EASI-Forum meeting in Leipzig.

5. New IFCC Reference Material – how is EASI involved?

Nina will contact Ingrid Zeegers from IRMM and ask her about a protocol for all EAS groups how to validate the material with the tests they have in their labs. When agreed, Nina will send out a mail to all Forum members.

6. Results from the International Autoantibody Standardization (IAS) Workshop

Luis Andrade reports from the workshop which was held directly before the Dresden Symposium, on September 22nd. An international cooperation of the major standardization initiatives is planned. The forum agrees that EASI participates at this cooperation. Pier-Luigi Meroni is majorly involved and will speak for EASI in this group.

7. www.easi-network.com

For corporate reasons, Thermo Fisher Scientific is not allowed anymore to run external pages. Therefore, the easi-network page will be integrated in the AI-network page. Yehuda Shoenfeld will take responsibility. Nina and Yehuda will clarify the legal / organizational process.

The forum members agree that there is no need for membership pages. However, we need national pages with a list of members, a contact person and some information in the local language.

The question, if we need a blog or any sort of interactive page ends in the agreement that a blog per se is not possible to handle. However, we want to include “questions and answers” where all EASI members are asked to collect interesting questions in the area of Autoimmunity (particularly in AI diagnostics and its standardization) and send them by e-mail to the person who is responsible to put in content. Additionally, all EASI members who publish should send their publications to this contact person to be published on the website. This website-responsible person will be responsible for asking regularly for some input to keep the page “alive”. It is not decided yet who this person will be, an idea is to hire a freelancer.

8. ICAP translations

The International consensus on ANA patterns (ICAP) started last year with a first workshop during the 12th IWAA in Brazil. The second ICAP workshop preceded the Dresden meeting on autoantibodies. The consensus is published in Frontiers in Immunology and on the website www.anapatterns.org. A link is already available on the AI-network. All known ANA patterns are explained with pictures etc. It might be a big step in standardization of ANA pattern reports from labs. However, it is only published in English. In some countries it will be only used if it is in the local language. Therefore, the ICAP team hopes for the help of EASI. All national EASI teams are asked to discuss this locally and to take the lead. There is huge agreement in the forum group that EASI is the right forum to bring this forward. After the EASI-forum meeting it was decided that for the translation a protocol will be provided by ICAP and this will be used first for a German translation. If this works smoothly, other EASI-teams can follow.

9. EASI session in Leipzig

As agreed at the last EASI Forum meeting, the next EASI session in Leipzig will be on ANCA with Xavier Bossuyt being the chairman. So far, the following topics have been discussed:

- Xavier Bossuyt: ANCA study with samples from different centers in Europe, comparing different methods
- Jan Damoiseaux: EASI questionnaires on ANCA for labs and, if ready by then, new ANCA recommendations
- Joanna Sheldon: The new reference material of the IRMM for MPO and PR3 (PR3 is planned to be available by then)

If a local EASI group would like to participate at the EASI session with a vasculitis- or ANCA-related presentation, please contact Nina.

10. Summary and Outlook; next EASI Forum meeting

Due to lack of time, this point could not be discussed. The next EASI Forum meeting is planned to be held at the 10th International Congress on Autoimmunity in Leipzig in April 6-10, 2016. Nina will send out an invitation in February latest.