

# ONCOgenic GPCR Network of Excellence and Training

**WRITING THE PROJECT**

ONCORNET w1



# GPCR Training Network

## Oncogenic GPCRs - CXCR4 & CXCR7

### 15 ESRs

#### Partners:

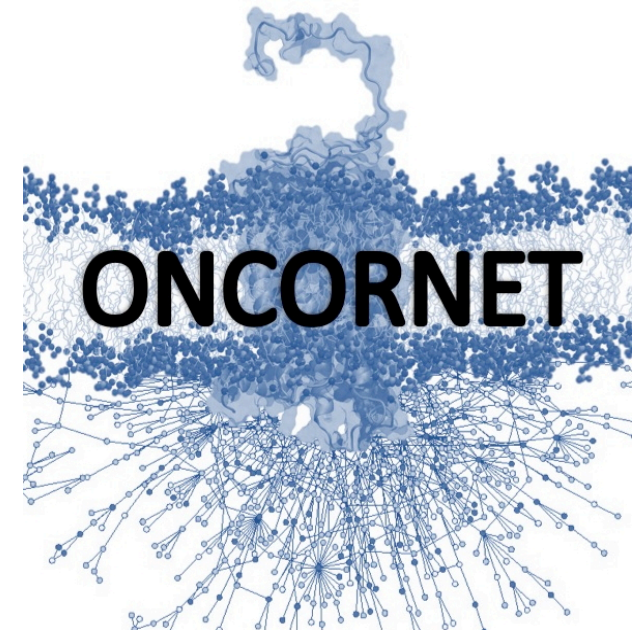
Martine Smit/ Rob Leurs (NL)  
Steve Hill/Steve Briddon (UK)  
Graeme Milligan/Gerry Graham (UK)  
Martin Lohse/Carsten Hoffmann (DE)  
Jean Philippe Pin/Philip Marin/Thierry Durroux (FR)  
Stefan Offermanns (DE)  
Françoise Bachelier/ Geraldine Schlecht-Louf (FR)  
Federico Mayor/Cristina Murga (ES)

#### SMEs:

Griffin discoveries (NL)  
arGEN-x (BE)

#### Partner organizations:

Actelion (CH), ALMAC (UK), Cisbio (FR), Euroscreen (BE),  
24 Media Labs (NL)  
Vivia Biosystems (ES)



# PLANNING 1-3 2014

Planning for call Identifier: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014

Activities / Week no.				8			9			10			11		
				17-févr	19-févr	21-févr	24-févr	26-févr	28-févr	3 maart	5 maart	6 maart	10 maart	12 maart	14 maart
Determining feasibility															
Intake / speed date															
Designing the project															
Brainstorm															
Writing the project: draft 1															
2.1 Research programme															
2.2 Training programme															
3.1 Impact on career development															
3.2 Impact on research training															
Review draft 1															
Consortium meeting TC?*															
Setting-up PSS (partner info)*															
Writing the project: draft 2															
Filling out <i>Partner Input form</i>															
Partner Commitment Letters															
Process comments Draft 1															
2.3 Supervision and structure															
2.4 Network(ing)															
3.3 Impact: dissemination plan															
3.3 Impact: communication plan															
Filling out <i>WP Input form</i>															
4.1 Work plan (WP descriptions)															
4.5 Gantt Chart*															
4.2 Management structure*															
4.3 Research infrastrucutres															
4.4 Consortium and commitment*															
Indiv ESR projects															
5 Partner descriptions*															
6. Ethics*															
Review draft 1															
Writing the project: draft 3															
Process comments Draft 2															
7. Commitment letters															
Review draft 3															
TC															
Finalise Part B															
Process comments Draft 3															
Check* and submit*															
Deadline															14-03

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# SUPPORT LETTERS

ONCORNET  
Oncogenic GPCR Network of Excellence and Training

H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014

## Agreement

Oncogenic GPCR Network of Excellence and Training

'ONCORNET'

Amsterdam Institute for Molecules, Medicines and Systems, VU University  
Amsterdam,

School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Nottingham,

College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow,

Graduate School of Life Sciences, University of Würzburg,

L'Ecole Doctorale Sciences Chimiques et Biologiques pour la Santé,

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique,

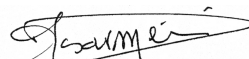
Max Plack Research School, Max-Planck-Institut für Herz- und Lungenforschung,

Doctoral school 425 "*Therapeutic Innovation : from fundamental to applications*  
and

PhD Program on Molecular Biosciences of the University of Madrid

represented by the signees, agree and mutually assure that:

- a) Training courses for Early Stage Researchers (ESR) at any of the participating institutions will be accessible for all ETN ESR, as long as cost is covered by the ETN. This applies to courses especially designed for the ETN but also -capacity provided- to those regularly available through the universities' institutions of doctoral and postdoctoral training.
- b) Any such course, including those offered by industry, will be fully acknowledged towards any respective curricular requirements for obtaining a research doctorate, according to the participating universities' regulations for work load and examinations.



