

(January 2020)



Latest news from

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## General

Dear All,

Please take the time to find the latest news and updates of our R-LiNK project at the end of an exciting year in 2019. The recruitment of the first patients is imminent.

- **Ethical committees:** All Ethic approvals have been permitted.
- **Neuroimaging WPs.** Five centres still need approval: Copenhagen, Brescia, Oslo, Bergen, Goteborg. Brescia and Copenhagen will be ready soon.
- Overall, **all recruiting centers received the assessment package with SOPs. The eCRF testing phase is complete and there were only minor issues that can be resolved through internal arrangements. All centres are approved and hopefully most centres will begin in the first quarter of 2020.**
- **We proudly announce the inclusion of the first patient into the European R-Link study on the 10th January 2020 in Dresden, Germany.**

Below, you will find a short overview from each work package.

All the best

WP leaders and PMT

**NOTABLE.** Remember if you need important documents such as SOPs, reports, ExCom Minutes, Protocol etc. you will find them here

<https://rlink.eu.com/collaborative-research-project/>

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## WP1

R-LiNK's first periodic report was submitted with a slight delay on September 17th and the responses to the EC's questions were provided on November 20th. We expect the reporting to be approved by the end of December and the payments to be done in January. Thank you for your cooperation in the preparation of this reporting.

R-LiNK's 2nd Annual Meeting will be held on March 12-13, 2020 in Milan. Please save the date!

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## WP2 / WP3

All clinical aspects of the study are prepared for starting recruitment/data collection and Becci Strawbridge is holding short telephone calls with each site just before they are ready to start.

Paris, Colombes, Dresden, Gothenburg Newcastle and London are virtually ready to start. IMIM (Barcelona) and Copenhagen are not far off from being ready. For Newcastle, Gothenburg and London, starting is now being delayed by the signing of contracts. Brescia and Milan are just awaiting final approvals, and Oslo/Bergen are also awaiting approvals.

Munich, Frankfurt, Besancon, IDIBAPS (Barcelona), Oslo and Bergen are currently finishing clinical training by raters and/or tests of the eCRF alongside clinical packs. Once recruitment has started, people involved in recruitment will be invited to a monthly 'recruitment group call' to catch up, resolve problems and give updates. Becci will circulate monthly recruitment updates.

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## WP4

Regarding the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) everything is almost finished. The protocol for the GE scanners was finally validated and the guidelines are ready. The latest centre that has been validated is London. The only missing centres are: UMIL, OSLO and Copenhagen. With UMIL waiting for the test pictures of Bergen. Oslo has a new scanner that needs to be installed. Following the validation starts. Last but not least, Copenhagen has installed a new scanner and has already imported the protocols for WP4.

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## WP5

Work is progressing well, in pace with WP4. Apart from some fine tuning to the sequences, WP5 is almost ready. The last visits to set up the Li-MRI and spectroscopy were in Milan (November), Dresden (3.12.) and Munich (9.12.). After the first test runs were carried out with participants/individuals in Milan, Dresden and Munich, the centres should be approved for Li-MRI and spectroscopy.

The new scanner in Copenhagen is ready for use and the sequences have already been imported. Copenhagen is now just waiting for the contracts for the C2P to be concluded. This is followed by the phantom tests as in the other centres. Shortly thereafter a visit to initiate the scans on individuals will be performed. The goal is for Copenhagen to be ready in early 2020.

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## WP6

WP6 has completed the trial phase and all the centres performed successfully. All the blood kits were sent to the centres, thus all centres should be ready to begin the biological part of the study.

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## WP7

CEA hired an engineer who started working at the beginning of December 2019. The data collection mechanism for the centralised database should be completed by the end of January/beginning of February. The next step is to determine an integration mechanism to build a centralized database.

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## WP8 / WP9

WP9 Initiated Flock and did a test run which ended successfully. Flock is now ready for application. Furthermore, a public newsletter was written and uploaded to the R-Link Website. In order to keep the R-Link website active we established a newsfeed. We use it to display news and activities that are interesting for a broad public. For example, we posted the latest publications on the newsfeed and made it available for download. In the near future, we will establish a link on the R-Link website showing a collection of national associations of all countries participating in the R-Link project. The aim is to provide an overview for all interested and affected persons and to give a contact point. Furthermore, we would like to present the participating recruiting centres on the newsfeed using a short text and a link to the consortium page. Last but not least, we encourage the whole R-Link consortium to inform us about news regarding the recruiting process and about their work packages. We would be very thankful if you and your team could support us in this matter. We are convinced that this will help the project to be successful.