MICROB-PREDICT

MICROBiome-based biomarkers to PREDICT decompensation of liver cirrhosis and treatment response

D9.4 First Patient and Layman event

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WP Leader:	Dr. M.J. Coenraad (12 Leiden University Medical Center)
Authors:	Dr. M.J. Coenraad (12 Leiden University Medical Center) Mrs. Veronika Všetičkova (18 European Liver Patients' Association) Dr. Ameli Schwalber (19 concentris)
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Dissemination level	PU

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1. Executive Summary

The first patient and layman event of the MICROB-PREDICT project was held at July 8th 10:30-11:30 AM CET. This event was organized by the European Liver Patients' Association (president Marko Korenjak) in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Jonel Trebicka, project coordinator, and Dr. Minneke Coenraad, dissemination manager on behalf of the MICROB-PREDICT consortium. concentris supported the overall organisation of the event and communication with all involved. The event was promoted on the MICROB-PREDICT website and on Twitter (prior, during and after the event) and information on statistics was provided by concentris and ELPA (see attachment).
The aims of the patient and layman event in MICROB-PREDICT were to inform attendees on the MICROB-PREDICT project and its implications for the future management of patients with cirrhosis and to discuss how to best disseminate this information in the national patient associations. Due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, this first patient and layman event was held online. It was attended by 20 representatives from European national patients associations from 14 countries. The event was very well received, increased social media activity and led to new initiatives such as the organization of national patient and layman events (e.g. The Netherlands 2021) and publication in the journal of the German Liver Patient Association. Finally, a video on the MICROB-PREDICT project was produced, featuring the ELPA president and Dr. Maja Thiele, organized, produced and promoted by concentris.

2. Deliverable report

First online patient event of the MICROB-PREDICT project - 8th July 2020, 10:30-11:30am

Organizing committee:

Marko Korenjak, ELPA President

Dr. Minneke Coenraad, gastroenterologist-hepatologist Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands, dissemination manager MICROB-PREDICT

Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Jonel Trebicka, professor of Hepatology Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, principal investigator MICROB-PREDICT, EF Clif, Barcelona, Spain

On behalf of the MICROB-PREDICT consortium

Extra panellist:

Prof. Dr. Aleksander Krag, Head of Hepatology Department Odense University Hospital, head of the clinical trial MICROB-PREDICT

Participants:

20 attendees from 14 countries

The invitation and a detailed description are attached to this report.

3. Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 825694.

This report reflects only the author's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

First online patient event of the MICROB-PREDICT project

A session of ELPA Educational Training on 8th July 2020 was dedicated to the first online patient event of the MICROB-PREDICT project.

In the MICROB-PREDICT project, 22 European institutions join forces to improve the prevention and treatment of cirrhosis. The aim is to identify microbiome-based biomarkers and mechanisms that predict when the body can no longer compensate for the dysfunctional liver (decompensated cirrhosis), when decompensated cirrhosis will progress to acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF), and patient's individual treatment response.

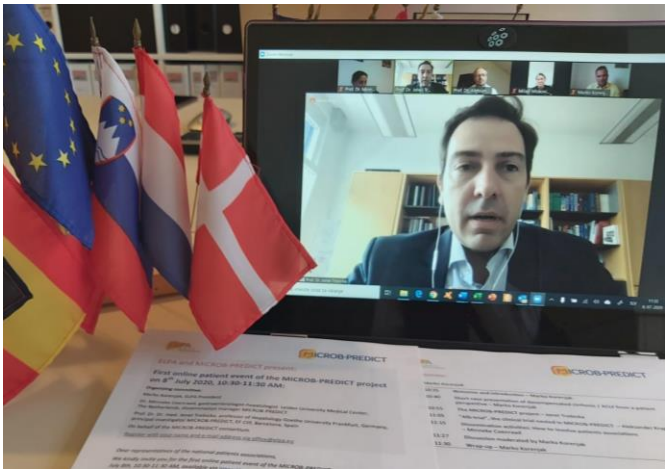
Additional goal is also to develop novel diagnostic tools, based on the newly identified biomarkers, for earlier and better patient stratification and to establish personalized and effective treatment strategies. In addition, information and dissemination of the results and their implications are core activities of the project.