Montpellier, 29 Mars 2014

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Dr M Desarménien  
Directeur Ecole Doctorale Sciences chimiques et Biologiques pour la Santé,  
Centre National de la Recherche scientifique

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Address to:

Codolet, March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Prof. Dr. Martine Smit,  
Coordinator ONCORNET consortium  
VU University Amsterdam,  
Faculty of Science

Dear Prof. Martine Smit,

With this letter Cisbio Bioassays would like to confirm its interest to become an associated partner in the Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) ONCORNET (**O**ncogenic **R**eceptor **N**etwork of **E**xcellence and **T**raining).

As you know, we have pioneered the field of TR-FRET and applied our technologies and know-how to investigate the inositol phosphate pathway and developed key products and technologies to monitor interaction between receptors at the surface of living cells.

The GPCR research field addressed in the ONCORNET application is of utmost importance in today's GPCR research and the technologies and tools we have developed are probably unique for developing a clear understanding of the role GPCRs in cancer. Therefore, training of young scientists in both academic- and industry setting is of major importance for the development of the next generation of young scientists. Cisbio commits to host and train young scientists in its Montpellier laboratory and will participate in the workshop on proteomics at CNRS.

This ITN project including academic and industry experts in the field of GPCR will be of great interest for young researchers in the field and we are therefore willing to participate as associated partner to this ITN program and action.

With kind regards,

Gérard Mathis, D.Sc  
Head of R&D Innovation Management



**SUBMISSION**  
April 2014

**RESULT**

September 2014


Excellence: 4.6/5.0

Impact: 5.0/5.0

Implementation: 4.6/5.0

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Proposal Evaluation Form		
	<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION</b> Horizon 2020 - Research and Innovation Framework Programme	<b>Evaluation Summary Report</b>

Call: H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014  
 Funding scheme: Training Networks  
 Proposal number: 641833  
 Proposal acronym: ONCORNET  
 Duration (months): 48  
 Proposal title: ONCOgenic Receptor Network of Excellence and Training  
 Activity: LIF

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total Cost	%	Grant Requested	%
1	STICHTING VU-VUMC	NL	510,749	13.12%	0	-
2	THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM	UK	546,576	14.04%	0	-
3	UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW	UK	546,576	14.04%	0	-
4	JULIUS-MAXIMILIANS UNIVERSITAET WUERZBURG	DE	498,433	12.80%	0	-
5	CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE	FR	525,751	13.50%	0	-
6	MAX PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V.	DE	249,216	6.40%	0	-
7	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA SANTE ET DE LA RECHERCHE MEDICALE (INSERM)	FR	262,876	6.75%	0	-
8	UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MADRID	ES	247,873	6.37%	0	-
9	arGEN-X BVBA	BE	250,560	6.43%	0	-
10	GRIFFIN DISCOVERIES BV	NL	255,374	6.56%	0	-
Total:			3,893,984		0	

**Abstract:**  
 Cancer is a leading health concern. There is a need to fully understand the fundamental processes underlying development of cancer. There is increasing evidence that G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) and their associated signalling cascades are involved in both cancer progression and metastasis. As oncogenic GPCRs are likely to be amenable to manipulation via drugs they are ideal therapeutic targets. In ONCORNET (Oncogenic Receptor Network of Excellence and Training) we propose to target two oncogenic GPCRs; the chemokine receptors CXCR4 and CXCR7. These are highly expressed in a range of tumours and yet their role in cancer progression is not well understood. We will focus on unravelling how CXCR4 and CXCR7 are or can be modulated (small molecules, peptidic, nanobodies) and investigate the effects on oncogenic responses. This represents crucial knowledge that we currently do not have and yet may well provide potential leads for drug development and commercialisation. ONCORNET will bring together the leading research scientists and labs in Europe with an interest in GPCRs and 15 early stage researchers. We will employ all the latest multidisciplinary research technologies to understand the role of these GPCRs in cancer and develop CXCR4 and CXCR7 tools for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes. Importantly, developed approaches can be extrapolated to other oncogenic GPCRs. The ONCORNET consortium will offer an extensive multidisciplinary training programme to the ESRs to ensure that they can operate in today's drug discovery programmes. This will include both research (e.g. drug discovery, proteomics, imaging, modelling) and transferable (e.g. entrepreneurship, writing, media training) skill sets -that is rarely offered at PhD level. We will train ESRs to develop the next generation of multidisciplinary scientists with skills that are highly demanded by many of today's employers in drug development industries.

