

**Dear Reader,**

Time flies! It feels like only yesterday we were kicking off the Euro-Bioimaging Preparatory Phase and now half the path is already behind us. If we turn back, the last six months have been full of events, driving Euro-Bioimaging at a fast pace towards more and more concrete plans for implementation.

Although it already seems a long time ago, it was only at the end of January that over 250 people met for our Annual Stakeholders Meeting in Heidelberg. The meeting was the occasion to present progress, discuss ideas and plans and also to introduce new friends and supporters that have joined along the way – we now count over 1,300 stakeholders! It was a very important moment to make a clear point on where we stand and where we want to go. For those of you who could not attend the event, the highlights are reported on our website (www.eurobioimaging.eu).

Euro-Bioimaging will be a distributed infrastructure, whose nodes will be distributed all over Europe. The criteria for future nodes centre on the users' needs and requirements, and the ongoing transparent drafting process invites all partners and national coordinating persons to provide their feedback and input. In addition, the drafting is directly based on concrete feedback from the imaging communities, such as the Euro-Bioimaging Survey and the Proof-of-Concept Studies (PCS). Through the Survey we were able to gain a detailed, though not complete, picture of what the community can offer, as well as collect precious information on the needs of users and the demand for infrastructures and services. The last issue of the Newsletter already featured an article about this, and now the results are available in the Strategic Inventory Map on our website. In the meantime, the PCS are fully on the run: the main article of this issue takes us inside an imaging facility in Vienna and tells us about a promising PCS.

And guess what – Euro-Bioimaging is going 'Down Under'! Distributed infrastructures are quite a new concept, but some countries, like Australia, have already gained years of experience, which they are willing to share. The full story is on our second page.

Last but not least, in this issue we would also like to welcome the Euro-Bioimaging Industry Board, representing and coordinating our commercial partners.

Enjoy the read!

News

Proof-of-Concept Studies: two experiences, one concept

We interviewed Prof. Siegfried Trattnig, head of the MR Centre of Excellence in Vienna, and Dr. Stefan Haneder, who was hosted by the centre in the context of the Euro-Bioimaging Proof-of-Concept Studies.

More than 100 Proof-of-Concept Studies (PCS) will be performed all across Europe. Most of these studies are currently running, others have already been concluded. Here we present one successful and promising example, in which transnational access to 7 Tesla MR was offered by the MR Centre of Excellence, Medical University of Vienna, Austria.

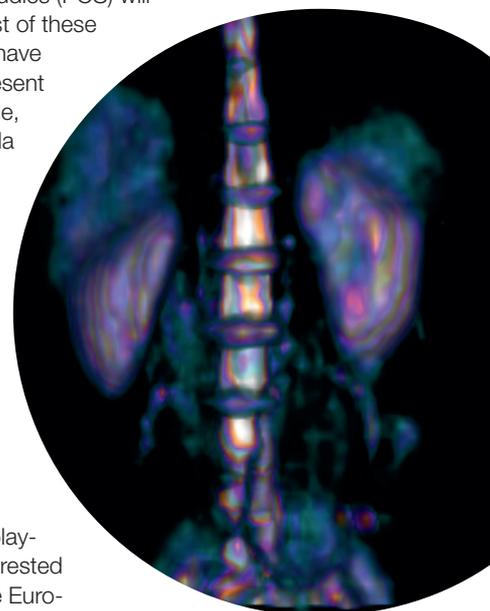
The Vienna facility is an internationally renowned study site for 3T/7T MR investigations. Being attached to the Vienna General Hospital and having established an interdisciplinary team has brought the facility into a leading role for patient oriented MR studies. The facility regularly hosts external researchers from all over the world.

Siegfried Trattnig, head of the facility, is a global player in providing access to MRI: "We are always interested in excellent research projects and the set-up of the Euro-Bioimaging PCS provided an excellent platform for the recruitment of such studies. The currently running PCS on ^{23}Na - Imaging of the Human Kidney at 7.0T fits perfectly into the scope of our facility and also widens and complements the available expertise", he says.

The successful PCS applicant, Stefan Haneder from the University Medical Center Mannheim, is pleased to have conducted this approximately nine week study in Vienna. Although he is experienced in human kidney ^{23}Na -imaging at 3T, Haneder was unable to expand his research to investigations with higher field strength in Germany due to limited access provision. "Without Euro-Bioimaging I would have needed to travel to the US for such a study. The provided scientific, technical and administrative support from Vienna is remarkable," adds Haneder.

The Vienna PCS is still running, and promising and publishable results are already anticipated. The image on the right caught just a glimpse of them. It represents a colour-coded, maximum-intensity projection of the first high-resolution, isotropic ^{23}Na -images, acquired with a whole-body 7.0T scanner at the MR Center - High-field MR, Medical University of Vienna. Highest ^{23}Na -content is displayed in both kidneys and the intervertebral discs.

