



ADVOCATE NEWS

“ We are here to launch an innovative project with the potential to impact the oral health of populations not only across Europe but globally ”

Sir Alan Langlands, Vice Chancellor, University of Leeds

SEPTEMBER 2015

www.advocateoralhealth.com

SO WHAT EXACTLY IS HORIZON 2020?

MONTHS of hard work finally paid off when earlier this year it was revealed that the Advocate project was one of only five percent to win funding from the European Union.

Horizon 2020 is the prestigious EU Research and Innovation programme with nearly €80 billion of funding available over seven years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract.

It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

Seen as a means to drive economic growth and create jobs, Horizon 2020 has the political backing of Europe's leaders and the Members of the European Parliament who agreed that research is an investment in our future and so put it at the heart of the EU's blueprint for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs.



The project leading to this application has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 635183

ADVOCATING CHANGE



Focusing on the process to improve the outcome

Huge project gets underway as team gathers in Leeds

A HUGE European project which intends, in a very practical way, to make changes across the region to the way oral healthcare is delivered, has just started.

This will be done by taking account of the evidence from the different countries, pooling the information and looking for patterns which show the best models of care.

The results will be shared so that each area can make changes to benefit patient health.

For two days on the 16th and 17th of June 2015 a series of meetings were held to set the scene for the ADVOCATE project which is funded by the European Commission's Horizon's 2020 programme. The project has been awarded almost six million euros with the aim of transforming dental and other healthcare across Europe.

The atmosphere was cordial and congenial as project leaders and managers from the six collaborating nations, as well as insurers and other commercial companies gathered together in Leeds.

During the first morning, the ADVOCATE Executive Board - with representatives from all six countries - met at the Leeds University's School of Dentistry.

This meeting was to agree practical aspects about how the project will be run and to discuss and prepare for the rest of the two-day event.

Just after lunch attendees were given a tour of the dental facilities and then there was an opportunity for the project Scientific Advisory Board members to meet each other and hear briefly from everyone about their roles and their particular aims and objectives for the project.

Additional guests then joined those present for the official launch. Professor Helen Whelton, Dean of the School of Dentistry at Leeds University and the overall project lead, welcomed everyone in the dental school lecture theatre.

She then introduced Professor Alan Langlands, Vice Chancellor of the University of Leeds, to launch the project officially.

Following on, Helen gave an overview of ADVOCATE,



Helen Whelton

explaining the roles of the leads for each part of the project.

There are six 'Work Packages'.

The leads are responsible for:

● the overall study management and co-ordination;

● making sense of historic and current oral healthcare practices in the different countries;

● bringing together a range of routinely collected information from the different countries which will

be used to compare and contrast oral health and policies across the nations involved in the study;

● creating a 'dashboard' with the use of computer technology to extract and develop useful

It is truly international, bringing together interested groups from eight different EU countries

SEE YOU IN AMSTERDAM 7th AND 8th JUNE, 2016



A dashboard of indicators will be developed and also an innovative 'app' for easier access

Pictured left (l-r): Stefan Listl, Ken Eaton, Gail Douglas, Helen Whelton, Karen O'Hanlon and Geert Van der Heijden in Leeds, 2015

criteria and patient-friendly tools as a basis for practical tests;

- testing the usefulness of those criteria (or 'indicators') in projects with a focus on oral disease prevention and oral health restoration;
- sharing the results of what has been done and looking at practical ways to exploit the findings of the project, through publicity, training and reaching out to the right people so that all might benefit from sharing best practice.

The next talk was a very detailed presentation by Mr Jeffrey Fellows of Kaiser Permanente about the US experience of linking administrative data sources to feed into practical clinical network studies.

After discussions, photographs and drinks, it was already around 6 p.m. and time for the assembled participants to be driven out of central Leeds to their venue for the ADVOCATE dinner later in the evening.

During the delicious dinner a very congenial atmosphere allowed plenty of opportunity for more informal conversations and getting to know one another in a relaxed environment. Some stayed up late by all accounts, deep in discussion over bottles of wine or cups of coffee.

Then on Wednesday the same hotel hosted the project's whole day

Annual General Assembly. This was a real opportunity to hear greater detail about ADVOCATE.

Speakers included Marc De Cock from the European Commission who revealed the bidding and short-listing process for the section of the Horizon 2020 programme which has funded the ADVOCATE project. It emerged that ADVOCATE was one of only five projects funded from out of 107 applications. Staff from the University of Leeds unravelled the complexities of international project finance management, contracts,

costings and payments.

We heard more from Helen Whelton about the way the project will be managed, quality assured and fed back to stakeholders.

What was striking was the extent to which each part of the project is inter-dependent and inter-relates to the other parts.

Professor Gail Douglas (University of Leeds) spoke about plans to identify major obstacles to changes to oral healthcare delivery and what were the best ways to make changes.

Dr Stefan Listl (University of Heidelberg, Germany) outlined the ways in which project data will be analysed and used to examine health outcomes, incentives and other important aspects of the ways the different countries deliver and fund patient care. These elements will be

used as the basis for the next theoretical phase of the project.

This was explained by Karen O'Hanlon of Aridhia - an analytics company which will develop technological approaches for the project data.

A 'dashboard' of indicators will be developed and also an 'app'.

Then Professor Geert Van der Heijden (ACTA) explained how his team in The Netherlands will use the app and 'dashboard' indicators to do field tests to see how dental staff can be encouraged to improve patient care by doing more 'prevention' and less 'restoration'.

Professor Ken Eaton (University of Leeds) explained the plans to take the results to patient organisations, policy makers and politicians in order to change and improve the quality of patient care through communication, education, policy shift and awareness.

The study is a truly international collaboration.

Countries and institutions involved include the Universities of Leeds; Heidelberg; ACTA Amsterdam, Semmelweis, Budapest; Copenhagen; University College Cork; and Public Health England.

Other organisations include Colgate, Kaiser Permanente, PG, Bridges Data, Health Intelligence, Denplan, Aridhia and Better Oral Health in Europe all working together to make the project successful.

Patient representatives, together with experts in law and ethics, will be recruited to safeguard privacy and

keep patient rights uppermost, which is an important aspect of the study.

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ADVOCATE stands
for Added value for
Oral Healthcare



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