**Evaluation Summary Report**

**Evaluation Result**

Total score: 94.40% (Threshold: 70/100.00)

**Form information**

**SCORING**

Scores must be in the range 0-5.

**Interpretation of the score:**

- 0- The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1- Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2- Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3- Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4- Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5- Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

**Criterion 1 - Excellence**

Score: 4.60 (Threshold: 0.00/5.00 , Weight: 50.00%)

Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research programme (including inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)  
 Quality and innovative aspects of the training programme (including transferable skills, inter/multidisciplinary and intersectoral aspects)



# ESRs RECRUITMENT TIMING

## Time lines – ESR SELECTION phase

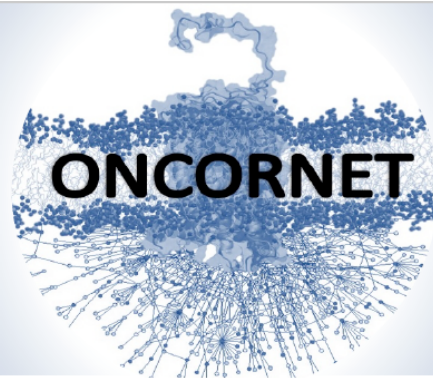
	Activities	partner	Dates
2.1	TC with all beneficiaries	all	Jan 26 2015
2.2	Positions available (ONCORNET web site, job sites), deadline candidates April 15		First week of March
2.3	Pre-selection Prepare short list (possibly based on Skype interviews, tbd)	all	mid April - mid May
2.4	Interview days F2F in Amsterdam	all	end of May/beginning June
2.5	Selection candidates	all	End of interview day(s)
2.6	Start ESRs		1 Sept
2.7	COST GPCR meeting + Kick off ONCORNET	all	Oct 12-13
2.8	alternative kick off (contingency plan)		To be decided
2.9	Generate an ONCORNET toolbox	all	

## ⊕ Action list – ESR SELECTION phase

	Action	partner	Deadline
1.9	Last partners need to sign CA	UWUE, CNRS	asap
	Jacqueline will send request to provide info on bank account of institutes beneficiaries		asap
	First tranche will be paid to beneficiaries	VU	After signing of CA
2.1	Send around minutes TC	VU	done
2.2	Install ONCORNET website	VU	Feb
	Send around template project description	VU	asap
	Fill in project description	all	Feb 23
	Additional financial support for on line platform UWUE?	VU	To be checked
	Put on line application platform in place	UWUE	March 1
2.3	Pre-selection of candidates	all	mid May
	Provide a short list	all	mid May
2.4	Send Doodle around with potential interview dates	VU	asap
	Invite candidates	VU/UWUE	mid May
	Interview day(s) in Amsterdam	all	End of May/beginning of June
2.5	Inform candidates of positions	VU	After interview day(s)
2.6	Preparation Paperwork/housing ESRs	all	July-Aug
2.7	COST GPCR meeting + Kick off ONCORNET	all	Oct 12-13
2.8	Send around Doodle for alternative kick off	VU	
2.9	Send around a template for the ONCORNET toolbox	VU	

FLYER

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## 15 PhD positions

Applications now open: [www.oncornet.eu](http://www.oncornet.eu)

### *Oncogenic GPCR Network of Excellence and Training*

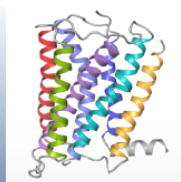
#### **Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Network (ETN)**

ONCORNET is looking for highly motivated and talented scientists to apply for projects in the labs of ONCORNET network partners: **Martine Smit** (coordinator) / **Rob Leurs** (NL), **Steve Hill** (UK), **Graeme Milligan / Gerry Graham** (UK), **Martin Lohse** (DE), **Jean Philippe Pin / Philippe Marin** (FR), **Stefan Offermanns** (DE), **Françoise Bachelier** (FR), **Cristina Murga / Federico Mayor** (ES), **arGEN-X** (BE) and **Griffin Discoveries** (NL).

