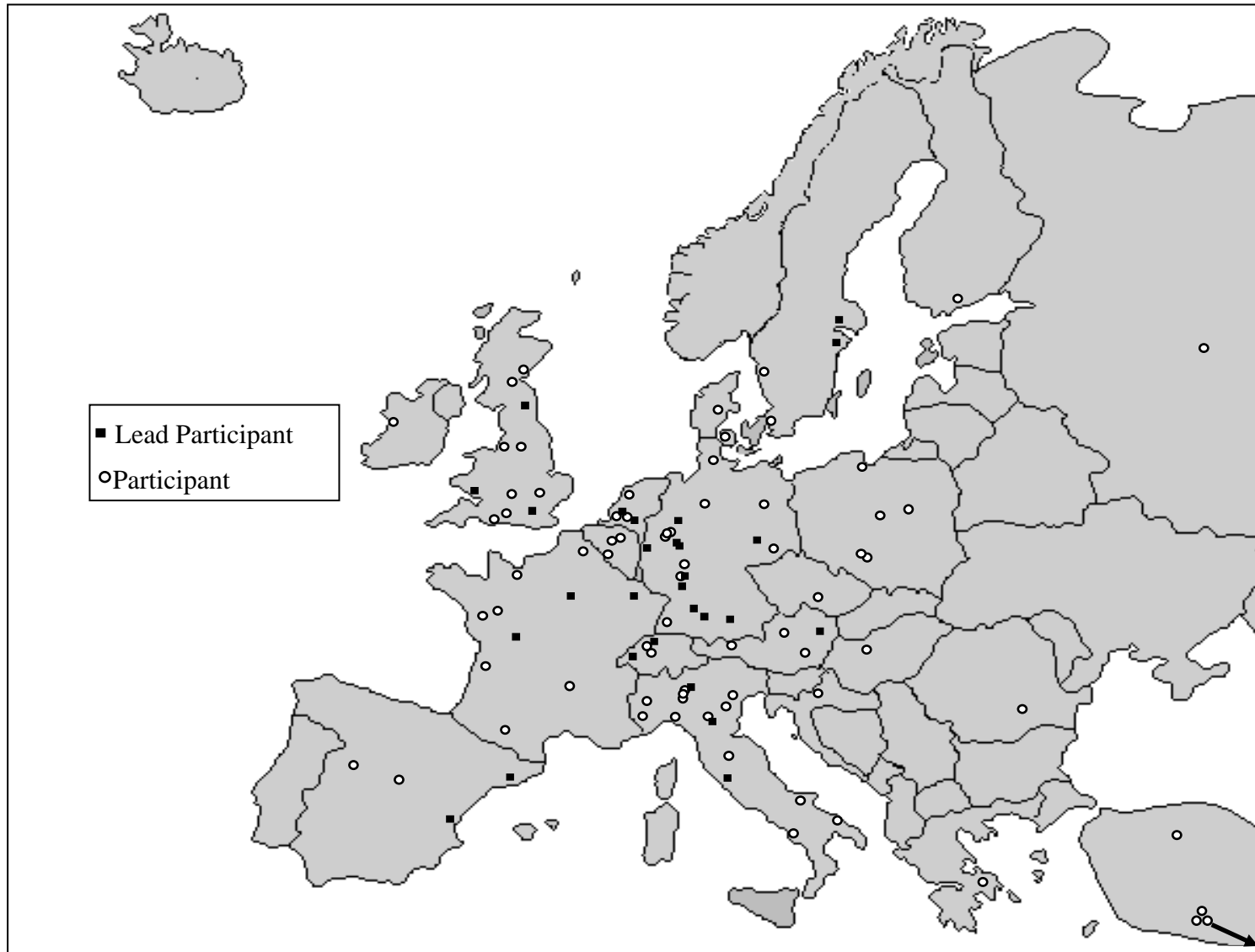


Highlights and Prospects

R. Hehlmann

Network-Coordinator

117 Centers in 22 Countries



Highlights

Central Information:

- Central websites for physicians and for patients, central randomization service (CML and AML), and several registries on leukemia entities implemented (www.leukemia-net.org)
- Implementation of content management system scheduled for 2006

Standardization:

- Nearly all WPs have prepared consensual recommendations or guidelines on an European level

Studies and publications:

- Ca. 120 publications in 2005, first studies ongoing on an European level
- Central randomization service established for CML and AML

Synergisms and Sustainability:

- Network structure established (NMC, ELIC, annual symposium, regular meetings e.g. at ASH, newsletter)
- Network expanding with inclusion of new members
- Introduction of associated members
- Cooperation among WPs widely implemented
- More than 60 WP meetings and several workshops were organized in 2005
- Presentations at EHA and several other national and international meetings

New members:

2 new members were included in 2005

University of Würzburg, Germany
Ipsogen, (SME), Marseille, France

Prof. Einsele (WP15)
Dr. Hermitte (WP 12)

8 institutions request membership in 2006

National Medical Center, Budapest, Hungary
MLL Münchner Leukämielabor GmbH, München, Germany
University of Milano Bicocca, Italy
Ustav hematologie a krevni transfuze, Praha, Czech Republic
University of York, UK
Medical Faculty of University Palacky in Olomouc, Czech Republic
Universität Göttingen Bereich Humanmedizin, Göttingen, Germany
Westpfalz-Klinikum GmbH, Kaiserslautern, Germany

Prof. Dr. Masszi (WP 14)
Prof. Dr. Dr. Haferlach (WP 13)
Prof. Dr. Gambacorti - Passerini (WP 4)
Prof. Dr. Klener, Dr. Cermak (WP 4/8)
Dr. Bowen (WP8)
Prof. Dr. Indrak (WP 4/ 8)
Dr. Haase (WP 11)
Prof. Dr. Link (WP 10)

