

Embargoed until 14 May 2024

**EATRIS-CONNECT Project Launches to Accelerate Translational Medicine**

EATRIS-CONNECT is an EU-funded initiative that will use digital transformation as a tool to accelerate translational medicine. Led by EATRIS, the 3-year project (1 May 2024-30 April 2027) unites 21 organisations from across Europe, backed by a budget of €3.9 million from the Horizon Europe programme.

At its core, EATRIS-CONNECT aims to establish the 'EATRIS Digital Hub', an open-access, web-based knowledge portal that will provide a gateway to fit-for-purpose, validated digital services and tools as resources to address challenges across the translational medicine pipeline. Leveraging the extensive preclinical and clinical expertise of the consortium, the initial focus will be on pancreatic cancer to address the urgent need for standard diagnostic tools and early detection methods. Pancreatic cancer early diagnosis could therefore be one of the scenarios where digital transformation, and in particular AI-based solutions, could help change the course of disease management and the diagnosis/treatment.

Toni Andreu (EATRIS Scientific Director) emphasises the pivotal role of connectivity and awareness within the European landscape of rigorous development of new interventions and artificial intelligence application: "*Critical to the success of EATRIS’ strategic direction in Digital Transformation is to increase awareness and connections from our community with the European landscape of digital services, federated service provision, and artificial intelligence application.*"

Gary Saunders (EATRIS Director of Digital Transformation and coordinator of the EATRIS-CONNECT project) highlights the challenges and opportunities ahead: "*In recognising the challenges of translational medicine, it becomes increasingly evident that embracing digital transformation is not merely an option but a necessity. It is in addressing these challenges that EATRIS-CONNECT can play a key role. Leveraging a diverse array of digital services and tools through the Digital Hub and integrating them into translational processes holds the promise of overcoming existing barriers. These resources can help streamline data analysis, enhance collaboration, and accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into meaningful advancements in healthcare.*"

Embracing digital transformation will be imperative for accelerating the development and delivery of life-changing medical interventions, ultimately for the benefit of patients.

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**About EATRIS-CONNECT**

EATRIS-CONNECT is a 3-year project led by EATRIS that brings together 21 organisations to accelerate translational medicine through digital transformation. It is backed by a budget of €3.9 million from the Horizon Europe programme. Find out more about the project here: [eatris.eu/eatris-connect](https://eatris.eu/eatris-connect/)

**About EATRIS**

EATRIS is the European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine. It's a non-profit organisation that brings together resources and services for research communities to translate scientific discoveries into benefits for patients. Users are given access to a vast array of expertise and facilities from over 150 top-tier academic centres across Europe. EATRIS focuses on improving and optimising preclinical and early clinical development of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics, and overcoming barriers to health innovation. Find out more about EATRIS here: [eatris.eu](https://eatris.eu/)

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**Contact**

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