If you are interested in propelling your scientific career then consider joining Oncor-net. We are looking for the very best young researchers (ESRs) to join the network of Europe's renowned GPCR specialists. Your project will be on the scientific forefront of oncogenic GPCR drug targeting and you will participate in workshops that are specially designed for highly ambitious students. The Oncor-net ESRs will become recognised for their scientific excellence, multidisciplinary understanding and commitment to use their research to progress the scientific field of preclinical drug discovery and thereby impact society. ONCORNET partner organizations are: **Actelion, Almac, Cisbio, Euro-screen, Vivia Biotech** and **24MediaLabs**.

Deadline application: **April 15 2015**. Expected start projects **September 2015**.

For more information, application procedure and eligibility for Marie Curie ETN training networks, please visit: [www.oncornet.eu](http://www.oncornet.eu).





**Project Start  
January 4th 2015**

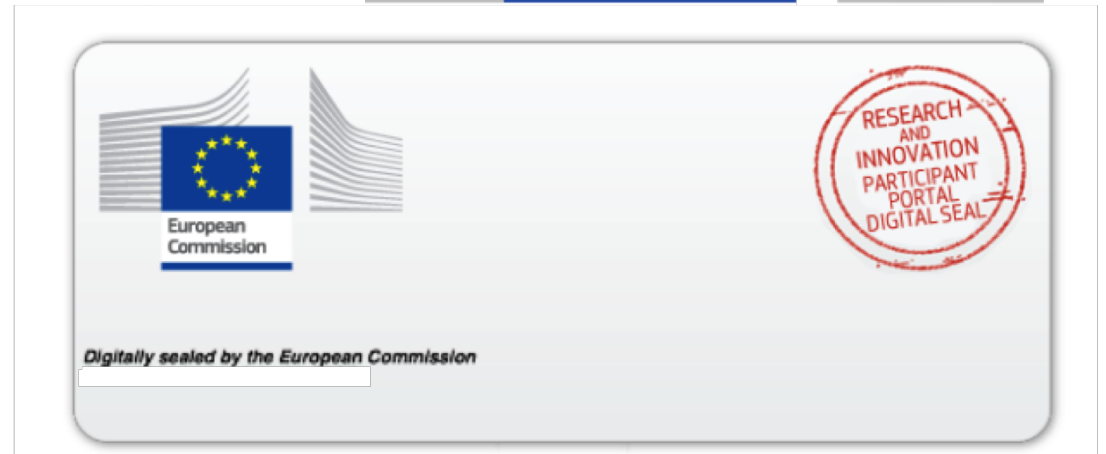
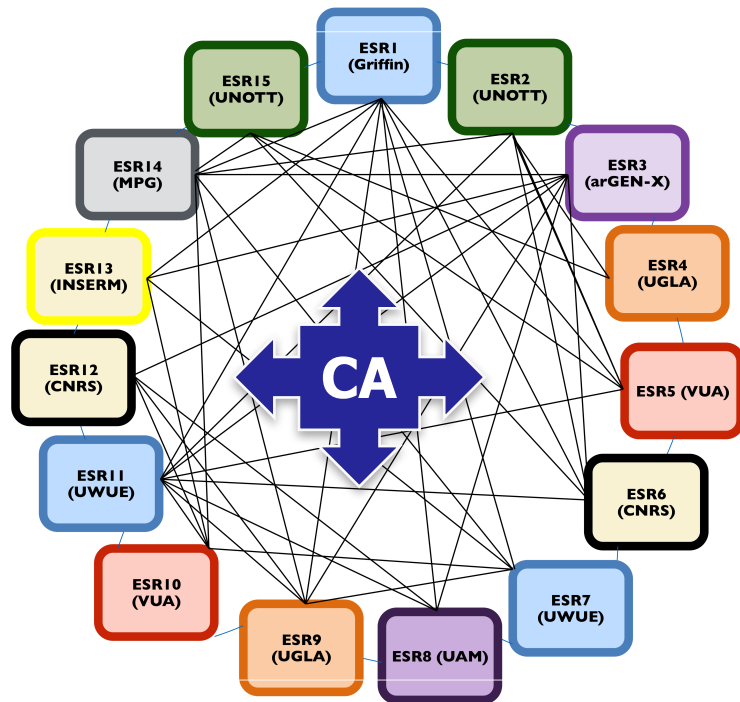
**Application deadline ESR  
positions:** potential candidates have  
to send in their CVs and motivation  
letter prior April 15th.

