AndrOnet News

Autumn 2022

From the Action Chair

Dear ANDRONET Members,

It is a pleasure to inform you that the balance of our Action is very positive at the end of the first grant period and the start of the second one. We have experienced a substantial growth and currently have 216 members in the Working Groups (WG) and 58 in the Management Committee (MC), altogether representing 40 different countries. We also have a gender balance with a female representation of 54% among WG members, see details in this newsletter.

It is also good to know that our approved budget for next period (Nov 1, 2022 – Oct 31, 2023) has been increased substantially, which will facilitate reaching our Action goals. Most of the budget will be devoted to the co-organization of the 22nd European Testis Workshop (ETW2023) in Switzerland, for which we will support attendance of 57 members. We also plan to support 12 members' participation in the Training Schools on Basic Clinical Andrology and Therapies in Budapest, and on Basic Semen Analysis in Stockholm. In addition, we will grant 3 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) and 3 ITC Conference grants. We shall also increase the budget for dissemination and communication to divulgate videos, materials for the Andrology Awareness websites, interconnecting existing portals, and for distribution of ANDRONET Cost Action bulletins and news to all Action members and subscribers from the field.

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Reports from events endorsed by ANDRONET

- ### ECA2022

The **12th European Congress of Andrology (ECA2022)** took place in Barcelona (19-22/10 2022). The Congress was a great success, with > 450 participants from around the world. Many ANDRONET members enjoyed the three days filled with high-quality science and face-to-face networking in a lovely venue. The program comprised several plenary lectures, 23 symposia, including one showcasing work of young researchers in andrology (NYRA), several specialised courses and 137 posters. There was something relevant for all ANDRONET's Working Groups.

The ECA Proceedings, with all abstracts, were published in *Andrology:* https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/20472927/2022/10/S3.

ANDRONET supported the participation at the ECA of 10 members from the COST Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC). The recipients of these generous travel grants: Joana Almeida (Portugal, who also received one of the best poster awards), Alicja Kamińska (Poland), Dijana Marinkovic (Serbia), Emine Nur Ozbek (Turkey), Viktoria Rosta (Hungary), Joana Santiago (Portugal), Nikola Šutulović (Serbia), Anett Szabó (Hungary), Tamara Tomanić (Serbia) and Stanislav Tjagur (Estonia). In addition, numerous travel grants were issued by the European Academy of Andrology (EAA), the International Society of Andrology (ISA) and the Italian Society of Andrology & Sexual Medicine (SIAMS).

↑ *C. Krausz (ANDRONET Vice-Leader, the EAA President) and E. Ruiz Castané (the ECA2020 organizer)*
→ *The recipients of the Best Poster Awards, and*
↓ *the recipients of Travel Grants, with the chairs of the POC and EAA executives*

- ## NYRA 2022

The 14th meeting of the **Network of Young Researchers in Andrology** (NYRA) was held on 19-21 Sep 2022, in Norwich UK. The meeting gathered 31 young researchers, including many ANDRONET members. The plenary lectures were presented by mid-career 'stars' in the field: R. Rahbari (UK), A. Molaro (France), S. Laurentino (Germany), R. Mitchell (UK) and K. Almstrup (Denmark). There were also 8 short talks selected from the submitted abstracts, and two workshops. **Dr Sandra Laurentino** was awarded the Young Researcher Award 2022. Sandra is the Vice-Leader of the Science Communication Committee of ANDRONET. Congratulations!

Sandra Laurentino with Daniel Marcu (left, the main organizer) and Alberto de la Iglesia (NYRA President)

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- ## ESHRE-MRHI Campus

The ESHRE Campus Workshop on "Male Reproductive Health" was held as a hybrid event in Budapest, Hungary (6-7 October 2022). The workshop was co-organised by Male Reproductive Health Initiative (MHRI), incl. one of the founders **Chris Barratt** and several other ANDRONET members: C. Krausz, N. Jørgensen, and S. Rautakallio-Hokkanen *(all present in the group picture below).* The agenda focused on the gaps in management of male infertility, and improving the dialogue with the public.

ANDRONET Training Schools

- ## ANDRONET-EAA School in Basic Semen Analysis, Stockholm

This new School was held on 19-23 September 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden. The School was initiated by Lars Björndahl, the ANDRONET member and one of the world experts in seminology. The course was specially designed to train 'tandems' composed of a person with medical responsibility and a technician engaged in practical laboratory work. ANDRONET fully reimbursed attendance of 4 trainees: Ginevra Farnetani (Italy), Ondřej Šanovec Czech Republic, Suheyla Esra Ozkocer (Turkey) an Silver Peeter Siiak (Estonia)).

