

CATAFLU.OR: ORganoCATAlytic approaches towards easy synthesized, economical and high yielding TamiFLU derivatives



Topic

HEALTH 2007 – 2.3.3-8 (Influenza research in collaboration with Asian partners)

Funding Scheme

Collaborative Project (Specific international cooperation action)

Project coordinator

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna, Italy

Project Duration

April 2008 – March 2011



The CATAFLU.OR project is focused on achieving innovative, simple and straightforward synthetic routes to enhance the availability and supply of neuraminidase inhibitors that are able to kill influenza viruses.

Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (UNIBO)	IT	UNI
Comenius University	SK	UNI
University of Koeln	D	UNI
Sun Yat-sen University	CI	UNI
Hong Kong Polytechnic University	CI- Hong Kong	UNI
Helsinki yliopisto	FIN	UNI
Synkola, sro	SK	SME

SYNKOLA was established in 1990 as contract research laboratory. It specialises in custom synthesis and fine chemical intermediates and cooperates with renowned life science companies in Europe.

14 PhD chemists with long time international experience in the area of biologically active substances and chemical specialties are employed, holding more than 200 scientific publications and more than 150 patents.

Comment Dr. Julius Durmis, CEO Synkola: Concerning the fruitful cooperation between SMEs and academia we would like to underline our very good economic and creative impressions. Generally, there were no big problems for us although capital investment would be helpful. The common use of expensive equipment is very useful. Qualified staff is extremely important for future perspectives and we are interested in further collaborations.

INTERVIEW

How did you experience the project proposal phase?

Pier Giorgio Cozzi (UNIBO): "My participation in some FP6 projects was an important learning process, particularly on how to coordinate the activities of expert partners and focus them on one single project. I learned a lot from Professor Simon Woodward and Dr. Sophie Dezard, both coordinators of FP6 projects I participated in. However, the expertise and great effort of the EU project support group of the Research Office at the Bologna University (ARIC) (particularly Dr. Verdiana Bandini) were indispensable for a successful story. This contribution was very helpful in both the submission and the negotiation phase. As our action concerns new organocatalytic strategies, the support of an SME with a great expertise in the area of synthetic organic chemistry was a must."

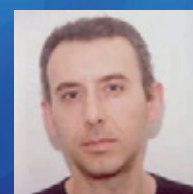
How did you experience the negotiation phase?

Pier Giorgio Cozzi: The project referees and the Scientific Officer of the European Commission expressed only a few concerns, in particular about IPR issues: we modified our proposal accordingly, considering all remarks.

The budget was adjusted too, thanks to the discussion among all partners and their prompt collaboration. Also for this problem the support by ARIC helped us saving a lot of time.

Do you have any suggestions for other SMEs/Academia that would like to get involved in such projects?

Pier Giorgio Cozzi: look carefully for open calls and read them accurately. Eventually, an interesting possibility can be found after a very thorough examination. Consider potential partners in new accession countries, especially SMEs. Involve a management office of the University for the non-scientific parts of the project.



Prof. Pier Giorgio Cozzi