

# WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

## About IDEAS

Drug development is a long and costly process which suffers from the major shortcoming that frequently failure is often only determined during the final stage. Advanced statistical methods for study design, evaluation and analysis, employed already at the early phases of drug development, have a great potential to increase the efficiency of the development process.

IDEAS is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Initial Training Network, co-ordinated by Lancaster University, which is training 14 early stage researchers (ESRs) in medical statistics. A tailored programme includes specific training on quantitative methods for early drug development and generic skills for statisticians. The project's multi-national, trans-sectoral approach allows students to gain experience in both academia and industry through joint supervision and a secondment scheme to partner institutions in the network.

## Objectives

- Train early-stage researchers in state of the art methods for designing, evaluating and analysing early phase studies.
- Develop novel methodology for early phase studies through individually supervised, collaborative research projects.
- Provide an international, collaborative environment in which the academic research experience is paired with the challenges of undertaking drug development within the private sector.
- Raise awareness about cutting edge methods for designing and analysing early phase studies among trialists and clinicians alike.

## Training Activities

- Individually supervised research projects.
- Transnational, cross-sectorial secondment opportunities.
- Network-wide training events.
- Individual training activities.

## Network-wide training events

- A week long kick-off event (Vienna).
- Three week-long Summer Schools (Lancaster, Turin, Basel).
- E-Learning courses in statistical methodology.
- A Think Tank workshop (Traunkirchen, Austria).
- Regular ESR-led Surgery Sessions.

## Research Projects

1. Dose finding for combination trials with many treatments.
2. Pooling information on PFS and OS in multi-arm trials.
3. Using pre-clinical data to establish a safe dose in first-in-men studies.
4. Developing a biomarker score to identify a subgroup of responders.
5. The impact of data and safety monitoring board decisions
6. Optimal designs and analysis methods for Biosimilars.
7. Subgroup Analyses in Early Phase Clinical Trials.
8. Innovative designs for combination of existing therapies.
9. M&S for the early development of a modified administration route.
10. Bias and precision in early phase adaptive studies.
11. Interval estimation for dose-finding studies.
12. Statistical methods for phase I/II trials of molecularly targeted agents.
13. Statistical aspects of animal to human translation.
14. Detecting pharmacodynamic drug-drug interactions.

## The IDEAS Network



## Dissemination Workshop

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018,  
Basel, Switzerland

[http://www.ideas-itn.eu/  
dissemination-workshop/](http://www.ideas-itn.eu/dissemination-workshop/)

**REGISTER NOW - FREE PARTICIPATION!**

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