



Topic

HEALTH-2007-2.4.3-4:
Pathophysiological mechanisms related to excess fat

Funding Scheme

Collaborative Project (Small or medium-scale focused research project)

Project coordinator

Prof. Thomas Stulnig,
Medical University of Vienna

Project Duration

Jan. 2008 – Dec 2010



TOBI is a Collaborative Project funded in the first HEALTH call of the Seventh EU Framework Programme (FP7). It focuses on a problem of epidemic proportions in industrialized countries: Obesity. Specifically, TOBI sets out to analyse how obesity can trigger chronic inflammation, and aims to identify novel drug targets which could help to counteract the obesity-associated inflammatory processes.

Medical university of Vienna

Universität Graz

AT

UNI

Universität zu Köln

AT

UNI

Universita politecnica delle Marche

DE

UNI

University of Durham

IT

UNI

The University of Edinburgh

UK

UNI

Institut Pasteur de Lille

UK

UNI

Biolution grünert & co keg

FR

RC

Genfit SA

AT

SME

Pharm-analyt

AT

SME

pharm-analyt is a contract research organization specialising in bioanalytics. It offers services in the area of quantitative analysis of drugs in various biological matrices using chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS), analytical method development and validation, protein binding studies, metabolite, side- and by-product identification and analytical consulting.

INTERVIEW

How did you experience the project proposal phase?

Thomas Stulnig (MUW): "Coordinating the interests and activities of expert partners and focussing them to a single project within given financial constraints was a very exciting experience. The contributions of a professional grant agency were indispensable in this process and the negotiation phase. Also, the support of the "SMEs go Health" partner as 'link to the EU' was highly important."

Daniel Mascher, Pharm-Analyt (SME): "Since our company did analyses for Dr. Stulnig in the past, we were invited into the TOBI consortium. As I am a physicist/chemist and not a medical doctor, I could not have come

How did you experience the negotiation phase?

Thomas Stulnig (MUW): Our scientific officer expressed only a few doubts about the ethical issues, but we could easily clarify them. We spent most of the negotiation talks on formalities, in particular on the status of partner organisations and the applied model for indirect costs.

Daniel Mascher (Pharm-Analyt): We were very little involved in negotiations and only provided infos on budget needed for these three years, financial background of the company, etc. This experience in a completely new area (e.g. how to evaluate whether pharm-analyt is a SME) was sometimes strenuous, especially since deadlines came closer so quickly. But overall it was not.

Do you have any suggestions for other SMEs/Academia that would like to get involved in such projects?

Thomas Stulnig (MUW): **1.** Start immediately to look for potential partners, especially SMEs, due to the restricted time of the proposal preparation. **2.** Involve a management agency for the formal and budgetary part of the proposal so that scientists can concentrate on the scientific excellence of the project.



Prof. Thomas Stulnig