Highlights

CML

- CML - Guidelines completed, manuscript to be submitted in February 2006
- Standardization of molecular monitoring in CML completed (data collection from 39 European Labs)
- Manuscript with international consensus submitted in January 2006
- Trials with new signal transduction inhibitors started across Europe
- 6 ongoing collaborative trials on an European level (EI-CML)

Highlights

AML

- European consensus on cross trial networking achieved
- Consensus among European groups on the management of relapsed APL for induction and consolidation therapy
- European consensus on principles and instruments of trial networking
- Cross trial comparability by the German AML Intergroup as a pilot study for the European AML network

Highlights

ALL

- Standards for the diagnosis of ALL prepared and consented
- Registry with ongoing European studies on adult ALL created in conjunction with WP2 (actually 16 studies)
- Five collaborative trials ongoing or activated
- Evidence-based review of adult ALL under preparation
- Additional study groups joined (Poland, UK, Turkey, Romania, Czech Republic)

Highlights

CMPD

- Response criteria for trials on idiopathic myelofibrosis established
- First registries (pregnancies in ET, ET with ringed sideroblasts) implemented in Germany, to be expanded across Europe
- Cooperative studies on ET, PV and HES ongoing across Europe

Highlights

CLL

- Central ERIC webpage completed (www.ericll.org.)
- Consensus on the harmonization of assessment of MRD achieved at the European and transatlantic level
- Standardization of diagnosis of 17p- abnormality by FISH achieved

Highlights

MDS

- Proposal for standardized diagnostics and prognostic evaluation
- Draft of therapeutic guidelines prepared
- Common uniform data sets available on website

Highlights

Diagnostics

- Establishment of common data sets and diagnostic reference panels for immunophenotyping in acute leukemias and lymphoproliferative diseases
- Consensual recommendations on sample preparation for laboratory analysis
- Internet library of powerpoint presentations on leukemia diagnostics established
- Quality control rounds on morphological leukemia diagnostics ongoing

Highlights

Cytogenetics

- Program for a European registry for leukemia cytogenetics established
- First genomic arrays for the detection of disease-specific chromosomal imbalances under analysis
- Multiplex FISH, telomere FISH, microarray CGH etc. established in most cytogenetic laboratories cooperating within the ELN
- Software for analysis of large cytogenetic data sets in relation to clinical data and other diagnostic information established
- Consensus protocols for cytogenetic diagnostics in leukemia

Highlights

MRD

- Substantial progress in the development of robust standardized assays for the Wilm's Tumour gene (*WT1*) and the *FIP1L1-PDGFR*A fusion gene in hypereosinophilic syndrome (HES)
- Development of computerized RQ-PCR reporting systems to report RQ-PCR from any platform in a standardized manner almost completed
- Standardized detection of *BCR-ABL* fusion transcripts in CML in cooperation with WP 4, manuscript submitted

Highlights

Gene profiling

- Guidelines for microarray analyses in leukemia submitted for publication
- First interim results of MILE study (Microarray Innovation in Leukemia) from pre-phase experiments presented at ASH
- Introduction of a new software (EAGLE-D) to fully implement microarray data, workflow and gold standards in the diagnosis of leukemia

Highlights

Stem cell transplantation

- Standardization and spread of excellence by defining post-SCT management and standardizing indications for SCT using consensus conferences and training courses
- Registration of transplants in leukemia reinforced (cooperation with EBMT)
- 12 prospective clinical trials open and three trials in preparation (cooperation with EBMT)
- Guidelines for transplant relevant definitions of diseases and treatments under preparation

Highlights

Supportive care/ Anti-infection prophylaxis and treatment

- Consensus conference in October 2005 with participants from ELN, EBMT, ICHS, and EORTC. 56 representatives from 24 countries participated
- Two manuscripts under preparation (one on bacterial and one on fungal infections) to be submitted in early 2006
- Vaccination guidelines for stem cell transplant recipients published

Highlights

Treatment research/ Drug development

- European Leukemia Treatment Research Association (ELTRA) as a framework for translational research
- Consultation, support, and technology in proteomics research provided
- Evaluation of Flt3-mutations and cooperating oncogenes for therapy of AML
- List of compounds and currently evaluated targets of most leukemia entities available with suggestions of clinical trials (ELN-website)
- Activities of this WP will be incorporated into disease WPs from 2006 on

Highlights

Guidelines, spread of excellence

- Close cooperation with the European School of Haematology (ESH) started
- Training courses and scientific meetings organized to spread excellence in cooperation with disease WPs
- Educational CML- guidelines meeting planned (Venice, May 2006)

Prospects

- **Promotion of:**
 - Networking, integration and sustainability
 - Durable structures for cooperation
 - Improved diagnostic and therapeutic standards
- **EU - bureaucratic requirements to be fulfilled routinely with least possible effort**
- **Ultimate goal:**
 - Use all available means in Europe and elsewhere to make leukemia curable in everybody, everywhere and anytime

Work to be done immediately (by February 10th at the latest)

- **Activity Report:**

- Structure according to deliverables
- List WP-related dissemination of knowledge (e.g. lectures) and publications

Look at criticism in last year's review (NMC could reject parts of the review because of the short reporting period of 1-2 months, this time not any more possible)

- **Management Report**

- Explain briefly how you spend the money

- **Form C (institutions with budget only):**

- Mandatory ! EU will not process finance plan if only one Form C is missing

Next annual ELN-symposium

30.01.2007 – 31.01.2007

Heidelberg