

**BENEFICIARY:**

Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IEMPAM-BAS)

PROJECT TITLE:

Mast Cells and Basophils - Targets for Innovative Therapies

<http://www.mastcell-basophil.net>

ABSTRACT:

Mast cells and basophils have long been recognized for their detrimental role in the elicitation of allergic diseases. In recent years, scientific results revealed both cell types as versatile effector cells that exhibit far more complex functions beyond their role in allergy. Mast cells and basophils have been shown to be critically involved in various innate and adaptive immune responses and, thereby, providing beneficial host protecting immunity. In contrast, they also contribute to the development and maintenance of several chronic inflammatory diseases which, even at the present time, lack sufficient treatment options. The diversity of important mast cell and basophil functions places these cell types into promising therapeutic targets. The Action will create a network of European experts to foster a multidisciplinary approach for the identification, characterisation, and development of such targets and their translation into novel therapeutic strategies.

Objectives:

(i) Biological agents that specifically modulate mast cell/basophil function and activity. (ii) Mimic or prevent the action of specific mast cell/basophil mediators and their biological activity. (iii) Control mast cell and basophil trafficking to primary and/or secondary target organs in relevant diseases.

In order to reach the objectives of the Action, immunologists, pharmacologists and biomedical scientists will contribute to a better understanding of pharmacological properties of mast cell and basophil targets and the use as selective agents in various preclinical investigations. Newly discovered targets with additional properties will be tested as pharmacological tools and disseminated to the members for novel experiments.

ACRONYM: EMBRN**PROJECT NUMBER:**

COST Action BM1007



FUNDING SCHEME:

Collaborative project

WORK PROGRAMME TOPICS:

Domain : **Biomedicine and Molecular Biosciences**

DURATION:

Start of Action : 16/03/2011

End of Action : 15/03/2015

TOTAL BUDGET:

108 000 euro.

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