



UPDATE ON AipBand PROJECT

Gliomas are a range of devastating and progressive brain tumors affecting around 25,000 people each year in Europe and responsible for the majority of deaths from primary brain tumors. Nine research institutes and three private sector organizations have joined together to address this problem as [Project AipBAND \(An Integrated Platform for Developing Brain Cancer Diagnostics Techniques\)](#), with its mission to improve technologies for the early diagnosis of brain tumors using molecular biomarkers in the blood. The project has been funded under [Horizon 2020](#), the EU's research and innovation program as a Marie Curie Innovative Training Network (MSCA-ITN). The grants themselves are awarded to the host organization, usually a university, research center or a company in Europe for to promote interdisciplinary research, intersectoral and international collaborations in advancing fields of science.

To achieve the goals of this project, a new generation of entrepreneurial and innovative Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) will be trained in the multidisciplinary techniques and advanced technologies necessary for developing innovative glioma diagnostic techniques. The ESRs for each participating member have now been selected, and met for the first time during the 24th-28th September 2018 at the Regina Elena National Cancer Institute in Rome where they heard talks on the current status of brain cancer studies in neuroscience, bioinformatics, healthcare and socioeconomics.

[Doctor Cristina Morelli](#) leads the project section at Medical Trials Analysis (MTA), a Contract Research Organisation based in Italy. MTA has selected [Ahmed Abdelrahman Ali](#) as the ESR to be responsible for the retrospective clinical analysis of the most suitable biosamples to be tested in the different platforms of the consortium. Once the virtual biobank including available biosamples will be established, the second step of Ahmed' s involvement is the set-up of a pilot study for the evaluation of the diagnostic system based on clinical prospective data collected from recruited patients and healthy controls. In this way, the consortium will be able to provide first-hand information to exploit the range of future potential applications of such techniques in research and health care settings, and to provide valid cost-efficacy to allow regulatory authorities, such as national health plans, to decide about remuneration of such tests in different clinical care applications.

The projects main website can be found at <https://www.aipband-itn.eu/>, where regular project status updates will be posted.