

ESF Exploratory Workshop on

Genetic Models of Disease Resistance in Livestock

Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 1 - 2 October 2007

**Convened by:
Bruce Whitelaw and Helen Sang**



The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an association of 76 Member Organisations devoted to scientific research in 30 European countries. The Mission of ESF is to provide a common platform for its Member Organisations in order to advance European research and to explore new directions for research at the European level. Through its activities, the ESF serves the needs of the European research community in a global context.

The main objectives of ESF for the years 2006-2010 as defined by its current *Strategic Plan* are to promote Science Strategy and Science Synergy, paving the way for initiatives across disciplinary and geographic boundaries in the European Research Area (ERA).

The Exploratory Workshops scheme is one of the key instruments of the Science Strategy “pillar”. Each year, ESF supports approximately 50 Exploratory Workshops across all scientific domains. The focus of the scheme is on workshops aiming to explore an emerging and/or innovative field of research or research infrastructure, also of interdisciplinary character. Workshops are expected to open up new directions in research or new domains. It is expected that a workshop will conclude with plans for specific follow-up research activities and/or collaborative actions or other specific outputs either within the frame of ESF (e.g. prepare the ground to develop a [Forward Look](#), a [Research Networking Programme](#) or a [EUROCORES](#) proposal; publication of a Policy Briefing...) or for submission to the EU 7th Framework Programme or to other European or international funding organisations.

European Science Foundation

1 quai Lezay Marnésia
BP 90015
67080 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Fax: +33 (0)3 88 37 05 32
<http://www.esf.org>

ESF Exploratory Workshops:

Nina Kancewicz-Hoffman
Scientific Coordinator

Valerie Allspach-Kiechel
Administrator

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 36
Email: vallspach@esf.org
<http://www.esf.org/workshops>

Convenor:

Bruce Whitelaw

bruce.whitelaw@bbsrc.ac.uk

Tel: +44 131 527 43 55

Fax: +44 131 440 04 34

Roslin Institute
Department of Gene Function &
Development
Roslin Biocentre
Midlothian
Edinburgh EH25 9PS
United Kingdom

Co-Convenor:

Helen Sang

helen.sang@bbsrc.ac.uk

Tel: +44 131 527 4234

Fax: +44 131 440 0434

Main Objectives of the Workshop:

The expanding knowledge of the genomics of host-pathogen interactions of key livestock diseases, together with latest techniques on genetic modification, now allow us to establish a new platform for research into genetic models of disease resistance in farm animals. This research will have major impact on animal welfare, food safety, the economy of the sector and human health. In the longer term we wish to establish a new European consortium to develop such research.

This Workshop has the following specific objectives to:

1. identify the expertise that resides in Europe to enable an overview of the European position with regard to International activities.
2. identify how to best utilise new GM technology to overcome limitations.
3. identify highest priority disease projects to establish European science as leading the field.
4. make the appropriate European science community (through the invited participants) aware of the initiative to build Scottish Network of Excellence "Development of Novel Technologies to Fight Viral Diseases in Farm Animals"
5. provide input into the International Symposium on Animal Genomics for Animal Health to be held later this year at the OIE Headquarters in Paris (through Bruce Whitelaw member of the OIE Ad hoc group on Biotechnology).

Prp-null cattle
Dario Brunetti (Cremona, IT)

Transgenic rabbit projects
Zsuzsa Bosze (Gödöllő, HU)

Investigating Jaagsiekte in sheep
Massimo Palmarini (Glasgow, UK)

Mastitis and other US projects
Bob Wall (Beltsville, US)

11.00-11.30

Coffee

11.30-12.30

Session Four: Wash-up
(chaired by Helen Sang and Bruce Whitelaw)

12.30-14.00

Lunch and Departure

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Objectives of the ESF Standing Committee for European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)

The **ESF Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC)** has overall responsibility for initiating and coordinating ESF's scientific activities in medical sciences and for providing expert advice on issues of science policy. It covers a broad range of disciplines and the Committee's main objectives range from promoting interactions between the biomedical and clinical research communities, through providing policy advice, to stimulating collaboration in emerging research areas.

The EMRC covers fields such as:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic medicine
- Neurobiology
- Immunology
- Clinical studies
- Communicable diseases
- Human genetics & functional genomics
- Medicinal biotechnology
- Public Health, etc.

