

## INNODIA launched under IMI 2

**Academia, medium-sized enterprises (SME), large pharmaceutical companies and patient organizations have joined forces to form a €36 Mio IMI-supported public private partnership (PPP) to significantly improve the understanding of type 1 diabetes (T1D) and work towards better therapies for preventing and curing this devastating disease.**

Frankfurt/Germany, Leuven/Belgium, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2016

The INNODIA consortium was launched in response to the first call of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) under IMI2. On January 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 the project was kicked-off in Frankfurt/Main by an international consortium of 33 partners including 26 academic institutes and clinics, 4 EFPIA partners, 2 patient organizations and one SME.

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is a chronic disease affecting around 17 million people worldwide. The disease may present at any age, but most typically develops in early life with a peak around puberty. The scientific insights to the triggering events, disease susceptibility, and subsequent pathophysiological events leading to a failing beta-cell function and beta-cell loss in human type 1 diabetes are quite limited. Rational disease modifying therapeutic approaches to address type 1 diabetes are not available today.

The INNODIA consortium is aiming to advance in a decisive way how to predict, stage, evaluate and prevent the onset and progression of type 1 diabetes. This will be achieved by creating novel tools, such as biomarkers, disease models and clinical trial paradigms. These tools will help to distinguish and understand distinctive paths of ontogeny and progression in this heterogeneous disease at the cellular and molecular level, thus impacting the future management of T1D patients and at risk individuals.

Five dedicated workpackages have been set-up to establish a strong collaborative network of basic and clinical researchers working in a coordinated way to address key knowledge gaps in relation to beta-cell destruction and autoimmunity, which will lead to a better understanding of the pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes.

INNODIA will build an innovative EU infrastructure for the recruitment, detailed clinical phenotyping and bio-sampling of a large cohort of newly diagnosed patients with type 1 diabetes and at risk family members. This will generate an unrivalled bioresource of type 1 diabetes discovery science. The 7 year INNODIA work plan is also aiming to advance the

development and application of novel methodologies by exploiting bioresource and ‘omics’ technologies. A unique integrated database which has the potential to assimilate historical data as well as data from clinical and experimental sources will permit novel bioinformatics-assisted visualization and modelling of interactions between phenotype, genetic, immune and metabolic pathways.

Newly identified and validated biomarkers fused as surrogate endpoints will finally enable the consortium to establish innovative clinical trial designs allowing better subject stratification and thus yielding shorter and more focused intervention studies of single or combined therapies.

For Prof. Chantal Mathieu from KU Leuven, representing the Coordinator of INNODIA, the project is a unique opportunity to move our insights on the pathogenesis of type 1 diabetes forward and dramatically alter the course of the disease. “INNODIA brings together the dream-team of basic, translational and clinical academic researchers, with the leading pharma companies in diabetes. It is in our hands, together with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) and The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, to put in place the needed clinical sample and trial infrastructure to test the exciting hypotheses and novel interventions arising from our research laboratories”.

“Type 1 diabetes remains a large unmet medical need for people of all ages. Unfortunately, fundamental insights to the etiology and pathophysiology of type 1 diabetes are still missing. We are proud to take the Project Leadership within INNODIA which is an unprecedented public private partnership aiming at unraveling the nature of type 1 diabetes as well as bringing forward rational disease modifying therapeutic solutions. INNODIA is an integral part of our R&D strategy and we are excited about working together with world class academic and industry experts to solve these challenges”, affirms Philip Larsen, Global Head of Diabetes Research and Translational Science in Sanofi.

The total budget for the project amounts to around €36.5 million. Of this, €17.6 million is funding by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), €12.7 million is provided as in-kind contribution from the participating pharmaceutical companies that are members of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). Further €6.2 million are provided by the “Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF)” and the “The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust”.

## Project partners

### *Universities, Clinics, SME*

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven)

University of Cambridge (UCAM)

Medical University of Graz (MUG)

Universite Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

Kobenhavns Universitet (UCPH)

Region Hovedstaden (HH-RH)

Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM)

Helsingin yliopisto (University of Helsinki – UH)

Oulun Yliopisto (UOULU)

Turku University (UTU)

Hannoversche Kinderheilstalt (HKA)

Helmholtz Zentrum Muenchen Deutsches Forschungszentrum fuer Gesundheit und Umwelt (GmbH) (HMGU)

Technische Universität Dresden (TUD)

Universität Ulm (UULM)

Università degli Studi di Siena (UNISI)

Università degli Studi 'G.d'Annunzio', Chieti-Pescara (UD'A)

UNIVERSITA DI PISA (UPI)

Centre hospitalier de Luxembourg (CHL)

Universitetet i Oslo (UiO)

Ślaski Uniwersytet Medyczny w Katowicach (SUM)

University of Ljubljana (UL)

Université de Lausanne (UNIL)

Stichting Katholieke Universiteit (Radboud university medical center – RUMC)

Academisch Ziekenhuis Leiden – Leids Universitair Medisch Centrum (LUMC)

King's College London (KCL)

SARL Endocells (EndoC)

### *EFPIA companies*

Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH

Novo Nordisk A/S

Glaxosmithkline Research and Development LTD

Eli Lilly and Company Ltd

*IMI Associated Partners, foundations*

JDRF International

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

### **About the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)**

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is working to improve health by speeding up the development of, and patient access to, innovative medicines, particularly in areas where there is an unmet medical or social need. It does this by facilitating collaboration between the key players involved in healthcare research, including universities, the pharmaceutical and other industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient organisations, and medicines regulators.

IMI is a partnership between the European Union and the European pharmaceutical industry, represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). Through the IMI 2 programme, IMI has a budget of €3.3 billion for the period 2014-2024. Half of this comes from the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020. The other half comes from large companies, mostly from the pharmaceutical sector; these do not receive any EU funding, but contribute to the projects 'in kind', for example by donating their researchers' time or providing access to research facilities or resources.

More info on IMI: [www.imi.europa.eu](http://www.imi.europa.eu)

### **Press contact**

Thorsten Strube, INNODIA Project Management

Tel: +49 173 6897160

E-mail: [thorsten-ext.strube@sanofi.com](mailto:thorsten-ext.strube@sanofi.com)