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**Materials on successful workshop accomplishment
including guidelines**

Deliverable D4.1

VirA project No. 952376

Morphological studies in autoimmune disease research

Project funded by the European Union		
Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other program participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Executive summary

A two-day workshop “Morphological studies in autoimmune disease research” was held on October 13th and 14th 2022 at the Institute of Microbiology and Virology, Rīga Stradiņš University, Riga, Latvia, and remotely via the *Zoom* platform.

There were lectures given by outstanding professors recognized in the field of autoimmune diseases’ research, both from the partner institutions (Professor Roberta Rizzo and Professor Daria Bortolotti from the University of Ferrara in Italy, Professor Marion Schneider and Johannes Wieland from Ulm University in Germany, Professor Yehuda Shoenfeld, Professor Miri Blank, Doctor of Medicine Boris Gilburd, and Doctor of Medicine Halpert Gilad from Sheba Medical Centre in Israel) and local representatives (Associate Professor Aleksejs Derovs, Assistant Professor Elga Bataraga, Doctor of Medicine Mārtiņš Kapickis, Doctor of Medicine Šimons Svirskis, and Doctor of Engineering Science Uldis Doniņš), as well as talented and enthusiastic young scientists, Ph.D. students (Maksims Čistjakovs, Liba Sokolovska, Nityanand Jain, Mihails Tarasovs, Jānis Mednieks, Vladimirs Naumovs, Lauma Ieviņa, Sofija Semenistaja, Silvia Beltrami, and Giovanna Schiuma) contributed to the scientific program of this workshop.

According to the scheduled task “4.3 Organization of a workshop, planned for months 22-24 on “Morphological studies in autoimmune disease research”” the planned number of participants was 20 stratified as follows: 14 from RSU, 6 – from highly experienced research institutions.

There were a total of 58 participants in the workshop, of which 41 were from RSU and 17 – were from highly experienced research institutions. The participants included both professors and

leading researchers (24 in total), young scientists, students and doctoral students (18 in total), as well as, researchers, medical practitioners, residents and other interested parties.

Collectively, the VirA coordinator (Rīga Stradiņš University) presented 13 reports, while the VirA partners presented 4 reports (Department of Chemical, Pharmaceutical, and Agricultural Sciences, University of Ferrara, Italy), 2 reports (Division of Experimental Anaesthesiology, Ulm University Hospital, Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Ulm, Germany), and 4 reports (Medical Research Infrastructure Development and Health Services fund by the Sheba Medical Centre, Israel). Specifically, presenters from the Department of Chemical, Pharmaceutical, and Agricultural Sciences, University of Ferrara, Italy delivered 4 lectures, of which 2 were delivered in person, and 2 were delivered remotely. VirA partners from the Division of Experimental Anaesthesiology, Ulm University Hospital, Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Ulm, Germany remotely delivered 2 lectures. Finally, partners from Medical Research Infrastructure Development and Health Services fund by the Sheba Medical Centre, Israel delivered 4 lectures, all of them remotely.

Additionally, the audience of the given workshop was represented as follows:
Latvia – 26 and Italy – 2 persons.

The presentations given were stratified as follows:

On the 1st day of the workshop (October 13th, 2022):

Session I: The role of infection in the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases

Session II: Shared knowledge and competence in exploring autoimmune diseases. Part I

The 1st day of the workshop was accomplished by an evening social event – a guided tour at the RSU Anatomy Museum and the exhibition ““Foetal Attraction”– an Intervention in Ceramic” by Paddy Hartley.

On the 2nd day of the workshop (October 14th, 2022):

Session III: Diagnostics and therapies for autoimmune diseases

Session IV: Shared knowledge and competence in exploring autoimmune diseases. Part II

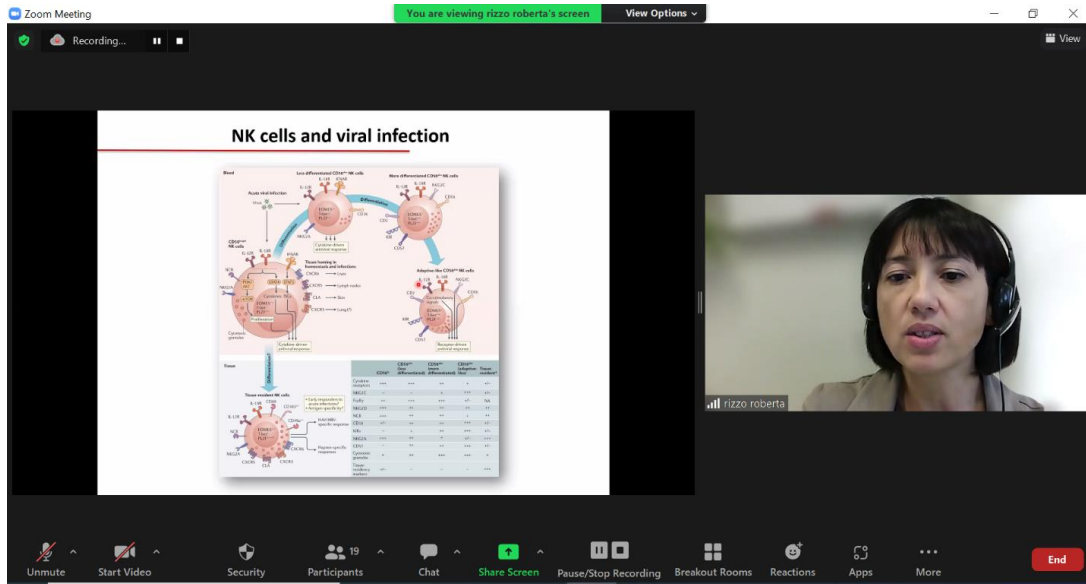
The agenda of the workshop and a list of attendees can be found in Annex 1 and Annex 2, respectively.