For all these reasons the organizing committee composed by: Dr. Minneke Coenraad, gastroenterologist-hepatologist Leiden University Medical Center,The Netherlands, dissemination manager MICROB-PREDICT, Prof. Dr. Dr. med. Jonel Trebicka, professor of Hepatology Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, principal investigator MICROB-PREDICT, EF Clif, Barcelona, Spain, and Marko Korenjak ELPA President, discussed with all the attendees the future management of patients with cirrhosis and how to best share information among national patient associations.



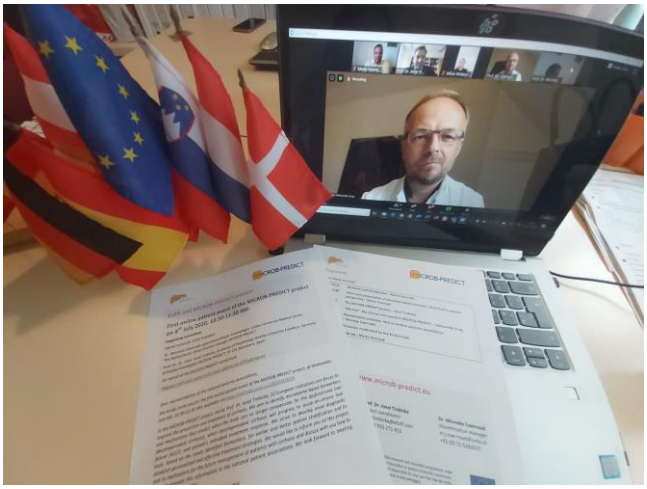
The meeting started with a brief introduction by the organizing committee followed by the first presentation delivered by Marko Korenjak. He shared with the audience information about decompensated cirrhosis / acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) from a patient perspective. He focused on the fact that there are more than 13 distinct definitions of ACLF and he gave an overview of a progression from a healthy liver to decompensated cirrhosis. Then he stressed the importance for patients to know and understand all the medical abbreviations related to these diseases they could come across. After giving some advice related to online sources rich in information and explanation, for example the CLIF-C ACLF Calculator, he presented a slide showing the different ACLF grades stressing the fact that other organs are implicated too. He concluded saying that the acceptance of ACLF as a new syndrome has stimulated widespread research across the world, MICROB-PREDICT included, leading to two main benefits: more accurate personalized risk stratification and the improvement of the personalized treatment of decompensated cirrhosis and ACLF.

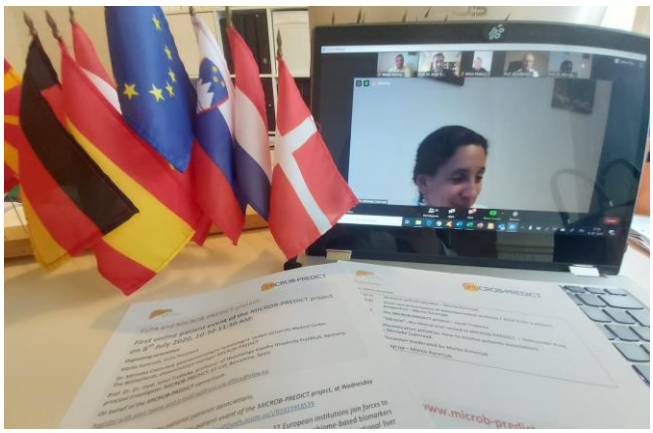
Introduced by Marko Korenjak the second speaker took the floor just after ELPA President's presentation. As principal investigator in MICROB-PREDICT project, Prof. Dr. Jonel Trebicka thanked all the colleagues involved in the project and underlined that they are all working in order to change for the better landscape regarding cirrhotic patients. His presentation, as well as the entire project, revolved around the importance of the microbiome. He started showing the attendees how liver cirrhosis goes systemic in the body trigging several complications. Then, he explained how bacterial translocation from the gut creates a hepatic inflammation responsible for liver's failure, fibrosis and other organs' failure. This is moment when MICROB-PREDICT comes into the picture. The project will investigate the human microbiome with the aim to identify predictors and



mechanisms associated with the development of decompensation and progression to ACLF and death. This will result in better stratification of cirrhotic patients enabling microbiome-based intelligent and personalized allocation to treatment, and ultimately prevent ACLF and reduce mortality. The identified microbiome-based markers will be validated in a clinical trial and translated into three new clinical tests useful for patients. After that, Prof. Trebicka gave details about how two interventions - Rifaximin and Albumin - interact with the microbiome that interfaces the body at different level. This means that from patients there will be different responses that should lead to patients' stratification. After some information about the state of the art of the project, Prof. Trebicka presented all the project's Work Packages, showing how they intersect and interact each other.

