



ADVANCE workshop on ATMP development

The ADVANCE workshop was held June 20-24, 2022, in Rome, Italy. The week-long intensive workshop featured presentations by top experts in the field of ATMPs, and allowed participants to gain a broad knowledge of ATMPs from the perspectives of science, manufacturing, regulatory affairs, and marketing. The speakers at the workshop were:

- Matjaz Jeras, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Laboratory of Cell Engineering Celica Biomedical, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Ana Hidalgo-Simon, European Medicines agency – EMA, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Helena Haque Chowdhury, Laboratory of Cell Engineering, Celica Biomedical, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Leonardo Sibilio, ReïThera srl, Rome, Italy
- David Morrow, EATRIS ERIC, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Lucia Gabriele, Department of Oncology and Molecular Medicine, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy
- Luciano Castiello, Cell Factory FaBioCell, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy
- Giuliana Ferrari. SR-TIGET, Milano, Italy
- Merel Ackx, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
- Umberto Restelli, Università Carlo Cattaneo – LIUC, Castellanza VA, Italy
- Luigi Aurisicchio, Takis Biotech, Rome, Italy
- Concetta Quintarelli, Department of Pediatric Haematology and Oncology, IRCCS Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Rome, Italy.

In addition to targeted short presentations, the workshop also provided insight into the production processes of biotechnology companies Takis Biotech and ReïThera (both Italy). During the week, participants worked in groups on a project task related to the development and production of the selected ATMP and its transfer to the market. The last day was dedicated to their presentations and evaluation in front of the scientific committee. The workshop was also interesting from the point of view of acquiring and strengthening the so-called soft skills. In order to participate in the workshop, the ADVANCE online course had to be completed beforehand. According to the project criteria, the international commission selected 30 participants, whose registration fee for the workshop was covered by the Erasmus+ program.

The workshop took place within the framework of the Erasmus+ ADVANCE project. The main organizers of the workshop were an enthusiastic team from Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Italy, Takis Biotech, Italy and University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. The University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Pharmacy (UL FFA) is involved as a partner in the project and one of the main organizers of the workshop. The project leader at UL FFA is Prof. Dr. Irena Mlinarič-Raščan, her deputy is Prof. Dr. Matjaž Jeras. Prof. Dr. Martina Gobec and Asst. Dr. Dunja Urbančič were present at the workshop as members of the organizing committee.

A few impressions from participants of the ADVANCE workshop:

"We got a good overview of what the field entails and what is needed before and after an ATMP gets a marketing authorisation and enters the market in EU. We now also have a better understanding of the complexity of ATMPs and the problems and hurdles to be faced."

"Highly informative and well organised. Lecturers delivered high-end talks."

"This ADVANCE workshop was one the best opportunities and workshops I have ever had. It would be really great if this would be annual event. Due to the complexity of the field it is crucial to have the opportunity to connect with some other companies and specialists."

"I believe that this programme (online courses and 5-day workshop) is the most comprehensive knowledge base on ATMPs development cycle. The workshop gave us a great opportunity to get first-hand experience, which cannot be found in scientific literature and legislation. Besides, we got an opportunity to gain and share experience and ideas with like-minded people and industry peers."



More info about the project:

<https://eatris.eu/projects/advance/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/advance-eu-programme/>

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