The workshop “Morphological studies in autoimmune diseases’ research” accentuated the role of infection in the pathogenesis of various autoimmune diseases (Session I), and provided an overview of the modern diagnostics tools and therapies used to cure various autoimmune diseases (rheumatic, joint, and fibromyalgic, GI tract, cutaneous, nervous) (Session III). Two local specialists shared their knowledge in the field of artificial intelligence applications in biomedicine and healthcare and deciphered modern data processing tools and described algorithms for morphology data analysis.

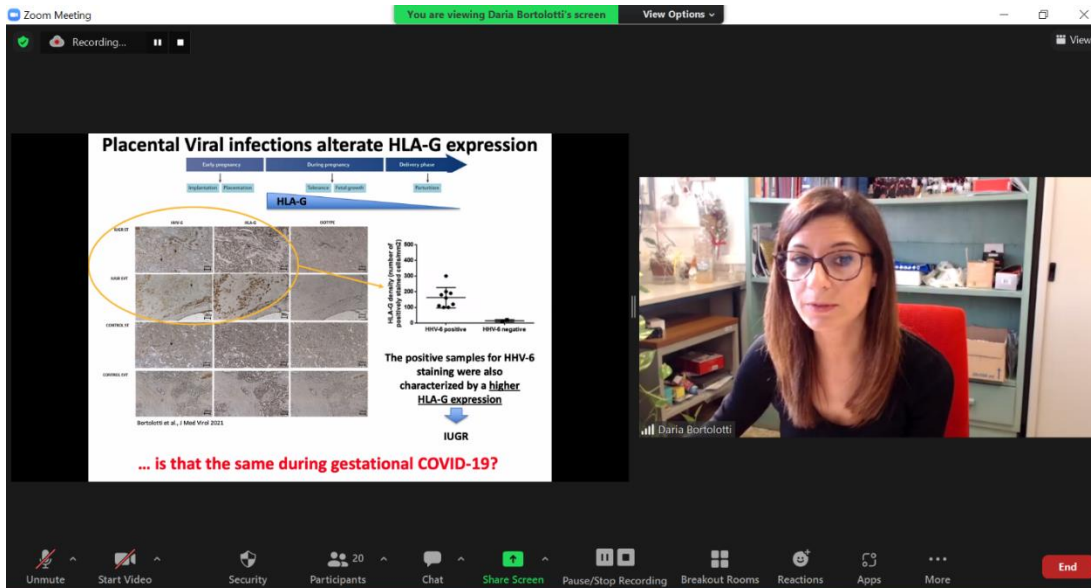
Overview of the presentations

The most spectacular minutes of the workshop were memorized by captures both on the site and virtual and are now presented as photo images as follows.