After a short introduction by Marko Korenjak, Prof. Dr. Aleksander Krag, Head of Hepatology Department Odense University Hospital started his presentation. Being the head of the clinical trial in MICROB-PREDICT (WP7) project, he explained in details this part of the project. Alb-Trial - the clinical trial of MICROB-PREDICT- will be a state-of-the-art clinical trial aiming at validating the microbiome-based biomarker developed within the framework of MICROB-PREDICT. The short time from biomarker development to validation in a clinical setting will be unprecedented in the field of liver diseases. This will allow researchers to implement personalized treatment guidelines quickly to the benefit of patients, relatives and the community as a whole. He also added that Alb-Trial will include 240 patients from 8 hospitals in 7 countries in Europe. The study will commence in June 2022 and be completed in September 2024, patients are potentially eligible to participate regardless of the cause of liver disease, and all participants will in addition to their study treatment receive their standard medical treatment and human albumin infusions as recommended by protocol. In addition, the study will be a double-blinded placebo-controlled trial to ensure results of the highest scientific quality and the study period for each participant will be 6 months. In conclusion, he emphasised how MICROB-PREDICT will completely change the landscape from patients treated after the decompensating events to patients treated before thanks to the identification of biomarkers and a personalized approach.



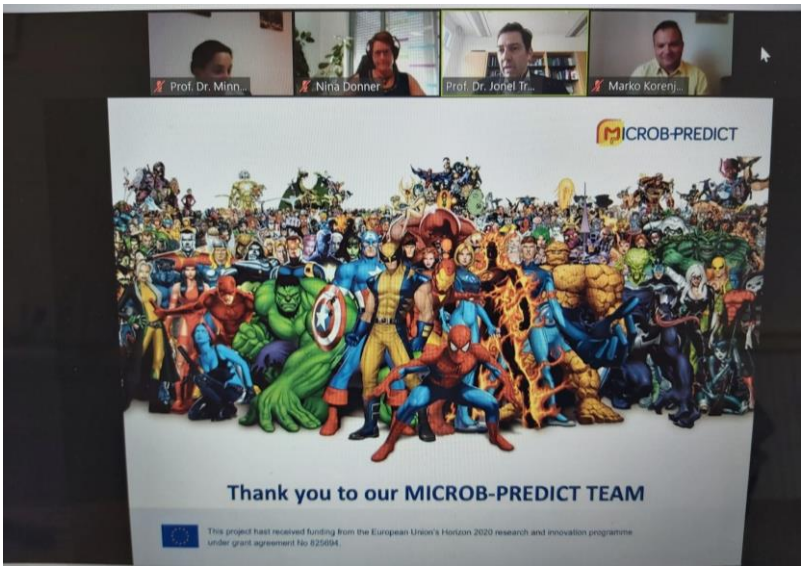


At the end of Prof. Krag presentation, Marko Korenjak gave the floor to the fourth panellist, Dr. Minneke Coenraad dissemination manager in MICROB-PREDICT project. She highlighted the importance of informing patients' community, scientific community and general public on the results of scientific projects such as MICROB-PREDICT. After a general introduction, she described 4 dissemination tools related to MICROB-PREDICT: the website, with a part dedicated to patients in 3 languages with also some background information, a brochure, with a summary of basic facts about the project, the Twitter account, and videos with interview of people part of MICROB-PREDICT consortium.

Before wrapping up the meeting, Marko Korenjak moderated a short but animated Q&A session. ELPA scientific committee leader, Dr. Teresa Casanovas Taltavull, on behalf of patients' community congratulated the project coordinator Prof. Trebicka for the opportunity given by the project to tackle cirrhosis from not only a medical point of view, but also fighting the stigmatisation targeting these patients. Marko Korenjak joined adding that ELPA is part of many scientific project but MICROB-PREDICT has the unique characteristic to put together associations from many different field, and doing that it strengthens the motivation to improve liver patients' lives.

