



The Faculty of Medicine, Rijeka University, Croatia is currently at the mid-term point of a €1.8m project which is designed to enhance the visibility, capacity and competence of the faculty of medicine and create collaborations between Croatian scientists and the rest of the world.

# Rijeka's Innovative Leap to the Forefront of Medical Research

The idea was constructed with the hope of building on the faculty's current success within their preclinical groups whose focus is aimed mostly at cancer research and infectious diseases. The belief is they can achieve this by increasing collaborations within clinical departments and increasing capacities in translational medical research.

The project, named TransMedRi aims to improve dissemination of scientific research and results across the EU, raise the competitiveness of research in the region and contribute to the development of the European Research Area. The key objectives include increasing research infrastructure by procurement of new equipment, providing practical workshops and organising a range of guest lectures pivotal to the training for the young investigators and clinicians working within the facility.

Huge strides towards these objectives have already been made. For example; the faculty have already obtained much of the desired equipment such as a Bio-banking storage and tracking system, a real time PCR multiplex, a live cell imaging confocal microscope and a bioluminescence and fluorescence small animal imaging device.

Rijeka has employed around 50 staff members spread across 5 teams, some clinical and some preclinical. These include key collaborations with about 20 foreign scientists and students from around the world including Israel, Holland, UK, Denmark, Austria, Slovenia, Germany and America. They are using the latest developments and techniques to help train and prepare a younger breed of scientists to remain at Rijeka and continue the research following the projects conclusion. Project co-ordinator Bojan Polić claims

that the collaborative staffs are very happy and he hopes they will continue to work here and enhance the reputation and success of the institution.

"The collaborations are pivotal in many ways, the funding is vital to the project as funding here in Croatia is poor. Also, we need the collaborators to share their know-how and train our scientists abroad as well as develop research within our department here. All in all, we wouldn't be able to increase our research capacities and competitiveness without them." He said

Polic believes that the project already has visible results even at this stage. "Cooperation between groups has increased, people are talking and finding problems, applying for joint projects, this all shows progress. We have also published several papers which are either directly or indirectly a result of this project." He said.

The projected outcomes, Polic claims would be achieved if they have established Bio-banks and secured Bio-banks in the European network of Bio-banks which they are now in the process of doing.

And if they manage to create new group leaders to continue research and become respected scientists in the future.

The ultimate goal is to preserve the University of Rijeka as a strong, integrated, responsible and autonomous research university that will be able to cope with dynamic changes in the environment. The emphasis on building for the future is very apparent in this project and MEDRI are fully committed to securing a forward thinking and constructive facility by the time the project reaches an end and for the foreseeable future beyond that.



## At a glance

### Project Information

#### Project Title:

TransMedRi: Upgrading the capacities for research in translational medicine at the Faculty of Medicine University of Rijeka

#### Project Objective:

Upgrading the capacities for research in translational medicine at the Faculty of Medicine University of Rijeka by procurement of modern research equipment, training of researchers and collaboration with European medical research institutions.

#### Project Duration and Timing:

36 months, Jul 2010 to Jun 2013.

#### Project Funding:

EU FP7 (FP7-REGPOT-2010-5); 1.853 mil EUR

### Bojan Polić



Bojan Polić, MD, PhD; born in 1964, Rijeka, Croatia, earned his PhD in natural sciences and biomedicine. He is currently the regular professor and vice dean for research and PhD program at the Rijeka Faculty of Medicine

## Contact

### Main contact name:

Mario Pletikosa

Tel: +00 385 51 651 108

Email: mariop@medri.hr

Web: <http://transmedri.uniri.hr>