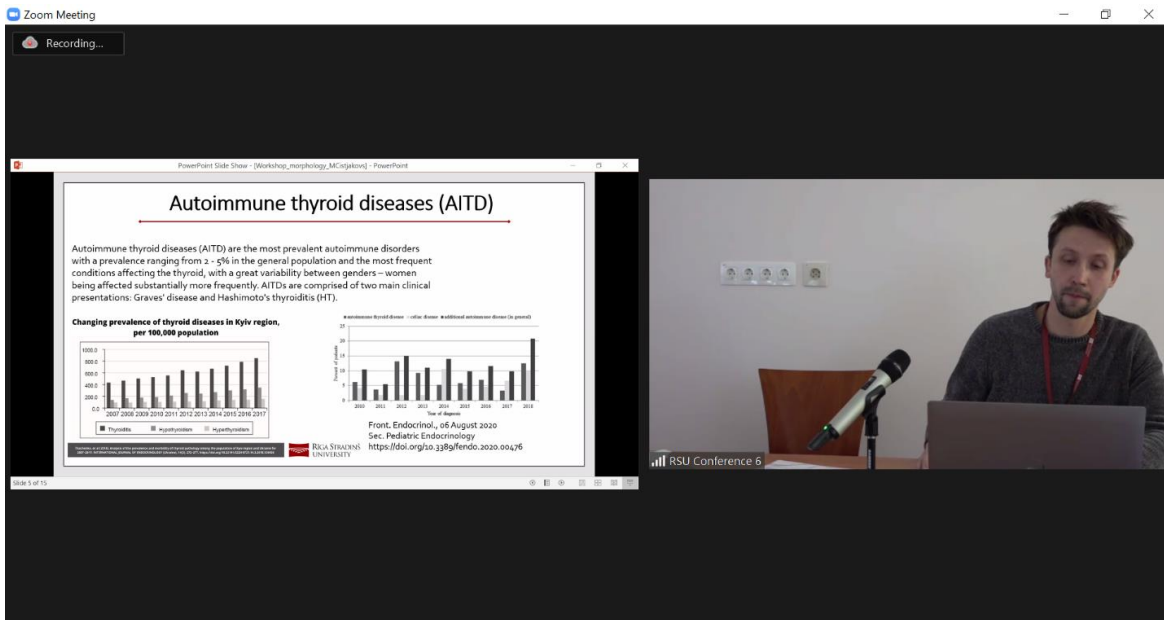
1st day of the Workshop



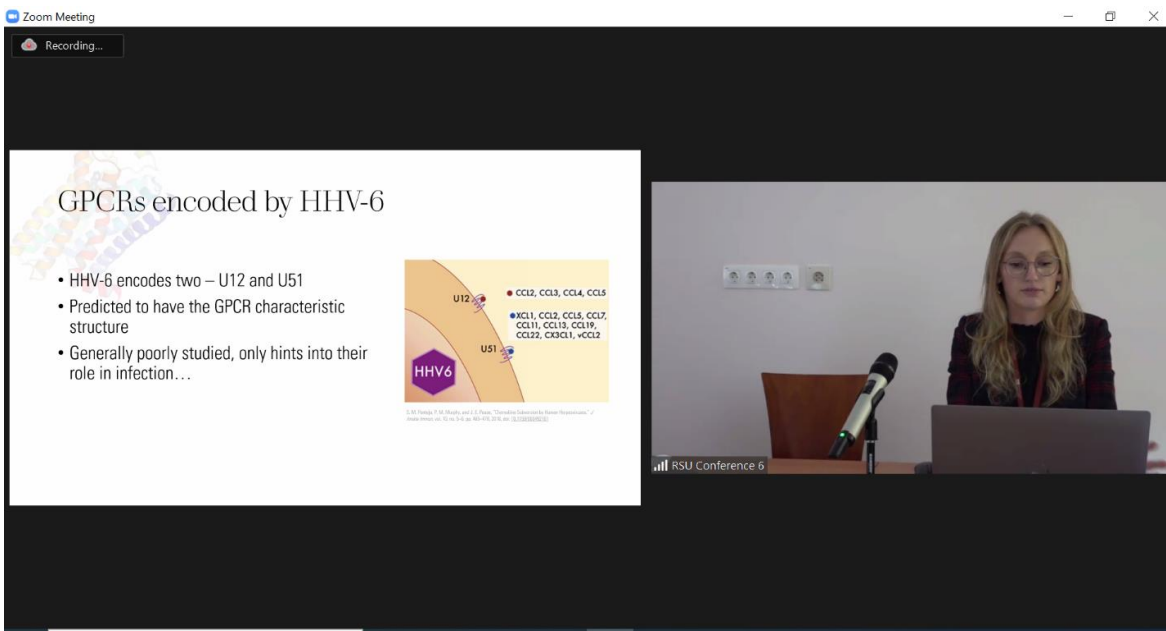
Professor Roberta Rizzo delivered a presentation on the role of HLA-G molecules in SARS-CoV-2 infection.



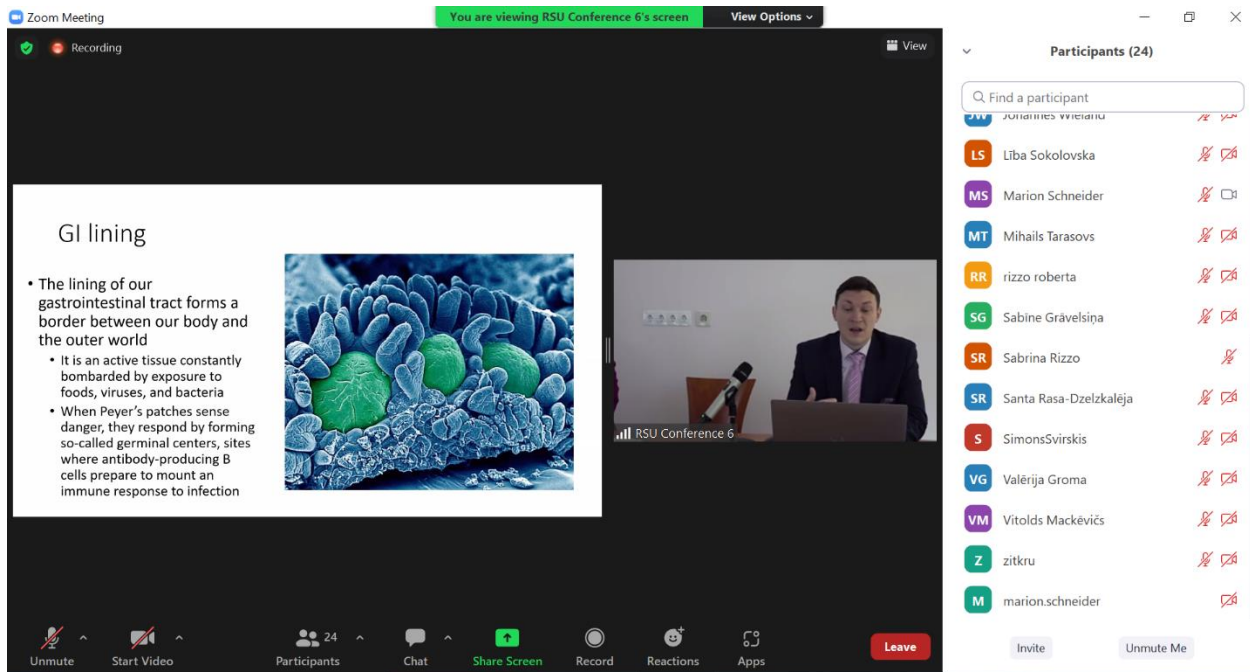
Assistant Professor Daria Bortolotti delivered a presentation on the alteration that develops in placenta during SARS-CoV-2 gestational infection.



Ph.D. candidate **Maksims Čistjakovs** presented his data on viruses contributing to the development of autoimmune thyroiditis.