Thanking everybody for its participation, Marko Korenjak reserved a special thanks to the liver patients' associations that attended the meeting despite the fact, that they are not part of ELPA. This was the proof, he stressed, that fighting liver diseases is a common goal for patients benefit.

*All the materials related to presentations are available on the MICROB-PREDICT website.



A short Twitter overview

During the entire event, contents had been sharing on Twitter from ELPA and MICROB-PREDICT's account. Here a short summary of the results.



10 Tweets

98.7K Tweet impressions

709 Profile visits

10 Mentions

16 New Followers

ELPA Retweeted

ELPA @EuropeLiver · 8 Jul

It's a enormous pleasure for ELPA to be part of the consortium-partners of @MicrobPredict and the leading
Saintis in Europe in the filed of Liver disease,decompensation of liver #cirrhosis and #ACLF. @TransHep_GUF
Prof.@JonelTrebicka,
Prof. Aleksander Krag
Prof. Minneke Coenraad



EF-Clif and 9 others

7 10

ELPA Retweeted

ELPA @EuropeLiver · 8 Jul

We are preparing to start the first online patent event of the @EU_Health Medical Research Project @MicrobPredict. @SKyriakidesEU @WHO_Europe @JonelTrebicka @UniLeiden @hans_kluge @Marko_Korenjak @EU_Health Medical Research Project @MicrobPredict, 2020. @SKyriakidesEU @WHO_Europe



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ELPA @EuropeLiver · 8 Jul

ELPA president @Marko_Korenjak together with associate Prof. ELPA's involvement in EU Medical Research Project @MicrobPredict @MajaThiele @OUHhospital
@JonelTrebicka #ACLF. @Marko_Korenjak @TransHep_GUF @ef_clif @EU_H2020 @EU_Health @DirkHadrich
youtu.be/HBd_qawREuY



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8 Tweets MICROB-PREDICT

15.3k Tweet impressions

26 Profile visits

50 re-tweets, 88 likes

1 Website visit

MICROB-PREDICT @MicrobPredict · 8 Jul

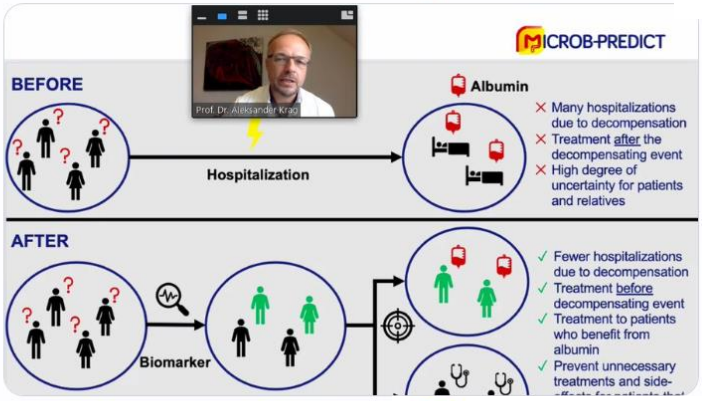
How is Albumin working in patients with decompensated #cirrhosis and #ACLF? Perhaps microbiome-based biomarkers can predict response to Albumin. We hope that data from >10000 patients will tell. @EuropeLiver @TransHep_GUF @ef_clif @EU_Health @JonelTrebicka



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MICROB-PREDICT @MicrobPredict · 8 Jul

Prof. Aleksander Krag from Odense @FLASH_OUH, leader of the clinical tri workpackage, introduces the design of the ALB-TRIAL nested in MICROB-PREDICT. This test aims to test whether biomarker candidates can qualify t predict course and progression of ACLF. @EuropeLiver



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MICROB-PREDICT @MicrobPredict · 8 Jul

Patients can find targeted information about #cirrhosis and #ACLF in different languages on the MICROB-PREDICT website: microb-predict.eu @EuropeLiver @EU_Health



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www.microb-predict.eu

Contact

ELPA Office
Organizer
office@elpa.eu

Prof. Dr. Jonel Trebicka
Project coordinator
jonel.trebicka@efclif.com
+34 (0) 932 271 411

Dr. Minneke Coenraad
Dissemination manager
m.j.coenraad@lumc.nl
+31 (0) 611 371 146

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