Upcoming event

4th EAA-ANDRONET Budapest School 28th February – 3 March 2023

The EAA Budapest School was established in 2020 and from the 3rd edition in 2022, it became a joint educational activity with ANDRONET. The course is highly recommended to all clinicians who would like to take the exam for the EAA **Certificate of Clinical Andrologist**, and to all those who are interested in updating their knowledge in this field. In 2023, the School will comprise the second module which will focus on "Therapies in Male Infertility", providing

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the latest update on surgical and medical treatment options. The faculty of the EAA Budapest School consists of word-renowned experts in the field of andrology.

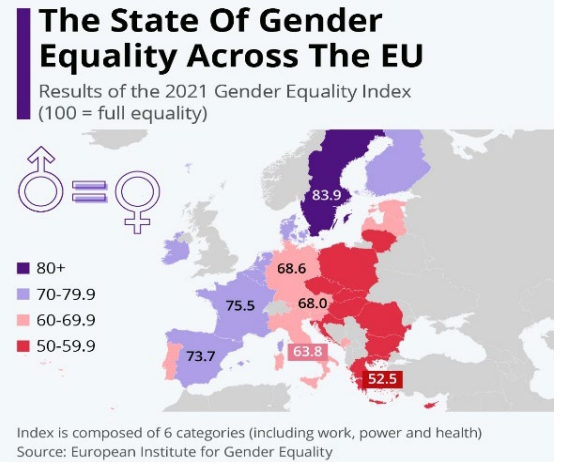
→ **ANDRONET and the EAA offer travel grants to attend the School**. ANDRONET has reserved budget to support participation for six trainees and one trainer.

Gender Equality

The COST policy actively promotes gender equality in all actions and networks. ANDRONET is taking this issue very seriously, so the Core Group member, E. Rajpert-De Meyts attended the **COST Academy Workshop** on **Gender Equality in Research & Innovation,** held in Brussels on 28 Oct 2022. The interesting programme provided advice how to better integrate women in traditionally 'male' branches of sciences, including andrology.

How does ANDRONET compare to all COST Actions?

Women	All COST Actions	ANDRONET
Total representation	48%	**54%** (116/216)
Leadership positions	52%	**46%** (11/24)
Young participants	49%	**64%** (53/83)
ITC participants	53%	**67%** (68/102)



Not bad at all, considering that our focus is on male health. But there is some room for improvement.

November is male health's awareness month

The movement of growing moustaches in November was started in 2003 by an Australian-American charity to promote awareness of prostate and testicular cancer but since then has expanded to all issues of male health. The charity has grown around the world and supported financially hundreds of research projects. Our members with the Y chromosome should sport a moustache throughout the month, following these great examples:

New social platform: mastodon

Following the well-known problems of Twitter after it has been acquired by Elon Musk, many scientists are abandoning the platform and choosing other options. Just in case, Sandra Laurentino, our Science Communication Vice-Leader, has created an account for ANDRONET on **mastodon**: **@Andronet_COST@qoto.org**

Mastodon is free software for social networking services, financed by crowdfunding and has no adds. Its features are similar to that of Twitter's but the terminology is a bit different. Messages posted using the software are called "toots". Each user is a member of a specific Mastodon *instance*, which can interact as a social network. As of 12 Nov 2022, there are a total of 6.63 million accounts in all Mastodon instances. You can learn more about all aspects of Mastodon on Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mastodon_(software)

Science Corner

Latest publications from the ANDRONET members

We highlight here only a few selected publications which are most relevant for the Action's objectives or are the result of the collaboration initiated by the ANDRONET. A more complete list of publications is available on our website. If you want to share your latest publications, please notify the Science Communication Coordinator.

WG1. Biomarkers of Infertility /Androgenetics

Björndahl L, Barratt CLR, Mortimer D, Agarwal A, Aitken RJ, Alvarez JG, Aneck-Hahn N, Arver S, Baldi E, Bassas L, Boitrelle F, Bornman R, Carrell DT, Castilla JA, Cerezo Parra G, Check JH, Cuasnicu PS, Darney SP, de Jager C, et al. Standards in semen examination: publishing reproducible and reliable data based on high-quality methodology. ***Hum Reprod***. 2022 Sep 16: deac189. doi.org/10.1093/humrep/deac189

Vondrakova J, Frolikova M, Ded L, Cerny J, Postlerova P, Palenikova V, Simonik O, Nahacka Z, Basus K, Valaskova E, Machan R, Pacey A, Holubcova Z, Koubek P, Ezrova Z, Park S, Liu R, Partha R, Clark N, Neuzil J, Ikawa M, Erickson K, Lam KS, Moore H, Komrskova K. MAIA, Fc receptor-like 3, supersedes JUNO as IZUMO1 receptor during human fertilization. ***Sci Adv***. 2022 Sep 9;8(36):eabn0047. doi: PMCID: PMC9451160.