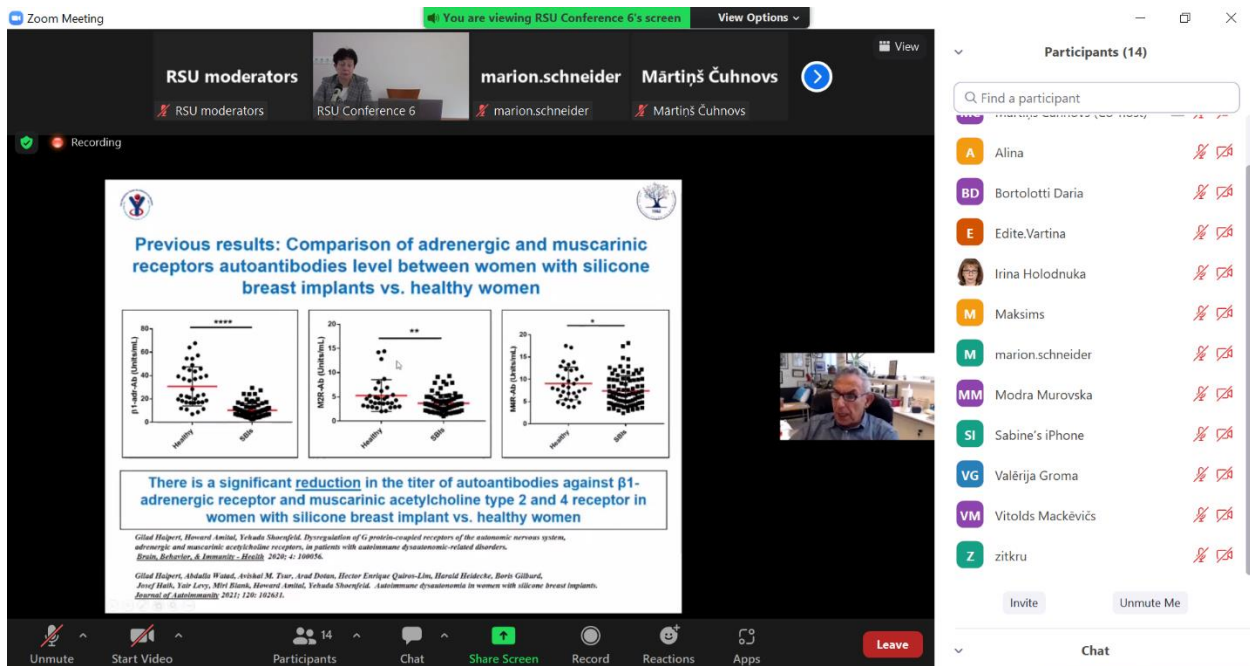


Ph.D. student **Liba Sokolovska** presented her data on how the GPCRs encoded by HHV-6 may contribute to autoimmunity.

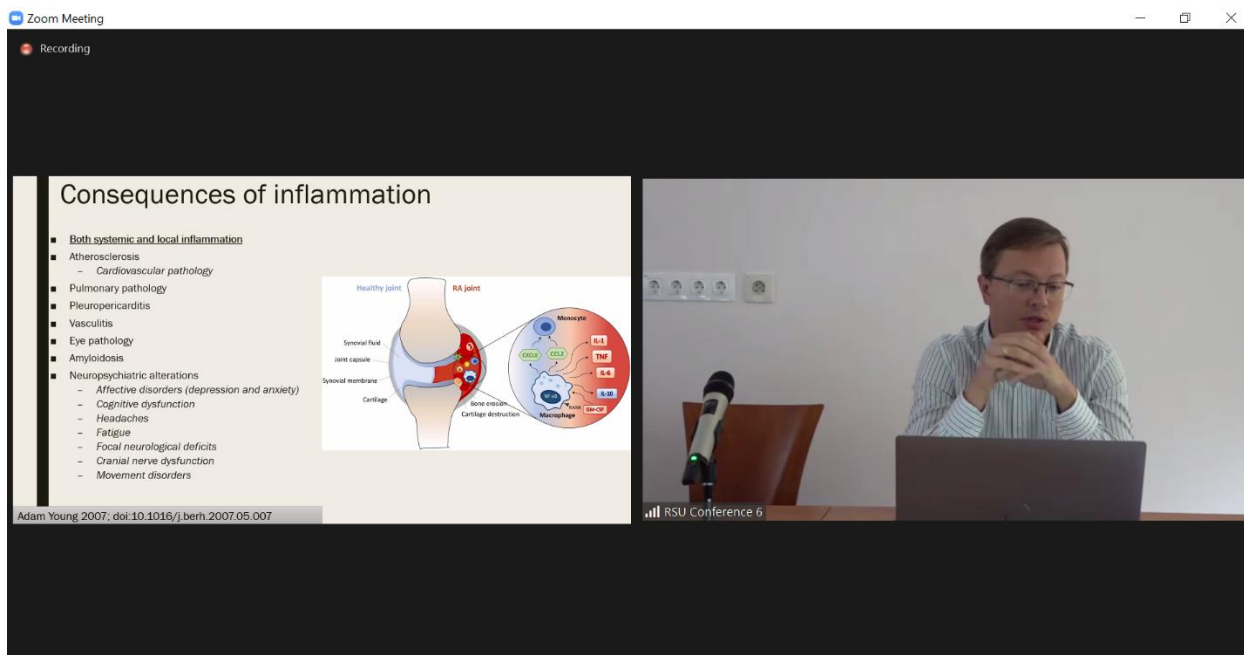


Associate Professor Aleksejs Derovs deciphered the possibilities and spectra of data acquisition exploring autoimmune diseases of the GI tract.

