

Welcome to Spain! Welcome to Madrid!, Welcome to CSIC! Welcome to the EMMA Cryopreservation Workshop!

Madrid, 7 May 2012

Dear Participant,

On behalf of the European Mouse Mutant Archive (EMMA) and the Organizing Committee of this EMMA cryopreservation Workshop, and under the current EU-funded project EMMAservice, it is my pleasure to warmly welcome you to Spain, to Madrid, to the CSIC, which will host this EMMA Cryopreservation Workshop on May 7-8, 2012.

You are at the main Campus of CSIC (*Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas*), the Spanish National Research Council. The CSIC is the largest public institution dedicated to research in Spain and the third largest in Europe. Belonging to the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness through the Secretary of State for Research, Development and Innovation, its main objective is to develop and promote research that will help bring about scientific and technological progress, and it is prepared to collaborate with Spanish and foreign entities in order to achieve this aim. The mission of CSIC is to foster, coordinate, develop and promote scientific and technological research, of a multidisciplinary nature, in order to contribute to advancing knowledge and economic, social and cultural development, as well as to train staff and advise public and private entities on this matter.

CSIC research is driven by its centers and institutes, which are spread across all the country, and its more than 15,000 staff, of whom more than 3,000 are staff researchers and about 3,000 are doctors and scientists who are still training. CSIC has 6% of all the staff dedicated to Research and Development in Spain, and they generate approximately 20% of all scientific production in the country. The CSIC has 136 centers and institutions, of which 128 are research institutions (75 wholly CSIC-run centers and 53 joint centers). One of these CSIC research centers is the National Center of Biotechnology, CNB, in Madrid, located at the Campus of the Autonomous University of Madrid in Cantoblanco, and hosting the Spanish node of the EMMA project, officially, since 2009.

At EMMA, we envisage this cryopreservation workshop as a forum to brainstorm and discuss in depth the latest technological advances in cryopreservation, including sperm and embryo cryopreservation, updated IVF methods and related techniques as ovary cryopreservation, laser-assisted and piezo-driven ICSI, transportation of frozen material and other technical and logistic challenges relevant to the operation of current mouse embryo/sperm archives. With this aim, we have invited an extraordinary group of experts in the cryopreservation field, along with delegates from all EMMA nodes and selected members of the International Society for Transgenic Technologies (ISTT), generously co-sponsoring this workshop.

I hope you will truly enjoy participating in this unique workshop on cryopreservation technologies and I also hope you will actively contribute to discussions throughout the meeting. Finally, I strongly recommend you spending some time sightseeing Madrid, its museums and its surrounding beautiful historical cities of Segovia and Toledo, worth visiting at least once in a lifetime.

With my best wishes for a fruitful and productive workshop,



Lluís Montoliu, PhD
CSIC Research Scientist
National Center of Biotechnology
Coordinator of the Spanish EMMA node

The European Mouse Mutant Archive (EMMA) in May 2012



EMMA is a non-profit repository for the collection, archiving (via cryopreservation) and distribution of relevant mutant strains essential for basic biomedical research. The laboratory mouse is the most important mammalian model for studying genetic and multi-factorial diseases in man. Thus the work of EMMA will play a crucial role in exploiting the tremendous potential benefits to human health presented by the current research in mammalian genetics.

The **EMMA network** (www.emmanet.org) is a partnership of several laboratories and other institutions throughout Europe. The current membership includes the CNR Campus "A. Buzzati-Traverso" in Monterotondo, Italy (core structure), the CNRS Centre de Distribution, de Typage et d'Archivage animal in Orleans, France, the MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit in Harwell, UK, the KI Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden, the FCG Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência in Oeiras, Portugal, the HMGU Institute of Experimental Genetics in Munich, Germany, the EMBL European Bioinformatics Institute in Hinxton, UK, the GIE-CERBM Institut Clinique de la Souris, Illkirch, France, the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Hinxton, UK, the CSIC Centro Nacional de Biotecnología in Madrid, Spain, the BSRC "Alexander Fleming" in Vari, Greece, the Institute of Molecular Genetics in Prague, Czech Republic, the UOULU Biocenter Oulu in Oulu, Finland and the VETMEDUNI Biomodels Austria in Vienna, Austria. The EMMA network is directed by Professor Martin Hrabé de Angelis who also heads the HMGU/IEG in Munich. To ensure the operation of such a large and international enterprise an effective management structure consisting of several components was implemented. EMMA is open for the incorporation of new members into the current network to share the increasing workload and guidelines for this process were established.

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