EU-AMRI - Alliance of Medical Research Infrastructures

COVID-19 Fast Response Service

What is it?

The COVID-19 Fast Response Service is a coordinated and accelerated procedure to access the academic facilities, services and resources of the three medical research infrastructures: the European Research Infrastructure for Translational Medicine (EATRIS), the European Clinical Research Infrastructure network (ECRIN) and the European research infrastructure for biobanking (BBMRI), working together under the umbrella of the Alliance of Medical Research Infrastructures (EU-AMRI). The full catalogue of EU-AMRI resources is available to the COVID-19 research community, these include:

BBMRI

- Biomaterials and associated clinical data
  The full list of available resources is available here.

EATRIS

- 2019-nCoV challenge studies in NHPs under BSL3+
- Advanced preclinical models including NHPs, with advanced analytical readouts including molecular and structural imaging (including real time imaging of lung lesions), available under BSL 3 conditions
- Immunomonitoring and virological assays
- High throughput screening supporting diagnostics, genotyping, phenotyping and drug repurposing
- Clinical isolation units
- Expertise on pharmacology and protein-drug interaction modelling
- Regulatory support, including:
  - Scientific advice procedure with the European Medicines Agency or national authorities

ECRIN

- Clinical trial support
- Regulatory support, including:
  - Advice on ethical, regulatory and legal issues in EU member states for clinical trials
  - Ethics approval submissions; initiation and monitoring of recruiting sites
- Certified Data centres for the management of clinical trial data
- Establishment of a COVID-19 task force whose mission is to:
  - Provide updated information on fast track approvals of clinical trials by ethics committees, competent authorities and data protection authorities
  - Ensure preparedness of CTUs involved in the management of COVID trials
  - Identify ongoing and planned clinical trials on COVID
  - Promote coordination between national initiatives and pan-European rather than national trials
  - Develop partnership with infectious diseases investigation networks

Who is it for?

The service is for any researcher or research team (academic or industrial) that is developing a potential therapy, vaccine or tool for use against the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that the Fast Response Service is available to users that already have secured funding for their development programme. If you wish to collaborate for the preparation of a grant proposal, please contact Anne-Charlotte Fauvel (annecharlottefauvel@eatris.eu), who will put you in touch with the relevant partner.

How does it work?

Research requests will be handled via a single point of contact, with a targeted turnaround time of 3 working days or less. This means that applicants will receive details of available services and suppliers within 3 days of the first request.
Please note that exploration, study design and contracting will take place after this initial 3-day period, whose timeframe will be dependent on the complexity of the project.

Queries will be handled in an expedited manner via a single point of contact (SPOC) facilitated by EATRIS. Contact details:

Name: David Morrow
Email: info@eatris.eu

After initial contact, the potential user will receive a short research request form that they will be required to fill out, providing in as much detail as possible the resources and services that they need. The completed form will be quickly evaluated at EATRIS to ensure that the detail is sufficient to process the request, after which it will be distributed to identified contacts at ECRIN-ERIC and BBMRI-ERIC.

When a request has been received the SPOCs at each infrastructure will investigate and define a list of service providers that have suitable resources and capacity. They will make contact with the identified facilities to ensure that there is at least a first confirmation of fit and potential availability.

The list of facilities and services will be collated into a single matchmaking report and this report will be returned to the applicant within 3 days of the initial request.

Who are we?

BBMRI (Biobanking and BioMolecular resources Research Infrastructure)
BBMRI-ERIC is the world largest biorepository of human samples (such as blood, tissues, cells or DNA, and associated clinical and research data), connecting more than 500 biobanks from 19 EU countries. Its mission is to facilitate research on human samples for personalised medicine, while keeping the highest scientific standards and, most importantly, preserving patients and citizens' privacy. BBMRI-ERIC provides services to academia and industry to develop better treatments, test diagnostic tools and advance biomedical research. It has been a part of in 42 Horizon 2020 calls with an overall success rate of 26%. BBMRI-ERIC is composed of 19 national nodes, that support biobanking at the local level, and a European headquarter, based in Graz, Austria.
http://www.bbmri-eric.eu

EATRIS (European Research Infrastructure for Translational Medicine)
EATRIS brings together resources and services for research communities to translate scientific discoveries into benefits for patients. The organisation provides access to a vast array of pre-clinical and clinical expertise and facilities that are available within 110+ top-tier academic centres across Europe. We focus on improving and optimising preclinical and early clinical development of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics, and overcome barriers to health innovation. Solutions are provided in the fields of advanced therapy medicinal products, biomarkers, imaging and tracing, small molecules and vaccines. Find out more here: https://eatris.eu/

ECRIN (European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network)
ECRIN is a not-for-profit intergovernmental organisation that supports the planning set-up and management conduct of multinational clinical trials in Europe. As of 2013, ECRIN has the legal status of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). ECRIN provides a means to access patients and medical expertise throughout Europe to overcome the above challenges by offering researchers support to prepare and implement multinational trials. Support areas include advice, the preparation of applications for funding, protocol evaluation, trial management, quality assurance and more. ECRIN offers investigators the tools they need to address regulatory and ethical issues, to measure outcomes and to assess risk. These tools are critical for project success, especially when operating in a multi-country context where local legislation and requirements can vary greatly. ECRIN provides consultancy and management services to more than 30 40 multinational trials, with an average of seven countries per trial.
http://www.ecrin.org