ESF Medical Sciences:

Carole Moquin-Patthey
Head of Unit

Thomas Bruhn
Scientific Secretary

Julien Weber
Administrative Assistant

Blanche Schaller
Administrative Assistant

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 76 71 18
Email: emrc@esf.org
<http://www.esf.org/emrc>

Provisional List of Participants

Convenor:

1. **Christopher Bruce WHITELAW**
Dept of Gene Function and Development
Roslin Institute
Roslin Biocentre
Edinburgh EH25 9PS
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 131 5274355
Fax: +44 131 4400434
Email: bruce.whitelaw@bbsrc.ac.uk

Co-Convenor:

2. **Helen SANG**
Dept of Gene Function and Development
Roslin Institute
Roslin Biocentre
Edinburgh EH25 9PS
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 131 5274216
Fax: +44 131 4400434
Email: helen.sang@bbsrc.ac.uk

ESF Representative:

3. **Martin RÖLLINGHOFF**
Institut für Klinische Mikrobiologie der
Universität
Erlangen-Nuremberg Universität
Wasserturmstrasse 3
91054 Erlangen
Germany
Email: roellinghoff@mikrobio.med.uni-
erlangen.de

Participants:

4. **Zsuzsanna BOSZE**
Agricultural Biotechnology Center
Szent-Györgyi Albert u. 4.
2100 Gődöllő
Hungary
Email: bosze@abc.hu

5. **Kenneth BOYD**
Biomedical Teaching Organisation
University of Edinburgh
Doorway 3, Medical School
Teviot Place
Edinburgh EH8 9AG
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 131 650 3109
Email: Kenneth.M.Boyd@dial.pipex.com

6. **Dario BRUNETTI**
Laboratorio di Tecnologie della Riproduzione
Via Porcellasco 7 /F
26100 Cremona
Italy
Tel: +39 0372 437242
Email: dariobrunetti@ltrciz.it

7. **Vilotte JEAN-LUC**
INRA
Animal Genetics Division
Laboratoire de Génétique biochimique et
Cytogénétique
78352 Jouy-en-Josas Cedex
France
Tel: +33 1 34 65 25 76
Email: jean-luc.vilotte@jouy.inra.fr

8. **Imre KACSKOVICS**
Department of Immunology
Institute of Biology
Eotvos Lorand University
Pazmany Peter s. 1/C
1117 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +36 1 209 0555
Email: ikacsko@iif.hu

9. **Tim KING**
Animal Services department
Roslin Institute
Roslin BioCentre
Edinburgh EH25 9PS
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 131 527 4200
Email: tim.king@bbsrc.ac.uk

10. **Lluís MONTOLIU**
Centro Nacional de Biotecnología (CNB-CSIC)
Departamento de Biología Molecular y Celular
Campus de Cantoblanco
C/ Darwin 3
28049 Madrid
Spain
Tel: +34 91 585-4844
Email: montoliu@cnb.uam.es

11. **Ivan MORRISON**
Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine
Royal (Dick) Veterinary School
Universitu fo Edinburgh
Easter Bush
Midlothian
Edinburgh EH25 9RG
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 131-650-6216
Email: ivan.morrison@ed.ac.uk

ESF Exploratory Workshops

12. Heiner NIEMANN

Institut für Tierzucht (FAL)
Mariensee
31535 Neustadt
Germany
Tel: +49 5034 871 148
Email: niemann@tzv.fal.de

13. Massimo PALMARINI

Institute of Comparative Medicine
University of Glasgow
464 Bearsden Road
Glasgow G61 1QH
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 141-3302541
Email: m.palmarini@vet.gla.ac.uk

14. Graham PLASTOW

Dept. of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional
Science
University of Alberta
4-10 Agriculture/Forestry Centre
Edmonton T6G 2P5
Canada
Tel: +1 780 492 1496
Email: Graham.plastow@ualberta.ca

15. Chamsy SARKIS

CNRS
Laboratoire de Génétique Moléculaire de la
Neurotransmission et des Processus
Neurodégénératifs
Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière
83, Bvd de l'Hôpital
bât. CERV
75013 Paris
France
Tel: + 33 1 42 17 75 53
Email: sarkis@chups.jussieu.fr

16. Bob WALL

USDA
Agricultural Research Services
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Bldg 230 BARC-East
Beltsville Maryland 20705-2350
United States
Email: Bob.Wall@ars.usda.gov

17. Chris WARKUP

Genesis Faraday
Roslin BioCentre
Edinburgh EH25 9PS
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 131 527 4363
Email: chris.warkup@genesis-faraday.com