**Interview days:** On June 2 and 3rd  
in Amsterdam for all ESR positions.

**Start ESR projects:** by Sept 2015.

**Kick off meeting ONCORNET:  
on Tuesday Oct 13th 2015 in  
Amsterdam.**

# Grant & Consortium Agreement



- **GA signed**
- **CA completed**

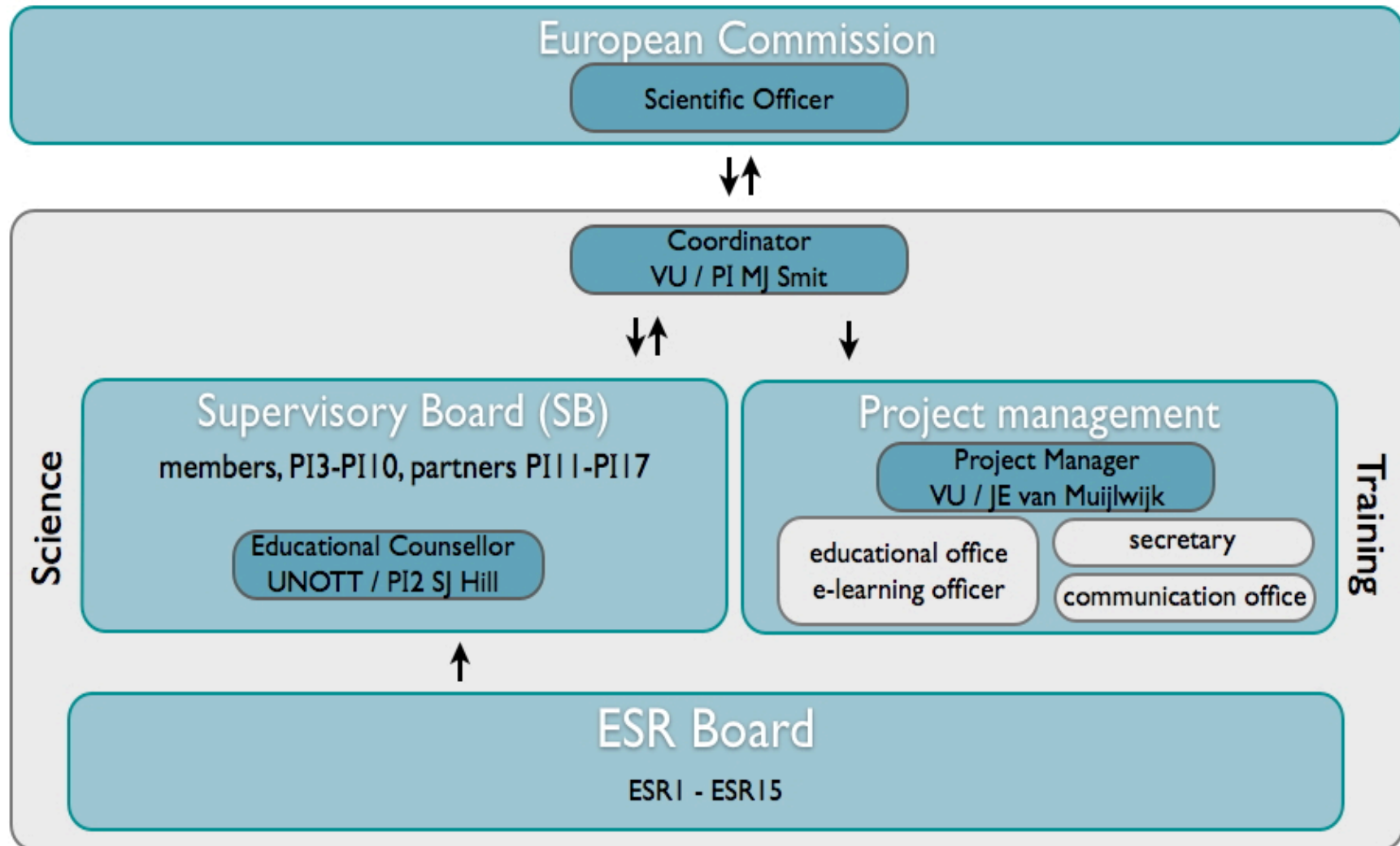
**all beneficiaries and partner organisations agreed**

