

The EDITOR project Advances in the Time of Coronavirus

- The Steering Board met by videoconference to update the progress of the project and establish the next year objectives

March 2020. The Steering Board from the EDITOR project, an international early detection and intervention of blood cancer research, held its third scientific meeting by videoconference. Clínica Universidad de Navarra (Spain) organised this meeting in which 36 researchers attended. They represented the 13 research institutions from the United Kingdom, Italy and Spain that are part of the project. Also, there were representatives from the financing institutions (CRUK and AECC) and the multiple myeloma patient association. Due to the COVID-19 pandemia the meeting, initially planned to take place in Madrid, was replaced by a virtual meeting with the same agenda.

Dr Jesús San Miguel, Director of Clinical and Translational Medicine at the Universidad de Navarra and the lead investigator, introduced the session remembering the mission of the project and updating the progress achieved during its first year. Among them, he highlighted the design of new tools for cell detection and characterisation, the development of antibodies panels, the establishment of new protocols and the design of improved mouse models. Subsequently, there were sessions dedicated to the advances in each disease. Thus, they were focused on multiple myeloma (MM) or amyloidosis (AL), follicular lymphoma (FL), myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) and acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). The last presentation was about the development of computational biology systems for the identification of new therapeutic targets and the design of personalised therapies for the treatment of these haematological malignancies.

The project research route for 2020

During the meeting, the scientists established the next year objectives. Among them, researchers pointed out the possibility of developing new collaborations and research synergies with some relevant research institutions in specific areas of interest for the project. Also, they expressed the project interests in inviting an MDS patient association to participate and agreed to continue sharing protocols and resources to enhance the progress of the investigation. "The more research is done, the more advances can be achieved in upcoming years," Dr San Miguel said. All attendants also coincided on the need to promote the research carried out, for example, via the project's website: editorproject.com.

The meeting ended by recalling two scientific events at which the committee may reconvene: the European Hematology Association (EHA) Virtual Congress scheduled for June and the Early Detection Cancer Conference planned to be in October.