

# HAPLO-iPS

**COST Action CA21151 (HAPLO-iPS)**

**Work Package 6 Training and Dissemination**

**Leader/Co-Leader: Rossitza Konakchieva, Dinko Mitrecic**

**Science Communication Coordinator: Georgi Nikolaev**

**Deliverable D6.1 (M15): Training programme and mentoring for young researchers, and trainee reports on training exchanges**

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| Action title             | Generation of human induced pluripotent stem cells from haplo-selected cord blood samples (HAPLO-iPS) |
| COST Action number       | CA21151   |
| Deliverable number       | D6.1  |
| Deliverable title        | Report on training program and training exchanges   |
| Due month                | M15   |
| Official website         | <a href="https://haplo-ips.eu/">https://haplo-ips.eu/</a>   |
| Related COST Action page | <a href="https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21151/">https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21151/</a>               |

## **MoU Objectives:**

The main objective of WG6 – Training and Dissemination is to promote knowledge exchange related to the generation of hiPSCs suitable for the manufacturing of cell therapy products. This objective is pursued by assessing currently available opportunities, identifying future tools and approaches that may add value, and formulating recommendations for further development.

The implementation of the project included the development of an exploitation and sustainability plan, including a valorization strategy. A dedicated Science and Communication Plan was developed to support the dissemination and communication objectives of the Action. In particular, it aimed to promote networking and facilitate knowledge exchange among participating teams and relevant stakeholders; to enhance public understanding, including that

of patient associations and organizations, regarding haplo-banking science, hiPSC generation, and their application in advanced therapies; and to increase awareness of the HAPLO iPS network as a leading European multidisciplinary expert platform addressing the scientific, ethical, and regulatory aspects of advanced cell therapy applications.

Target groups, communication tools, and distribution channels for dissemination and communication activities were clearly defined. A coherent visual identity for the project was established through the development of consistent graphical materials. Engagement with a broad audience was achieved through a dedicated website, promotional materials, and organized events.

**Training objectives:** Establishment of a training and exchange network for early-career researchers.

**Dissemination objectives:** Promotion of the project through the development of a website, active social media engagement, and participation in scientific meetings and international conferences.

## **TRAINING PROGRAM**

The Training School programme was launched under CA21151 and implemented during Grant Periods 1 and 2 (GP1 and GP2). The corresponding deliverable was submitted on time and presented at the 4th WG meeting in November 2024.

The programme aimed to establish and facilitate networking between experts, mentors, and early-career researchers motivated to develop competencies in hiPSC generation and characterization, immunological aspects, and data management. This was achieved through direct laboratory exchanges and hands-on training activities.

The Training Schools focused on key steps including donor selection, safe reprogramming strategies, quality control, and risk assessment to ensure efficient and safe translation from cord blood (CB) samples to hiPSC-based therapeutic applications. The programme combined theoretical instruction with practical laboratory training.

**Target audience:** Young clinicians and researchers, with particular encouragement for female participants and researchers from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC).

**Hosts:** Reference institutions and specialized laboratories.

**Delivered URL:** <https://haplo-ips.eu/activities/2nd-haplo-ips-training-school-basics-of-pharmaceutical-grade-manufacturing-of-ipsc-for-clinical-translation/>

## **TRAINING EXCHANGES**

Training exchanges were conducted by a number of scientists from the CA21151 network through Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs). STSM are aimed to enable researchers to conduct studies in another institution, learn new research techniques, use instruments or strategies which are not available in their own institution. This is an important instrument allowing the development of research skills by promoting existing and new networks, fostering collaboration and contributing to the scientific objectives of the Action.

### **Second call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)**

The second call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) covered the Grant Period from February 2024 until August 2024, and during this period four STSMs were completed. Guidelines for interested applicants were published on: <https://haplo-ips.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Short-Term-Scientific-Missions-Guidelines-v1.pdf>. Reports, videos and acknowledgment posts were published on the website <https://haplo-ips.eu/news/scientist-from-bulgaria-performed-stsm-at-idibell-under-haplo-ips/> and on LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cost-office/>

### **Third call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> STSM call covered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grant Period from February 2025 until August 2025, and during this period four STSMs were completed. Documents and all the details for interested applicants published on: <https://haplo-ips.eu/activities/third-call-for-stsms-of-haplo-ips-cost-action-opened/>. Reports, videos and acknowledgment posts were published on the website <https://haplo-ips.eu/news/> and

<https://haplo-ips.eu/activities/young-researcher-from-karadeniz-technical-university-completed-stsm-at-oakland-university-michigan-usa/>

<https://haplo-ips.eu/activities/post-doc-from-idibell-completed-stsm-at-ibet-portugal/>

<https://haplo-ips.eu/activities/stsm-performed-by-young-researcher-from-idibell-at-the-university-of-sheffield/>

### **Fourth call for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) – not completed**

The call covers the 4<sup>th</sup> Grant Period from November 2025 until August 2026. Application Period: 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025– 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026. One applicant received approval

**A dedicated Young Researchers (YR) Group** was established under the Haplo-iPS COST Action 21151 that is intended to play a pivotal role in fostering integration across the various project Working Groups (WGs) and contribute to the success of the HAPLO-iPS project.

The group offers an engaging platform for early-career scientists to collaborate, receive mentorship, and develop essential skills, empowering them to actively contribute to the project's objectives. Young researchers gain invaluable opportunities to connect with leading experts, access state-of-the-art resources, and participate in specialized training programs, advancing their knowledge in human induced pluripotent stem cell (hiPSC) technologies. Furthermore, this group will serve as a key driver for disseminating excellence, particularly in underrepresented research regions, promoting inclusivity and the exchange of knowledge throughout the network. Through this initiative, the next generation of researchers will be well-equipped to advance hiPSC-derived cell-based therapies and strengthen Europe's leadership in regenerative medicine. The leaders of the YRG, Leonardo Martin and Silvia Selvitella have also become members of the Core Group of Haplo-iPS.

<https://haplo-ips.eu/news/a-dedicated-young-researchers-group-established-under-cost-action-21151-haplo-ips/>