

IMPaCT starts a new seminar series – CryoEM & Biotech

One of the IMPaCT project goals is to promote a closer interface between Cryo-EM technologies in structural biology applied to fundamental research, industry and medicine.

We aim to highlight the collaborative potential of these complementary aspects of scientific research and broaden the horizons of our early career researchers beyond academia.

Thus, a series of [Online seminars - CryoEM & Biotech](#) - are being organised with renowned scientists from well-known international Pharma

and Biotech companies.

Two sessions have been organised to promote close contact between academic research and industry.

The first session took place on July 1st with the renowned expert speaker Dr. Ilaria Ferlenghi, head of Structural Microscopy from the GSK Vaccines. For the second session of the online seminar series, we welcomed Dr. Alexis Rohou, a Senior Scientist in the Structural Biology department of Genentech, on October 14th.



Mini-Symposium on Pharmaceutical Cryo-EM applications

Last September 20th, the IMPaCT project organised a [Mini-Symposium on Pharmaceutical Cryo-EM applications](#) that counted with the participation of 4 renowned Pharma and Biotech companies – Taiana Maia de Oliveira from AstraZeneca, Michael Saur from Astex Pharmaceuticals, Wim Voorhout from Thermo Fisher Scientific and Paul Thaw from SPT Labtech.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and limitations, the Mini-Symposium was organised in an online format. The event started with brief presentations from all the guest speakers and two round-table sessions. Despite the virtual format, the Coordination team believes there was a good interaction between the participants and the guest speakers. Furthermore, with this format, we were able to welcome participants worldwide.

In this online event, the project welcomed 46 participants from different seniorities and affiliations, from national and international research institutes, universities and pharmaceutical companies, such as iBET, BIAL, Sanofi, Pfizer and BluePharma. We also had the pleasure of welcoming participants from the ESRF and the ALBA synchrotron.

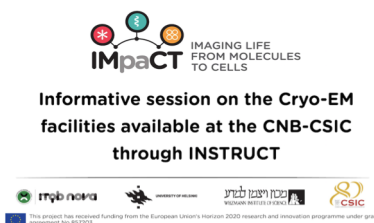
During the event, the participants interacted with our four guest speakers during the virtual round-table sessions, an informal setting where the different projects being developed in these companies and the advances in the Cryo-EM instruments were explored.

The event was considered a success by all the participants, and the coordination team hopes to be able to promote new interactions with industrial stakeholders further.

INSTRUCT Cryo-EM Services available at the CNB-CSIC - Informative online session

On November 22nd, 2021, the IMPaCT project and the [Centro Nacional de Biotecnología in Madrid of CSIC](#) (CNB-CSIC) partner organised an informative online session to present the CryoEM services available at their centre, from sample preparation to image processing.

This event was highly relevant to disseminating all the services available in Madrid to the Portuguese scientific community, through the [European Infrastructure INSTRUCT-ERIC](#) and fostering potential new collaborations with our Spanish project partner on emerging research projects using the Cryo-EM technology.



IMPaCT welcomed the first two Experts' visits to ITQB NOVA from the partners

Once the travel limitations were alleviated, the ITQB NOVA team welcomed two members of our partners. The first visit was from the UH partner Coordinator, Sarah Butcher, on July 3-8th and was focused on evaluating different scientific visits planned for the UH partner within the Single Particle Analysis. The second visit was from a CNB-CSIC team member, Marcos Gragera, from October 23-29th and was focused on the data processing analysis and the usage of the Scipion program.

These visits were crucial to the ITQB NOVA team as they allowed discussion of different Cryo-EM projects, and the contributions from our partners were essential to boost some ongoing projects and future collaborations. Several meetings were coordinated during our partners' visit with relevant stakeholders, such as the ITQB NOVA IT team and the Cryo-EM @PT network, to further foster cooperation in establishing the Cryo-EM infrastructure in Portugal.

IMPaCT team wishes you Happy Holidays

The IMPaCT team wishes you a [Happy Holiday season and a great 2022!](#)

Despite the continuous challenges, IMPaCT wants to celebrate our achievements during our project's 2nd year.

Thank you to all the project partners and members for their resilience and enthusiasm in bringing our EU H2020 Twinning project forward.

