



Innovative Medicine Initiative has launched the NeuroDeRisk project: Cracking the code of neurotoxicity

-NeuroDeRisk-

NeuroDeRisk will foster the development of innovative and safer pharmaceuticals:

A new consortium of 18 international partners from academia, industry, and small and medium enterprises, aims to tackle the unmet challenge of poor prediction of neurotoxic effects in pre-clinical drug candidate assessment.

The funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) to the NeuroDeRisk consortium will allow this public-private partnership, which includes leading international experts in the field, to facilitate the development of predictive tools to:

- Collect, organize and expand existing knowledge on adverse effects of pharmaceuticals related to seizures, psychological/psychiatric changes, and peripheral neuropathies
- Develop new and/or improve existing tools to better predict such effects at preclinical stages of the R&D process
- Favour innovative approaches that fulfil the 3Rs approach (“Reduce, Refine, Replace” animal use)
- Organize tools and associated data in a comprehensive and integrated toolbox to aid decision-making process in R&D projects, reduce attrition and increase productivity.

The project is coordinated by the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Faculty of Life Sciences of University of Vienna. The Vienna’s team’s principal investigator and NeuroDeRisk project coordinator, Thierry Langer, said: “With this funding, we will be able to develop more sophisticated models that predict potential adverse effects of therapeutics on the nervous system far more accurately, allowing us to de-risk compounds in pre-clinical research more efficiently.”

Jacques Richard, responsible for preclinical safety at Sanofi and NeuroDeRisk project leader, added: “Our existing models are not effective enough at telling us which drugs, in particular biotherapeutics, will have adverse outcomes on the nervous system. NeuroDeRisk will progress the state of the art and help devise optimal ways of de-risking drug candidates in pre-clinical research.”

With a budget of €10m, €5m of direct funding from IMI and €5m of in-kind funding from industry, NeuroDeRisk is forming a large partnership to better understand liabilities related to nervous system adverse effects. The Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking is Europe’s biggest public private partnership and is funded jointly by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the European pharmaceutical industry, represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).



Project Facts:

Project Name: Neurotoxicity De-Risking in Preclinical Drug Discovery

Project Acronym: NeuroDeRisk

Start date: 01 March 2019

Duration: 42 months

Budget: €10 Million

Coordination: Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Faculty of Life Sciences of University of Vienna, Thierry Langer

Project Lead: Sanofi, Jacques Richard

Project partners at a Glance



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www.imi.europa.eu

www.neuroderisk.eu