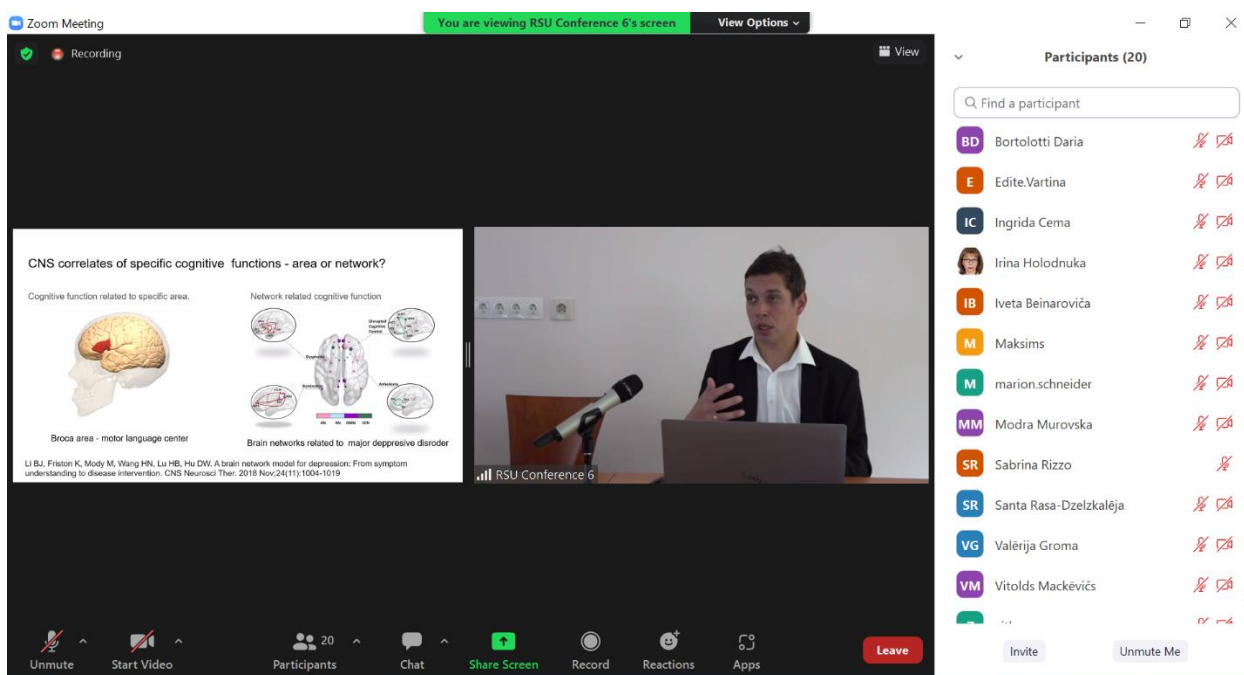
2nd day of the Workshop



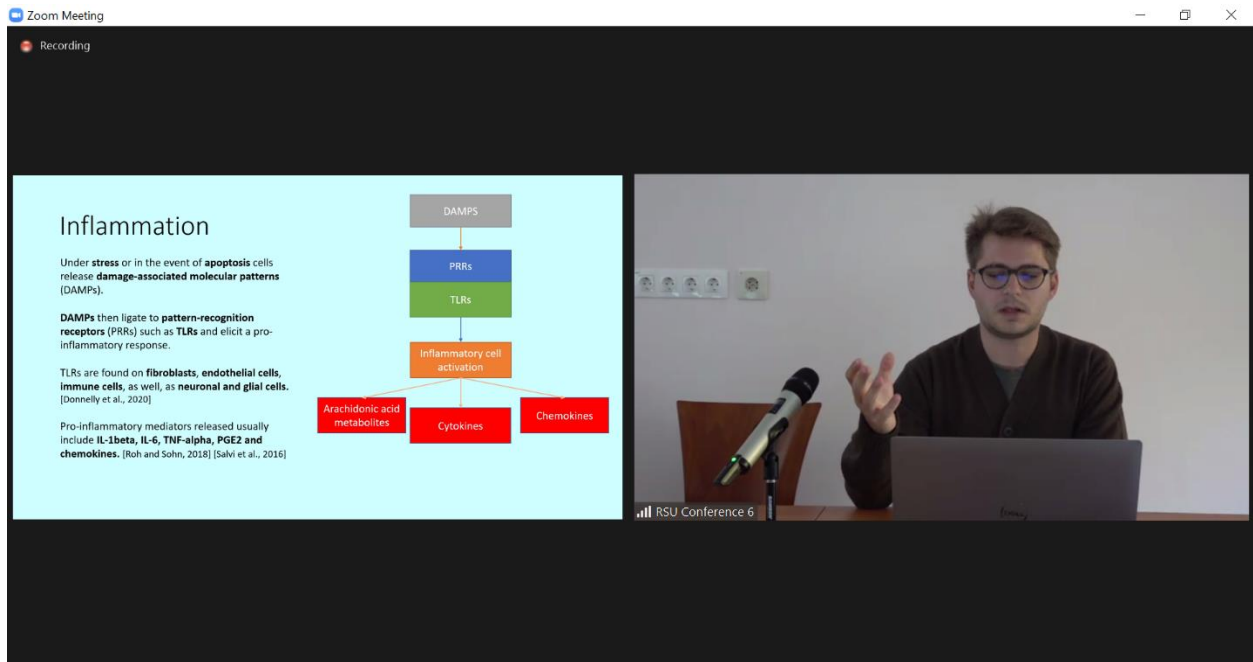
Professor Yehuda Shoefeld one of the most recognized experts in the field accentuated the role of impaired balance of the autonomic nervous system in women with silicone breast implants.



