

Acronym of the project: SEPSDA

Contract number: SP22-CT-2004-003831

Title of the project: Sino-European Project on SARS Diagnostics and Antivirals

Executive summary

Objective :

SEPSDA brings together leading SARS researchers from Germany, Denmark, Poland, and China, who together have an excellent publication record on the molecular biology of the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV). Several of the existing anti-SARS drug leads as well as the first antibody-based diagnostic kit were created by members of SEPSDA. Participation of four leading laboratories in China brings SEPSDA in the unique position of having access to large compound libraries of Traditional Chinese Medicines.

It is expected that these joint activities by the SEPSDA groups, which so far have been the most successful in the world-wide efforts to rapidly generate structural information on SARS coronavirus proteins and in discovering lead compounds with antiviral activity, will create a much broader knowledge base on the structures of SARS coronavirus proteins which will then be used by the consortium to screen databases for potential inhibitors and design new ones. Within its structural genomics approach, SEPSDA will determine the structures of at least 10 additional proteins from SARS-CoV and will use them for proposing leads for anti-SARS drugs. Antibodies will be raised for antiviral and diagnostic purposes and new diagnostic kits will also be developed.

Summary description of project objectives

The general objective of the Sino-European Project on SARS Diagnostics and Antivirals (SEPSDA) is to carry out a complete analysis of the genome and the proteome, including the structural proteome, of the SARS coronavirus and to use the knowledge gained for the rational discovery of antiviral compounds as well as for the development of new, more specific diagnostics.

World wide web address: <http://www.sepsda.eu>

Project Coordinator:

Prof. Rolf Hilgenfeld

Institute of Biochemistry University of Luebeck Ratzeburger Allee 160 23538 Luebeck
Germany

Phone: +49-451-500-4060 Fax: +49-451-500-4068 E-mail: hilgenfeld@biochem.uni-luebeck.de

Partners involved:

University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark
BioInfoBank Institute, Poznan, Poland
EUROIMMUN, Medizinische Labordiagnostika AG,
Lübeck, Germany
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China
Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of
Sciences,
Shanghai, China
National Center for Clinical Laboratory, Beijing, China
Beijing Genomics Institute, Chinese Academy of Sciences,
Beijing,

Participant List

Partic. Role*	Partic. no.	Participant name	Participant short name	Country
CO	1	Institut für Biochemie, Universität zu Lübeck	IFBL	DE
CR	2	University of Aarhus	UAAR	DK
CR	3	BioInfoBank Institute, Polish Academy of Science, Poznan	BIB	PL
CR	4	Euroimmun AG, Lübeck	EUAG	DE
CR	5	Tsinghua University, Beijing	TLSB	CN
CR	6	Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Science, Shanghai	SIMM	CN
CR	7	National Center for Clinical Laboratory, Beijing	NCCL	CN
CR	8	Beijing Genomics Institute, Chinese Academy of Science	BGI	CN

*CO = Coordinator
CR = Contractor