

IMPaCT Consortium put its best forward to keep this EU H2020 Project running during 2020

The IMPaCT project Coordinators and Partners together with the European Commission REA/Project Officer have ensured all efforts forward to adjust our Twinning Project schedule to circumvent the limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

The project Consortium has shown a great level of perseverance and

willingness to bring this project forward, and the joint determination has allowed the organization of two online workshops, two online seminars, participation at several online conferences and outreach events.

IMPaCT first Early Career short-term Exchange

IMPaCT is happy to announce the project's first Early Career Exchange.

A PhD student from ITQB NOVA joined the Sarah Butcher Lab at our University of Helsinki partner in the beginning of September 2020.

During the 3 months exchange, the PhD student collaborated with Sarah's team and took advantage of their expertise in Single Particle analysis from Cryo-EM to further advance her PhD research project, dedicated to structural characterization of a particular macromolecular

complex.

IMPaCT Early Career Exchanges have several goals from interchange of expertise and methodologies, to encouragement of ITQB NOVA young researchers professional growth, by supporting the creation of robust networks with competitive and international Institutes and research teams.

This visit was supported by the IMPaCT project and by an [Instruct-ERIC](#) fellowship.



IMPaCT Cryo-EM Seminar with Helen Saibil, Birkbeck College London (UK)

On October 21st 2020, IMPaCT had the great pleasure of welcoming Helen Saibil as our expert guest speaker in the IMPaCT Cryo-EM seminar series.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Helen Saibil's visit was organized as virtual meetings and webinar. However, that has not impaired the great interaction between Prof. Saibil and the IMPaCT team members.

Several virtual meetings with the IMPaCT coordination and selected team members were organized, during which the IMPaCT team had the

opportunity to present the project mission and main activities, and the Cryo-EM network that is being established in Portugal. As well, selected PhD students and Post-docs had the opportunity to discuss their ongoing projects with Prof. Saibil.

Helen Saibil Webinar was on "[Erythrocyte membrane remodelling and destruction by malaria parasites](#)"

We would like to thank Helen Saibil for all the valuable inputs and advices shared with all our team members.



IMPaCT participates at the Online events "Encontro de Ciência '20" and the "European Researcher Night 2020"



The ITQB NOVA IMPaCT team members joined the Online event "[Encontro de Ciência '20](#)", organized by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT, the Portuguese Funding Agency for Science), on November 3-4th 2020. On the 27th of November, we joined the online "[European Researcher Night 2020](#)", organized by the Museu Nacional de História Natural e da Ciência, Universidade de Lisboa, a project funded by the European Commission under the

Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions.

Both events were access via their online platform, that had several activities targeting a lay audience from all ages. For these events, IMPaCT created a demonstration video, together with the ITQB NOVA Communication and Image Office, where we invited the participants to join a "[Molecular journey to the centre of a protein](#)" and to "[Secrets of a super bacteria](#)".

Online Single Particle Workshop – IMPaCT is very proud of its first full Online Workshop

IMPaCT organized the [Single Particle – sample preparation Workshop](#), as a virtual course, that took place from 2 to 5 November 2020. This 4-day workshop was carried out with the participation of 22 students and the support of 11 mentors, ranging from PIs, researchers, post-docs, PhD students, connecting from 6 different countries.

Our University of Helsinki (UH) partner made a great effort to plan a very interactive online workshop, with a mix of theoretical, demo-vlog videos made by the UH team, and practical sessions.

One of the main goals was to promote an interactive

remote learning environment, with real data analysis that requested decision making from each working group in order to outline the next steps.

During the workshop useful tools for planning Cryo-EM single particle analysis were provided, with discussion of the pros and cons of each approach, important steps to consider depending on our project goal and sample quality, and tips for troubleshooting.

We thank all mentors and guest speakers for their availability and effort given to this workshop. A special thanks to our University of Helsinki partner for putting together an incredible workshop.