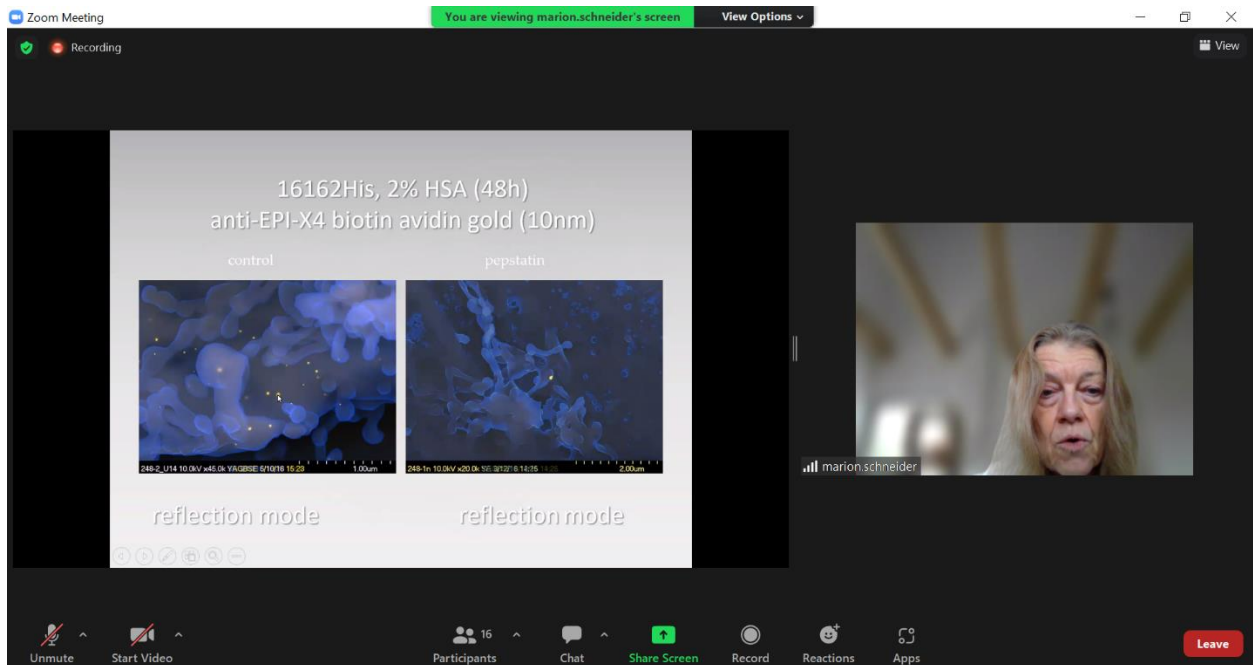
Ph.D. candidate Dr Mihails Tarasovs, a certified rheumatologist told about the assessment of cognitive dysfunction in patients with rheumatic diseases.



Ph.D. candidate Dr Jānis Mednieks, a certified neurologist shared the results of his research on advanced MRI analysis of the brain in rheumatic patients.



Dr Vladimirs Naumovs delivered a presentation on body responses to inflammation: tissue mediators and signalling to the brain.



Professor Marion Schneider delivered a lecture on the contribution of M1 and M2 macrophages to HIV infection explored using electron microscopy and described intimate details of tissue preparation for ultrastructural analysis.

Zoom Meeting You are viewing RSU Conference 6's screen View Options

Recording

What is Fibromyalgia

Fibromyalgia is a chronic primary pain condition associated with autonomic symptoms. (1)

Most common symptoms are:

- Paresthesia in limbs
- Fatigue
- Sleep disturbances
- Cognitive dysfunction ("fibro-fog")
- Memory deficit
- Depression
- Anxiety (1,2)

1. Haker W, Christensen M.A. Facts and myths pertaining to fibromyalgia. *Osteoporos Int*. 2010;20:14-42.
 2. Seal P, Kelly S, Gao Y, Woodroffe G, Brown F. Fibromyalgia: an update on clinical characteristics, pathophysiology, and treatment. *Int J Spine Rehabil Res Neurobiol*. 2010; 4: 495-60.

Unmute Start Video Participants 17 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps Leave

Lauma Ieviņa described the structural changes in the peripheral nervous system in fibromyalgia.

Zoom Meeting You are viewing RSU Conference 6's screen View Options

Recording

INTRAUTERINE GROWTH RESTRICTION (IUGR)

IUGR = inability of the fetus to reach its prenatal growth potential and this condition manifests itself as deviation of fetal growth from the anthropometric reference values for a specific gestational period

Features

- Annual incidence of 23.8%
- Main cause of perinatal mortality and morbidity
- There are no definitive treatments for the disease

Factors risk

Presence of viral infections → HERPESVIRUS (HHV-6?)

Unmute Start Video Participants 17 Chat Share Screen Record Reactions Apps Leave

Silvia Beltrami told about intrauterine growth restriction confirmed in babies from women infected with HHV-6.

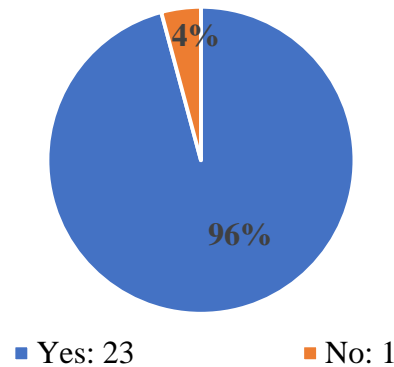
Feedback

Collectively, there were 58 participants, with 28 participants presented in person, and 30 presented remotely; feedback was provided by 24 participants (see Figure below). The average rating for the organized event was estimated as 4.71.

