

COST

European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research

COST ACTION B 23

What is COST?

Founded in 1971, COST is an intergovernmental framework for European cooperation in the field of scientific and technical research. COST is a flexible and pragmatic approach of scientific cooperation corresponding to one of the largest frameworks for research co-operation in Europe (almost 200 Actions, 30,000 scientists from 34 European member countries, 11 non member countries). COST is based on Actions corresponding to scientific projects gathering participants from different members states. The funding is used for organization of workshops, meetings, conferences and short term scientific missions of researchers to visit other laboratories.

Action B 23

Action B23 "*oral facial development and regeneration*" corresponds to the need of continuous and productive collaborations between researchers working in the oro-facial field. This unique European network gathered 19 countries (Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom) and 3 non COST institutions (Universities of Montreal, Halifax, Toronto). It is based on the strong scientific background resulting from the last Action B8 (odontogenesis) launched by Prof. J.V. Ruch in 1996.

The main objectives of this Action is to accelerate, increase and facilitate the understanding of dental and oro-facial biology by elucidating the molecular basis of normal and abnormal development as well as tissue regeneration allowing novel clinical approaches. The highest specificity of this network is to gathered scientists and clinicians. In order to reach these ambitious goals, the participating laboratories interact in the frame of four working groups (WGs) centred on development and evolution (WG1), stem cells and hard tissues formation (WG2), genetic anomalies (WG3), tissue regeneration and application to clinic (WG4). The first joint meeting (WG1 / WG3) was held in Ghent under the chair of Ann Huysseune and successfully attended, generating exciting discussions representing the real backbone of the Action B 23. The York meeting joining the 4 WGs to the famous international "tooth morphogenesis and differentiation " is in the same pathway giving to this COST Action an unique chance.

H. Magloire

Chairman of the Action