

Dear colleagues,

We are more than half-way through StandDerm's lifespan and can proudly look back at important achievements. This is abundantly reflected in the mid-term progress report submitted to the COST rapporteur in December. In a *nutshell*:

- ✓ Over 140 experts from 31 countries – Montenegro was just approved
- ✓ Two IPC countries: South Africa and Argentina
- ✓ StandDerm homepage <http://www.standerm.eu/standerm/standerm-news.html>, regularly updated
- ✓ 24 STSM <http://www.standerm.eu/short-term-scientific-missions.html>
- ✓ Two training schools <http://www.standerm.eu/training-schools.html>
- ✓ Four workshops and two scientific seminars <http://www.standerm.eu/events.html>
- ✓ Five working groups and one subgroup on UV-induced skin cancer <http://www.standerm.eu/working-groups.html>
- ✓ At least five surveys to gather new data on different aspects of OSD, including OSC
- ✓ Eight spin off projects resulting from StandDerm's network
- ✓ At least 26 publications <http://www.standerm.eu/publications.html>
- ✓ Guidelines (e.g. patch test rubber gloves) and different series (e.g. hair cosmetics, rubber gloves) – some of which finalized, others still in progress
- ✓ At least, 10 awareness raising and StandDerm expert-driven events at the EU Parliament, EU-OSHA, DG EMPL, sectoral social dialogue, WHO, national Congresses.
- ✓ One statement to the CLH public consultation related to the classification of MCIT/MIT
- ✓ Submission of two proposals to HORIZON 2020 PHC 4 and PHC 6, yet unfortunately rejected

The above is just a selection of our activities to demonstrate that concerted action can push things forward. This will no doubt spur us to continue efforts in achieving further meaningful results. Let us now have a preview on some milestones for the year ahead:

4th International Strategy Conference on Occupational Safety and Health (21-24 March 2016) Dresden <http://www.dguv.de/isc/index.jsp>: This event, hosted by the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) and organized with ILO, WHO, ISSA, ICOH and other national and international key OSH partners, will be taking a closer look at the top trends in what is currently being discussed in occupational safety and health. The Action chair has been invited to address the challenges of occupational skin cancer. Registration for the Conference is possible online only.

5th Skin cancer awareness Day (5-6 April 2016), Brussels: This will be the fifth year that a series of events will take place in Brussels to raise awareness of skin cancers among European decision-makers and other stakeholders. For StandDerm, this is a unique platform to bring forward its concerns with regard to a lacking comprehensive legislative framework to protect outdoor workers effectively and in improving prevention measures.

3rd Training School (31 August – 3 September 2016), Modena: Occupational skin cancer will be the focus of this third and last training school organized by StandDerm. With a mixture of lectures and practical work, participants will acquire more in-depth knowledge into the diagnostics and prevention of OSC. Information on the application procedure will be posted on our website in February 2016. Separate information will be disseminated soon.

Core group meeting: For strategic planning reasons (last grant year), it is envisaged to hold a core group meeting on Saturday, 3 September 2016 in Modena, Italy. *ALL working group chairs* will be requested to attend.

StanDerm workshop (12-14 October 2016), followed by a Management Committee meeting (14 October 2016), Krakow: Our next workshop is scheduled to take place from 12-14 October 2016 in Krakow. It is envisaged to organize one full day of separate working group meetings as no further meetings of the groups are planned afterwards.

However, until then, all WG will continue working on their work plan and meet according to the 2016 table below:

WG 1	Aetiology and susceptibility	Hamburg	22/02/2016
WG 2	Development of common European standards	Barcelona	03/03/2016
WG 3/ Sub- group	European intervention studies	Bucharest	15-17/02/2016 (tbc)
	UV skin cancer	Bucharest	
WG 4	Surveillance, risk assessment and allergens	Ljubljana	22/02/2016
WG 5	Knowledge dissemination – workshop with other WG representatives	Skopje	14/03/2016 (tbc)*

*date will possibly change!

For detailed information, please contact the chairs of the respective working groups <http://www.standerm.eu/working-groups.html> or pweinert@uos.de.

Extension of StanDerm website: A new section to include “resources and tools” is currently planned and will hopefully be available in early 2016. It will contain amongst others information on different series (hair cosmetics, rubber gloves), occupational cases, an inventory of tools for intervention studies and recommendations on disinfection of hands. This section thus not only aims at our network members, but on the medium-term, also at all interested dermatologists and occupational physicians.

Last but certainly not least, we urge all of you to continue searching for *new adequate Calls for funding* opportunities.

We want to take the opportunity to thank you ALL for your continuing support and commitment to bring forward our Action’s objectives. Without your expertise we would not be able to progress!

We look forward to a continuing fruitful cooperation and wish you a very happy and successful new year 2016.

Best wishes,



Swen Malte John, chair
COST TD 1206 (StanDerm)



Sanja Kezic, co-chair
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