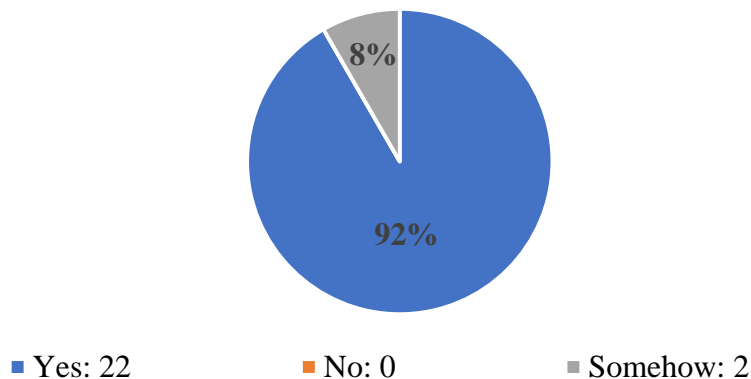
Feedback survey analysis showed that 96% of the participants (23 responders out of 24 participants) considered that the given workshop achieved the programme objectives (Figure that deciphers question No. 3).

Regarding knowledge and information gained from the participation at the event, and how much it met the participants' expectations 92% of the participants answered: "yes", while 8% – "somehow" (Figure that deciphers question No. 5).

3. Did the workshop achieve the programme objectives?

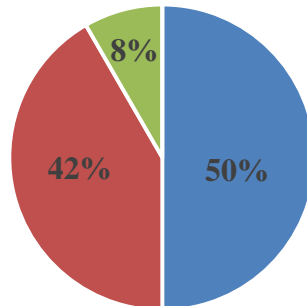


5. Knowledge and information gained from participation at this event. Met your expectations?



When asked whether the knowledge gained will be useful/applicable in future work, 50% of participants confirmed that "definitely" it will be useful, 42% – answered "mostly" used, and 8% provided an answer "somehow useful" (Figure that deciphers question No. 6).

6. Knowledge and information gained from participation at this event. Will be useful / applicable in my work?



■ Definitely: 12 ■ Mostly: 10 ■ Somehow: 2 ■ Not at all: 0

Additionally, one participant advised attaching a take-home message.

Dissemination of the workshop

LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/riga-stradins-university_eufunds-horizon2020-eucommission-activity-6981608400560222208-k8Jl?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop



Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=778280786563690&set=a.741424563582646&type=3&theater>



RSU Research Week
2022. gada 2. Oktobris · 🌐

Within the framework of the EU Research and Innovation Programme "Horizon 2020" project "Reducing networking gaps between Rīga Stradiņš University (RSU) and internationally leading counterparts in viral infection-induced autoimmunity research" (VirA) the RSU Institute of Microbiology and Virology will be holding a workshop "Morphological studies in autoimmune disease research" on 13–14 October 2022.

More information: https://ej.uz/Workshop_13_14_October

#EUFunds #Horizon2020 #EUCommission #university #research #autoimmunedisease

Workshop
MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES IN
AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE RESEARCH
13–14 October 2022
Remotely via Zoom

The registration form is available on the RSU website.

RIGA STRADIŅŠ UNIVERSITY

VirA

7

3 dalījās

RSU lobby:



RSU webpage:

<https://www.rsu.lv/en/events/workshop-morphological-studies-autoimmune-disease-research>

Project's webpage:

<https://vira-twinning.eu/events/workshop-morphological-studies-autoimmune-disease-research>

Guidlines for WP4

Carefully analyze background information and identify the problem you plan to address and recognize the tools you plan to use to reduce the knowledge gaps.

Collect and analyze prepared and written by your partners, researchers from highly experienced research institutions laboratory write-ups, scientific articles, textbooks, and laboratory manual for background information about a topic related to autoimmune diseases.

Recognize a key staff involved in the project performance and represented by experienced researchers, well-known specialists in the fiels of autoimmune research and early career researchers to be fertilized.

Actively participate in the creation of joint articles, and learn from experts.

Ask the experts for a clear and detailed description of the methods and modern technologies used in their institutions and labs, and request an exchange visit and/or internship.

Conclusions

The two-day workshop on morphological studies in autoimmune disease research deepened understanding and proved that morphology is an appropriate tool for fundamental, translational, and clinical research on autoimmunity.

Morphology as a connecting element allows for addressing the broad spectrum of autoimmune diseases.

The seminar platform is a suitable way to reach the audience both local and international and present qualitative and effectively illustrated material of a morphological nature.



Workshop

MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE RESEARCH

Rīga Stradiņš University, Institute of Microbiology and Virology
5 Rātsupītes Street, Riga, Latvia and remotely via *Zoom* platform

