

# Report on the implementation of Virtual Networking Support<sup>1</sup>

Action number: CA18117

Grantee name: Jean Calleja Agius

## **Virtual Networking Support Details:**

Title: VNS strategy for GYNOCARE 2022

Start date: 30th March 2022 till 30th October 2022

## **Reference to the Action strategy on virtual and hybrid networking (MC approved)**

Specify URL below if Action strategy on virtual networking is published online (e.g. Action web-site). If not public, upload the document on e-COST as a supporting document to this report.

Here is the URL for the GYNOCARE COST Action Strategy in Virtual Networking for this current grant period: <https://gynocare.net/uncategorized/new-call-for-virtual-mobility-grants-in-2022/>

I am also attaching the pdf of this GYNOCARE COST Action Strategy in Virtual Networking.

## **Description of Action benefits realised through virtual and hybrid networking activities**

Focus should be on:

- Progress towards the Action objectives and deliverables.
- Contribution to COST Strategy: how the VNS will contribute to promoting and spreading excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science, and empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators.

As VNS Manager, I promoted the uptake of the VM grants by the different members and participants of the GYNOCARE COST Action. I helped in the discussion both prior and during the actual VM period. VM grants were particularly important during this grant period especially in the initial half, where there were still uncertainties about travel restrictions, especially instigated due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

This VNS has contributed to promoting and spreading excellence, fostering interdisciplinary research for breakthrough science, and empowering and retaining young researchers and innovators. There were a total of 8 VM grants which were awarded, 5 of which were to researchers hailing from ITC countries. Thanks to these VMs, there is one paper which has been published in a high impact journal following a VM by Dr Rosa Drago Ferrante and members from the GYNOCARE COST Action and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), in USA (Reference: Drago-Ferrante R, Di Fiore R, Karouia F, Subbannayya Y, Das S, Aydogan Mathyk B, Arif S, Guevara-Cerdán AP, Seylani A, Galsinh AS, Kukulska W, Borg J, Suleiman S, Porterfield DM, Camera A, Christenson LK, Ronca AE, Steller JG,

<sup>1</sup> This report is submitted by the grantee to the Action MC for approval and for claiming payment of the awarded grant. The Grant Awarding Coordinator coordinates the evaluation of this report on behalf of the Action MC and instructs the GH for payment of the Grant.

Beheshti A, Calleja-Agius J. Extraterrestrial Gynecology: Could Spaceflight Increase the Risk of Developing Cancer in Female Astronauts? An Updated Review. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022 Jul 5;23(13):7465. doi: 10.3390/ijms23137465. PMID: 35806469; PMCID: PMC9267413.) There are also at least 3 more papers which have been drafted and will eventually be submitted for publication during the duration of this GYNOCARE COST Action.

### **Description of virtual and hybrid networking activities supported by the VNS**

Description of virtual and hybrid networking activities carried out by the VNS grantee in support to the COST Action to develop capacity in virtual and hybrid collaboration and networking and to increase Action impact and reach.

Here is a list of all the Virtual Mobility Grants that have been awarded during this current grant period:

1. Dr Rosa Drago Ferrante from Malta

Title of VM: Spaceflight and risk of Gynaecological Cancers, including Rare types

Duration of VM: 01/04/2022 till 30/05/2022

2. Dr Angel Yordanov from Bulgaria

Title of VM: Feasibility, regulations and sustainability of virtual biobanks in Eastern Europe

Duration of VM: 02/06/2022 till 28/07/2022

3. Prof Noya Galai from Israel

Title of VM: Virtual Biostatics Clinic

Duration of VM: 05/06/2022 till 26/09/2022

4. Dr Francesco Pegreffì from Italy

Title of VM: Telemedicine to Evaluate the Interplay Between Quality of Life and Sarcopenia in the Management of Rare Gynaecological Cancer

Duration of VM: 08/07/2022 till 30/09/2022

5. Prof Klejda Harasani from Albania

Title of VM: Compilation of a Clinical trial reference depository established (finalized and running) for rare gynecological cancers

Duration of VM: 08/07/2022 till 30/09/2022

6. Prof Yashwanth Subbannayya from Norway

Title of VM: Studying the potential effects of space flight on rare gynecological cancers using multi-omics approaches

Duration of VM: 01/08/2022 till 30/09/2022

7. Dr Vera Dimitrievska from North Macedonia

Title of VM: The creation of an online resource for training on pathology of rare gynaecological cancers

Duration of VM: 08/08/2022 till 01/10/2022

8. Dr Milan Paul Kubelac from Romania

Title of VM: Establishing a virtual repository of surgical trials in rare gynaecological cancers

Duration of VM 08/10/2022 till 26/10/2022

### **Other Activities performed in support to the Action**

Description of any other activities performed by the VNS grantee, if relevant.

In addition to the above outputs, I have facilitated and taken part in other virtual meetings and webinars, all related to the dissemination of the work done as part of GYNOCARE COST Action. These include:

- a satellite symposium organised between GYNOCARE COST Action, University of Bologna, the Associazione Nazionale di Tumori in Italy and the Macedonian Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists on the 19th September 2022 (see attached agenda)

- a webinar on Biobanking and the Role of Surgical Oncologist in Translational Research, organised by GYNOCARE COST Action members in collaboration with the European Society of Surgical Oncology (ESSO) and the ESSO Young Surgeons and Alumni Club (EYSAC) (link: <https://gynocare.net/uncategorized/european-society-of-surgical-oncology-webinar-on-biobanking/>)