Rodprasert W, Koskenniemi JJ, Virtanen HE, Sadov S, Perheentupa A, Ollila H, Albrethsen J, Andersson AM, Juul A, Skakkebaek NE, Main KM, Toppari J. Reproductive markers of testicular function and size during puberty in boys with and without a history of cryptorchidism. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2022 Sep 8:dgac520. doi.org/10.1210/clinem/dgac520

de la Iglesia A, Jauregi P, Jodar M, Barrachina F, Ded L, Mallofré C, Rodríguez-Carunchio L, Corral JM, Ballescà JL, Komrskova K, Castillo J, Oliva R. H4K5 Butyrylation Coexist with Acetylation during Human Spermiogenesis and Are Retained in the Mature Sperm Chromatin. ***Int J Mol Sci.*** 2022 Oct 17;23(20):12398. doi: 10.3390/ijms232012398. PMID: 36293256; PMCID: PMC9604518.

Ivell R, Heng K, Severn K, Antonio L, Bartfai G, Casanueva FF, Huhtaniemi IT, Giwercman A, Maggi M, O'Connor DB, O'Neill TW, Punab M, Rastrelli G, Slowikowska-Hilczer J, Tournoy J, Vanderschueren D, Wu FW, Anand-Ivell R. The Leydig cell biomarker INSL3 as a predictor of age-related morbidity: Findings from the EMAS cohort. ***Front Endocrinol***. 2022; 13 DOI: 10.3389/fendo.2022.1016107

Patel M, Muthigi A, Laurentino S, Diaz P, Ramasamy R. Male reproductive aging: can men with oligospermia become azoospermic over time? ***Int J Impot Res***. 2022 Oct 17. doi: 10.1038/s41443-022-00634-9. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36253473.

Wyrwoll MJ, Gaasbeek CM, Golubickaite I, Stakaitis R, Oud MS, Nagirnaja L, Dion C, Sindi EB, Leitch HG, Jayasena CN, Sironen A, Dicke AK, Rotte N, Stallmeyer B, Kliesch S, Grangeiro CHP, Araujo TF, Lasko P; Genetics of Male Infertility

Initiative (GEMINI) consortium, D'Hauwers K, Smits RM, Ramos L, Xavier MJ, Conrad DF, Almstrup K, Veltman JA, Tüttelmann F, van der Heijden GW. The piRNA-pathway factor FKBP6 is essential for spermatogenesis but dispensable for control of meiotic LINE-1 expression in humans. ***Am J Hum Genet***. 2022 Oct 6;109(10):1850-1866. doi: 10.1016/j.ajhg.2022.09.002. Epub 2022 Sep 22. PMID: 36150389.

Wyrwoll MJ, Wabschke R, Röpke A, Wöste M, Ruckert C, Perrey S, Rotte N, Hardy J, Astica L, Lupiáñez DG, Wistuba J, Westernströer B, Schlatt S, Berman AJ, Müller AM, Kliesch S, Yatsenko AN, Tüttelmann F, Friedrich C. Analysis of copy number variation in men with non-obstructive azoospermia. ***Andrology***. 2022 Nov;10(8):1593-1604. doi: 10.1111/andr.13267. Epub 2022 Sep 23. PMID: 36041235.

WG2. Education in Andrology

Jannini EA, Krausz C. Educational activities of the European Academy of Andrology. ***Andrology***. 2022 Oct;10 Suppl 2:97-99. doi: 10.1111/andr.13246.

Andrology centres accredited by the European Academy of Andrology. ***Andrology***. 2022 Oct;10 Suppl 2:10-96. doi: 10.1111/andr.13245. PMID: 36217716.

WG3. Male Health Awareness

Levine H, Jørgensen N, Martino-Andrade A, Mendiola J, Weksler-Derri D, Jolles M, Pinotti R, Swan SH. Temporal trends in sperm count: a systematic review and meta-regression analysis of samples collected globally in the 20th and 21st centuries. ***Hum Reprod Update***. 2022 Nov 15:dmac035. doi: 10.1093/humupd/dmac035. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36377604.

Event Calendar

30 Nov 2022 15:00-19:00 CET
Workshop on the Genetic Landscape of Reproductive Health - Online event
Website: https://www.medizin.uni-muenster.de/reproductivegenetics2022/welcome.html
Info: reproductivegenetics2022@ukmuenster.de

28 Feb -3 March 2023
4th EAA-ANDRONET Budapest School and Clinical Andrologist examination, Budapest, Hungary
Info: office@andrologyacademy.net

18-22 June 2023
22nd European Testis Workshop (ETW2023), combined with the ANDRONET Workshop and MC Meeting, and NYRA meeting, Montreux, Switzerland
https://etw2023.org/index.php/welcome-message/
Deadline for Abstract Submission: 31 March 2023

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