

## Achievements and activities of EIBIR`s cell therapy project ENCITE

After just a year since the official start of the project ENCITE, which is coordinated by EIBIR, scientific and educational activities of the consortium are in full swing.

### ENCITE presents first project results

The project ENCITE - European Network for Cell Imaging and Tracking Expertise aims to develop and test new imaging methods and biomarkers to get a comprehensive picture of cell fate and the reaction of the immune system and to ultimately improve and further develop cell therapy.

Based on the fruitful cooperation of ENCITE`s 29 partner institutions and their long standing expertise in cell imaging, first promising results were obtained in the first project year.

Major findings are shown as examples and relate to ENCITE`s five subprojects.

- *Novel Imaging Technologies:* MR imaging methods for cell tracking based on iron oxides were successfully implemented and datasets for image post-processing were generated.
- *Novel Imaging Reporter Probes:* major classes of MRI contrast agents were successfully synthesized.
- *Novel Tools for Cell Labelling & Cell Fate Imaging:* initial experiments indicated that membrane incorporated porphyrins induced the endosomal escape of contrast media.
- In terms of *Pre Clinical Validation* promising results related to neurological, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal diseases and diabetes were obtained.
- Regarding the *Translation towards Clinical Applications* the main results refer to cancer and diabetes.

According to the initial findings the ENCITE consortium is confident to be able to provide novel imaging technologies and post-processing tools for more efficient diagnosis, research and monitoring in the field of cell therapy, to provide highly sensitive agents and procedures for an efficient labelling of cells, to contribute to the better understanding of the fate of transplanted cells and how cell-based therapies provide therapeutic benefit.

References for original articles published in the framework of ENCITE are available at:

[www.encite.org](http://www.encite.org)

Please address any queries to [office@eibir.org](mailto:office@eibir.org).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> ENCITE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP-Registration deadline extended until April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010

The 2<sup>nd</sup> ENCITE Educational Workshop on cell imaging is envisaged for **May 18-19, 2010 in Mons/Belgium**, within the framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> Bi-Annual Conference on Contrast Agents and Multimodal Molecular Imaging!

The programme will be designed and held by the ENCITE consortium and will include progress reports of the project as well as other major aspects and latest advances in the field of cell imaging and tracking. The workshop is open to radiologists, medical scientists, physicists, biologists, technicians and PhD students, with expertise in MR, optical imaging probe development or related fields.

Take the opportunity to engage in inspiring discussions and exchange experiences in an interdisciplinary and international environment! Attendance is free of charge; pre-registration required.

For more information, please visit: [www.encite.org](http://www.encite.org) or contact [office@eibir.org](mailto:office@eibir.org).

