



B-SMART
Brain-Specific, Modular and
Active RNA Therapeutics



2nd Edition of the B-SMART newsletter

An eventful first year of B-SMART has already come to an end and we would like to share our impressions of the last months and give you a heads up of what's to come in the next months. The second edition of our E-Newsletter includes information on first results of the project and exciting dissemination activities, as well as upcoming events and news from our team. Enjoy reading!

B-SMART Achieves First Results

The scientists succeeded in developing an effective nanoparticle with customisable characteristics which is now being tested in a preclinical trial. The nanoparticle development marks a crucial step on the way towards the overall research objective. [Read more.](#)

B-SMART News Corner

First RNA interference drug on the steps of FDA approval

Positive results in a clinical trial using patisiran, a RNA interference (RNAi) drug, illustrates that the B-SMART consortium is on the right track: Similar to the therapeutics addressed in B-SMART, patisiran is a therapeutic that silences a disease-causing protein in patients with hereditary amyloidosis (hATTR), and showed excellent result in a phase 3 clinical study. [Read more.](#)

Honors for female B-SMART entrepreneurs and scientists

Camilla Borghese, CEO of Istituto Biochimico Italiano G. Lorenzini, was awarded with the prestigious Marisa Bellisario prize in the category "Entrepreneurship". The Marisa Bellisario Foundation awards each year successful women in Italy who have distinguished themselves in their professional fields. [Read more.](#)

María José Alonso, professor at Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, was chosen among the 15 women in the Top of Honor on the list "Top 100 of the most influential women in Spain", published by the magazine *Mujeres y Cia.* [Read more.](#)

Prof. Alonso has also joined the US National Academy of Medicine as International Member. Admission to the Academy is considered as one of the highest honours in the fields of health and medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service. [Read more.](#)

New blood test to detect early signs of Alzheimer's

A team of Australian and Japanese scientists has developed a blood test to detect a toxic protein, amyloid beta, which is connected to Alzheimer's disease. First tests were able to identify the protein with 90% accuracy. [Read more.](#)

The B-SMART Consortium has met twice during the last year

The B-SMART consortium has gotten together at partner Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie in Ghent, Belgium, and at partner Malvern Instruments Ltd in Malvern, UK, over the last couple of

months. Partners were already exchanging first results and discussing further steps. Both meetings were successful and brought the consortium closer together as a team. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).



B-SMART Media Corner

B-SMART has been active in disseminating the project, its goals and its research to different audiences through movie clips. Partner Universidade de Santiago de Compostela has produced an information tutorial about their work in B-SMART, which was presented to PhD students and PostDocs at a local conference and which you can now watch [here](#).

The consortium has also produced their first animated video explaining the objective of B-SMART to a wide audience. You can find the video on the [B-SMART website](#) and on [YouTube](#).

Upcoming events

[ISEV 2018](#): Annual Meeting of the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles, May 2-6, 2018, Barcelona, Spain.

[ETPN 2018](#): 13th European Technology Platform Nanomedicine, May 28-30, 2018, Berlin, Germany.

Workshop disseminating B-SMART: Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy, June 20, 2018. More information on the [B-SMART website](#) soon.

[CRS 2018](#): 45th Annual Meeting & Exposition of the Controlled Release Society, July 22-24, 2018, New York, U.S.A.

If you have any questions regarding the B-SMART project or suggestions for our newsletter, feel free to get in touch! We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Your contact persons:

Project Coordinator

Prof. Dr Raymond Schiffelers
Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht
Phone: +31 63 761 0587

[Email](#)

Project Management

European Research and Project Office GmbH (Eurice)
Dr Silke von Sehlen
Phone: +49 681 9592 3377

[Email](#)

Internet:

Follow us on our project website www.b-smart-project.eu or on twitter [@BSMART_H2020](https://twitter.com/BSMART_H2020).



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