

**Dear colleagues,**

Our best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

We can proudly look back to a successful start of our StanDerm Action in 2013. This is mainly due to your most appreciated support and commitment in making this important Action a successful one, for which I would like to thank you.

26 countries are official members of our Action and the application from Slovakia is underway. This has led to an increase of our budget in this first grant period, which ends on 31 May 2014. The second grant period starts on 1 June 2013 until 31 May 2014.

A reciprocal agreement is underway with South Africa. Contacts have also been established with the Argentinian Society of Contact Dermatitis in view of a possible agreement. So far, 6 Short-Term Scientific Missions (STSM) have been approved, which reflects the great interest of researchers to exchange and learn from each other. While the budget is nearly exhausted for the first grant period, we look forward to receive your applications for the following period (01.06.2014 – 31.05.2015). The StanDerm Logo for the Website is presently finished and will be implemented very soon. More on this will be said in April at the workshop in Bern.

#### **Other TD1206 COST expert-driven events in 2013**

- ✓ **5 November 2013** “Protecting Outdoor Workers in the EU: Skin Cancer Prevention Status and Gaps”, Brussels
- ✓ **11-12 November 2013** “EU OSHA Healthy Workplaces Summit on Working together for risk prevention”, Bilbao, Spain
- ✓ **3-4 December 2013** “Occupational Diseases in the EU. The system(s) and their role. Together for disease-free workers”, Brussels

In Brussels, COST Action TD 1206 “StanDerm” members have organized a well-attended debate with MEPs from all political fractions and the EU Administration on latest research and the scientific basis for the prevention of occupational non-melanoma skin cancer by solar UV radiation. Obviously, this is a major objective of our Action. Hosted by MEPs Prof Hans-Gert Pöttering (EPP), Christel Schaldemose (S&D), Alojz Peterle (EPP) in collaboration with Kriton Arsenis (S&D), Dr Peter Liese (EPP), Michèle Rivasi (Greens|ALE), Hannu Takkula (ALDE), Charles Tannock (ECR), Eleni Theocharous (EPP), a dedicated Parliamentary Discussion on “Protecting Outdoor Workers in the EU: Skin Cancer Prevention Status and Gaps” was held on 5 November 2013 in the EU Parliament Building, in Brussels on the occasion of the “Skin cancer awareness day”. The event was attended by StanDerm experts (including Dr Salavastru who is coordinating NMSC issues in Action) and European institutions like the European Agency for Safety&Health at work (EU-OSHA). The EU Commissioner of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion was represented by his dep. cabinet head, Mrs Eva Torok. A WHO presentation was well received. The event was organized, moderated and scientifically advised by StanDerm members M. Trakatellis, S. M. John (Chair), and M. Augustin. The event was co-organized with Euromelanoma (V. del Marmol) and ECL, and we would like here to thank our partners as well as all the participating dermatologists. A petition by the participating MEPs to relevant decision makers including the EU Commission to bring forward the StanDerm goal of improved prevention of Occupational

Skin Cancer and its implementation in the European “Schedule of Occupational Diseases” and in a work protection directive including solar UV-radiation is currently being prepared. Progress made and our joint future activities we will discuss in Bern.

Furthermore, occupational skin diseases and their improved prevention throughout Europe have been addressed by the action chair in a recent sequence of EU expert hearings on the 11-12 November 2013 in Bilbao, Spain (“EU OSHA Healthy Workplaces Summit on Working together for risk prevention”) and invited by the DG EMPL on 3-4 December 2013 in Brussels on future health and safety concepts within the EU social model [“Occupational Diseases in the EU. The system(s) and their role. Together for disease-free workers”]. Again, these events brought together COST experts with decision makers in the Parliament, the EU Administration, EU-OSHA and the UN Institutions WHO and ILO. The swift succession of EU events with active participation of the COST Action members highlights the relevance of the Action’s objectives. We are now confident, that as one result the European Commission will include central objectives of StanDerm in a new EU health & safety strategy 2014-2020 and in its work protection regulations and good practice recommendations. This would help to implement scientifically sound concepts of prevention in order to make European work places safer according to the mayor goal of COST TD 1206.

In 2014, the following activities are scheduled to take place.

<b>WG 1</b>	Aetiology and susceptibility	<b>20.02.</b>	Copenhagen
<b>WG 2</b>	Development of common European standards	<b>28.02.</b>	Barcelona
<b>WG 3</b>	European intervention studies	<b>06.03.</b>	Bucharest
<b>WG 4</b>	Surveillance, risk assessment and allergens	<b>11.03.</b>	Erlangen
<b>WG 5</b>	Knowledge dissemination / website	<b>25.03.</b>	London

- ✓ **27 January in Brussels: Presentation of our Action in the Social Dialogue of the DG EMPL** to the social partners of risk professions
- ✓ **7-8 April in Bern, Switzerland: StanDerm Workshop** “Tackling challenges of occupational skin diseases (OSD) in Europe”, **followed by a Management Committee meeting.** The programme foresees a status report of all working groups, raising awareness activities, a Website update, keynote lecture on recent highlights with regard to protective creams and a panel discussion on occupational skin cancer. The official eCOST invitation, draft programme and further detailed information have recently been sent out to you.
- ✓ **24 June 2014, Barcelona, Spain:** One-day workshop on “The aetiology and prevention of occupational contact dermatitis: new European approaches” with abstract-driven sessions. This event will take place at the occasion of the European Society of Contact Dermatitis (ESCD), 25-28 June in Barcelona, Spain. The Call for papers (max 240 words; \*.docx file) is open until **31 March 2014**. Please send your abstract with your contact details to: pweinert(at)uos.de. Please be advised to arrange your booking for ESCD accordingly.
- ✓ **6-7 October 2014, Amsterdam, Netherlands:** **Action** workshop on “UV-Dosimetry” with international experts, including abstract-driven sessions at the occasion of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congress of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), (8-12 October) in Amsterdam. A call for papers (max 240 words) and further planning will be commonly discussed in Bern
- ✓ **Management Committee meeting: 7 October 2014, Amsterdam, Netherlands**

We look forward to a continuing fruitful cooperation with all of you.

Best wishes,

*Swen Malte John*

Swen Malte John, chair  
COST TD 1206 (StanDerm)



*Sanja Kezic*

Sanja Kezic, co-chair  
COST TD 1206 (StanDerm)