13th and 14th October 2022

Work package 4 leader Professor Valērija Groma

AGENDA

Day/Date	Time GMT+3	Activity
Thursday, 13 October	9.00 – 10.00	Registration and welcome coffee
	10.00 – 10.15	Opening & Welcome Modra Murovska , MD, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., Project Coordinator, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Valērija Groma , MD, Ph.D., Prof., WP4 Leader, Institute of Anatomy and Anthropology, RSU, Latvia
	Session I	The role of infection in the pathogenesis of autoimmune disease
	10.15 – 10.45	Boris Gilburd , MD, Ph.D., Zabudowicz Center for Autoimmune Diseases, Sheba Medical Center, Tel HaShomer, Israel SARS-COV-2 infection and its persistence in the human body
	10.45 – 11.15	Roberta Rizzo , MD, Ph.D., Prof., Department of Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Sciences, University of Ferrara, Italy Role of HLA-G molecules in SARS-CoV-2 infection
	11.15 – 11.45	Daria Bortolotti , Ph.D., Asst. Prof., Department of Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Sciences, University of Ferrara, Italy Alteration during SARS-CoV-2 gestational infections
	11.45 – 12.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	12.00 – 12.30	Halpert Gilad , Ph.D., Leading Researcher, Department of Microbiology and Clinical Immunology, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel Improving drug delivery using extracellular vesicles for the management of autoimmune (and infection?) diseases
	12.30 – 12.45	Maksims Čistjakovs , Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Viruses and autoimmune thyroiditis

	12.45 – 13.00	Liba Sokolovska , Ph.D. student, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia GPCRs encoded by HHV-6 – possible role in autoimmunity
	13.00 – 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.00 – 14.15	Nityanand Jain , Undergraduate student, Institute of Anatomy and Anthropology, RSU, Latvia HHV-6-mediated immune cell differentiation in the brain
	14.15 – 14.45	Johannes Wieland , Researcher, Division Experimental Anesthesiology, Ulm University Hospital, Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Ulm, Germany STEM microscopy analysis of ZIKA virus infected glioblastoma cells
	Session II	Shared knowledge and competence in exploring autoimmune disease. Part I
	14.45 – 15.15	Aleksejs Derovs , MD, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof., Department of Internal Diseases, RSU, Latvia Possibilities and spectra of data acquisition exploring autoimmune diseases of the GI tract
	15.15 – 15.45	Miri Blank , Ph.D., Prof., Department of Microbiology and Clinical Immunology, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel Helminth product TPC modulate the innate immune recognition
	15.45 – 16.15	<i>Discussion, Q & A</i>
	16.15 – 17.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	17.00 – 18.00	Transfer to RSU Anatomy Museum, Kronvalda Boulevard 9, and tour at the Museum, <i>Exhibition “Foetal Attraction” – an Intervention in Ceramic by Paddy Hartley</i>

Day/Date	Time GMT+3	Activity
Friday, 14 October	9.00 – 9.30	Registration
	9.30 – 10.00	Yehuda Shoenfeld , Professor, Medical Research Infrastructure Development and Health Services fund by the Sheba Medical Center, Israel Autoimmune autonomic nervous system imbalance
	Session III	Diagnostics and therapies for autoimmune disease
	10.00 – 10.30	Elga Bataraga , MD, Ph.D., Asist. Prof., Department of Dermatology, RSU, Latvia Psoriasis – autoimmune pathogenic traits and current targeted treatments
	10.30 – 11.00	Mārtiņš Kapickis , MD, Ph.D., Latvian Microsurgery Center, Latvia Hand surgery in rheumatoid arthritis patients
	11.00 – 11.30	Mihails Tarasovs , Sertified rheumatologist, RSU, Latvia Assessment of cognitive dysfunction in patients with rheumatic disease

	11.30 – 12.00	Jānis Mednieks , Certified neurologist, RSU, Latvia Advanced MRI analysis of the brain in rheumatic patients
	12.00 – 12.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
	Session IV	Shared knowledge and competence in exploring autoimmune disease. Part II
	12.15 – 12.30	Vladimirs Naumovs , Psychiatry Resident, RSU, Latvia Body responses to inflammation: tissue mediators and signaling to the brain
	12.30 – 13.00	Uldis Doniņš , Dr.sc.ing., Head of the Unit, Information Systems Division, IT Department, RSU, Latvia Artificial intelligence applications in biomedicine and healthcare
	13.00 – 13.30	Šimons Svirskis , MD, Ph.D., Leading Researcher, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Modern data processing tools and algorithms for morphology data analysis
	13.30 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>
	14.30 – 15.00	Marion Schneider , PhD, Prof., Division Experimental Anesthesiology, Ulm University Hospital, Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, Ulm, Germany Contribution of M1 and M2 macrophages to HIV infection explored using electron microscopy
	15.00 – 15.15	Lauma Ieviņa , Master's Student, Institute of Microbiology and Virology, RSU, Latvia Structural changes in peripheral nervous system in fibromyalgia
	15.15 – 15.30	Sofija Semenistaja , Rheumatology Resident, Ph.D. student, RSU, Latvia Anatomy of joints in rheumatic disease and beyond
	15.30 – 15.45	Silvia Beltrami , Ph.D. student, Department of Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Sciences, University of Ferrara, Italy HHV-6 infection in IUGR
	15.45 – 16.00	Giovanna Schiuma , Ph.D. student, Department of Chemical, Pharmaceutical and Agricultural Sciences, University of Ferrara, Italy SARS-CoV-2 infection and coagulopathies
	16.00 – 16.30	<i>Discussion, Q & A</i>
	16.30 – 16.45	Closing remarks



Workshop

MORPHOLOGICAL STUDIES IN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE RESEARCH

Rīga Stradiņš University, Institute of Microbiology and Virology
5 Rātsupītes Street, Riga

13th and 14th October 2022

List of participants

No.	Surname, name	Organisation	Position	Contact information
<i>In person</i>				
1.	Groma Valērija	RSU AAI	Professor, leading researcher	Valerija.Groma@rsu.lv
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18.	Nora-Krūkle Zaiga	RSU IMV	Leading researcher	Zaiga.Nora@rsu.lv

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57.	Vārīņa Edīte	RSU Department of Morphology	Acting Assistant Professor	Edite.Vartina@rsu.lv
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