- delay during signing process
- change in wording – against national law
- removed section – other partner agreed

**New signature round needed**

# Responsibilities

## ONCORNET



# Responsibilities (§3.2)

## ONCORNET Supervisory Board (SB)

### **TASKS**

IPR, dissemination, finances, legal, ethical, reporting

### **Members:**

1. PIs (one representative per partner votes)
2. Two nominated ESRs

# Responsibilities (§3.2)

## Educational counselor & supervisors

### TASKS

1. Monitor personal career development plan (PCDP)
  - established 0-3 month (info at w1)
2. Monitor progress PCDP
  - ESRs will report progress (every 6 months) before upcoming workshops
3. Each ESR supervised by institutional & second supervisor (secondment)

# Responsibilities (§3.2)

## Work Package Leaders

### TASKS

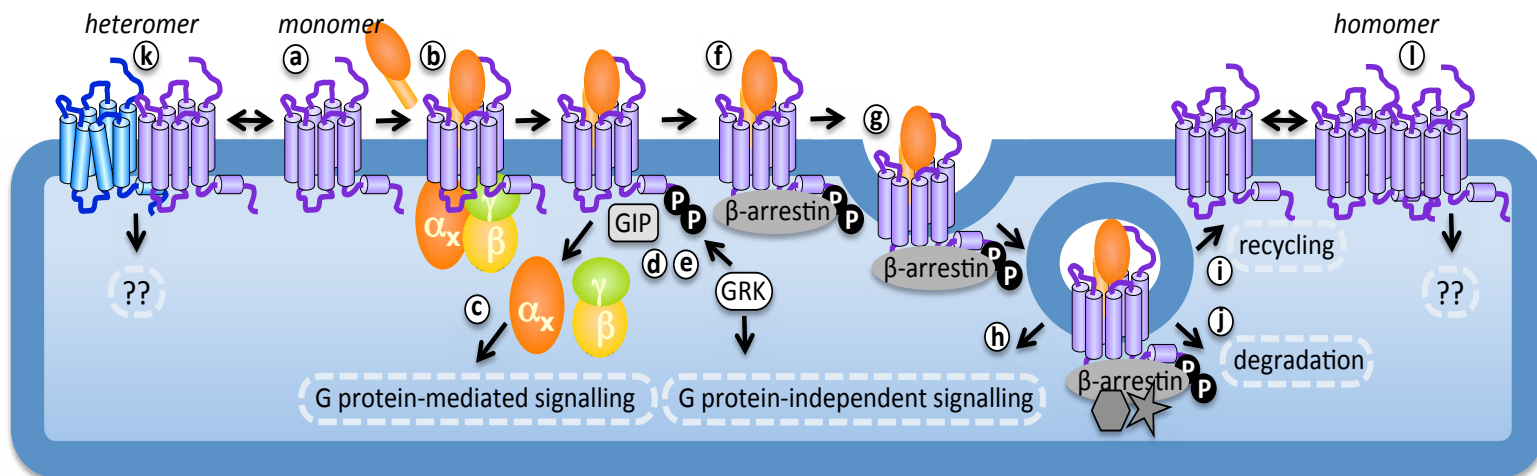
1. Monitor deliverables & milestones
2. Monitor project progress
3. Reporting

Work package		Activity type	Lead Participant		Start Month
No.	Title		No.	Short name	
1	Management	Management	1	VU	1
2	Training	Training	2	UNOTT	1
3	Modulators	Research	4	GRIFFIN	7
4	Oncosignals	Research	5	UGL	7
5	Translational	Research	7	INSERM	7
6	Dissemination	Dissemination	1	VU	1



# Innovative Training Network (ITN)

- **Overall aim of ONCORNET:**
  - Train **next generation of GPCR scientists**
    - Unravel contribution of GPCRs to tumour development
    - Develop new strategies to target oncogenic GPCRs
  - Offer a **multidisciplinary training program**
    - research and transferable skills
    - secondments in academia and industry
    - to operate in today's drug discovery programs



# WP1-6: 15 ESR projects