In summer 2012 the Euro-Bioimaging consortium will run an evaluation of all PCS as real life examples of provision of access to imaging technologies. Results will feed into the development of criteria for future Euro-Bioimaging nodes.

**Facts & Events**

From 5 to 8 June 2012, the 12th European Light Microscopy Initiative (ELMI) Meeting takes place in Leuven, Belgium. More information at www.embl.org/elmi

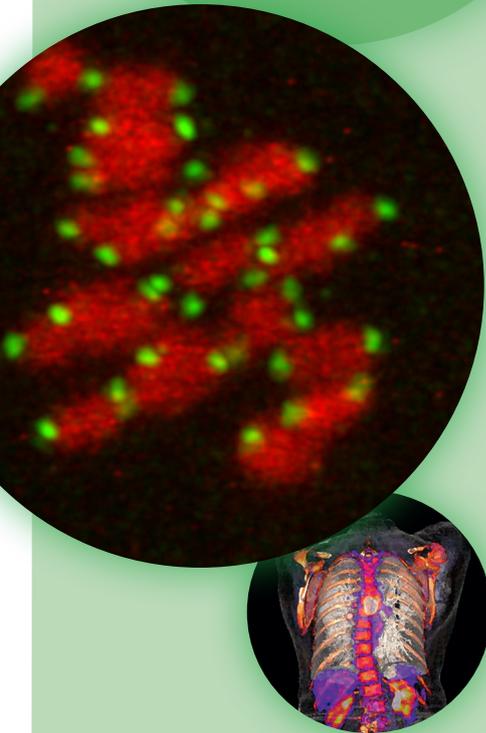
The Euro-Bioimaging WP6 & WP7 meetings, as well as the Industry Board satellite meetings will take place on June 6th, at ELMI 2012 in Leuven, Belgium

New to Euro-Biolmaging?

Euro-Biolmaging is one of 13 Biological and Medical Sciences Projects included in the roadmap of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI).

Euro-Biolmaging is open to everyone interested.

For more information, please visit: www.eurobioimaging.eu



Industries on Board

Euro-Biolmaging recognizes that commercial imaging hardware and software vendors are a critical component of the imaging community. Therefore, Euro-Biolmaging invites vendors and producers of biological and medical imaging equipment, as well as major industrial stakeholders depending on imaging technology, to participate in the project. A significant number of industry partners were actively approached at a very early stage of the Preparatory Phase of the project to become members of the Euro-Biolmaging Industry Board. Many of those contacted took the opportunity to use the survey in summer 2011 to contribute their ideas and requirements and also to actively join the discussion during the regular Industry Board meetings. Both industry and research seem to benefit from these lively interactions. Software- and hardware-related companies have expressed their interest to use Euro-Biolmaging as a network where they can test new equipment, perform specific trainings, or simply interact with professional users. Small and medium size companies were interested in using the network for their own R&D tasks without having to set up highly-specialized equipment and gain appropriate knowhow themselves. A list of industry partners associated with Euro-Biolmaging through a letter-of-intent is found on the Euro-Biolmaging webpage.

For additional information, please contact the chairs of the Euro-Biolmaging Industry Board: Patrick Schwarb (patrick.schwarb@fmi.ch) and Horst Hahn (horst.hahn@mevis.fraunhofer.de).

Euro-Biolmaging goes Down-Under

The Australian Microscopy Microanalysis Research Facility & Euro-Biolmaging sign a Collaboration Agreement

The AMMRF is a well-established multi-node, open access national research facility with 9 years' experience in the leadership and operation of distributed research infrastructure in Australia. In February 2012, AMMRF and Euro-Biolmaging signed an official Collaboration Framework on exchange of best practices in training, user access and facility management. The collaboration is strongly supported by the Australian Government. The EU Commissioner for Research, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, during her visit to AMMRF, recognised that the distributed network, which is so effective in Australia, is an excellent model for the EU research environment: "The work that is being undertaken here at the AMMRF [...] is an excellent example of the importance of creating critical mass in key technologies, which is crucial to enable us to respond globally to the grand challenges facing the planet." The framework shall develop collaborative links with EU infrastructure that will be beneficial for both Australian and European researchers.

Euro-Biolmaging collects award for best poster at ICRI 2012

From 21-23 March 2012, the Euro-Biolmaging project management attended the International Conference on Research Infrastructures, ICRI 2012, in Copenhagen, organized by the Danish Presidency and the EC. We are proud to announce that the Euro-Biolmaging poster was voted the best by ICRI attendees, out of the 70 posters present. The project managers, Antje and Pamela, collected this prestigious prize on behalf of the consortium. The poster prize considerably increased Euro-Biolmaging's visibility among the 700 attendees, with representatives of the EC and national authorities also expressing their appreciation and congratulating us. The poster is downloadable from www.eurobioimaging.eu.

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