

Andronet News

Spring/Summer 2025



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News from the Action Chair

Dear ANDRONET Members,

We are more than halfway through the grant period and in the follow-up of this year's biggest ANDRONET activity, the European Testis Workshop (ETW). This biennial event gathering 'testis enthusiasts' took place in The Netherlands mid of April and was preceded by the meeting of the Network for Young Researchers in Andrology (NYRA). Both meetings were a success and you can read a report in this newsletter.

The joint Cost Innovation Grant proposal, submitted earlier in the year by a subset of Andronet members focussing in genetic analysis of infertile patients by NGS was, unfortunately, not funded. During the ETW the ANDRONET members were able to meet and comment on some ideas on how to follow-up on the momentum generated by our Action. In any case, it became clear that funding through COST could only be possible through a potential independent and different COST Action proposal, with different goals, and an acronym different to Andronet. In a potential new proposal it will not be possible to refer to our current Action, since all COST Action proposals need to be anonymous.

This newsletter also contains a list of publications authored by ANDRONET members and the usual event calendar.

Rafael Oliva

23rd European Testis Workshop

The latest installment of the **European Testis Workshop** took place between the 13th and 17th of April in The Ruwenberg, Sint Michiegestel, The Netherlands. The main organisers were Katja Teerds (Chair), Tzviya Zeev Ben Mordehai, Bart Gadella, Ans van Pelt, Callista Mulder, Geert Hamer and Willy Baarends – nearly all of them ANDRONET members. ANDRONET-co-organised, the event gathered 145 scientists working on andrology for 5 days of intense science and networking. Of these, 100 were ANDRONET members, who were able to attend supported by COST action funds allocated to this purpose.

The excellent scientific presentations (plenary lectures, short presentations and flash talks) were accompanied by interactions between participants and establishment of collaborations. The permanent organising committee also met and decided that the next ETW will take place in Germany in 2027, while the 2029 edition will be happening in Scotland. We look forward to both of these events!



Group photo of ETW participants, taken on the last day of the meeting in front of the venue (Photo kindly taken by ANDRONET member David Fleck)

During the meeting, ANDRONET held its annual Management Committee (MC) and Working Group (WG) meeting, open to all members in person and virtually. The agenda included an initial presentation by Rafael Oliva (Action Chair), who reported on the activities of the Action, followed by short reports by Science Communication coordinator Sandra Laurentino, Grant Awarding Coordinator Davor Jezek, WG1 co-leaders Ana Katusic Bojanac and Judit Castillo, and Action Co-Chair Csilla Krausz. Importantly, there was the chance to discuss a possible follow-up COST Action proposal. An open call was made for members interested in leadership roles, either as Main Proposer or as Secondary Proposer for a potential new COST Action proposal (with a different acronym), and with ideas about the future to contact Action Chair Rafael Oliva. So far, at the closure of this newsletter very few expressions of interest have been received for members willing to contribute towards the preparation of a new COST Action proposal. So, please, if you have ideas and are motivated towards the preparation of a new cost action, please take action! Collections for new expressions of interest will be collected until July 15. at which time they will be circulated among respondents to decide how to proceed.

17th NYRA meeting

The **Network for Young Researchers in Andrology (NYRA)** meeting took place right before the ETW, in the same venue. Young researchers in the field had the opportunity to meet, interact,

and build contacts. The meeting included scientific presentations in a relaxed and interactive environment, where the speakers had the chance not only of presenting their research but also discussing their career paths with the younger scientists. Moreover, there was time for a debate on male contraception and a scientific speed-dating session.

1st NYRA-EAA-ANDRONET School



Photo of the 1st NYRA-EAA-ANDRONET School (Photo from NYRA social media)

The “Omics of male germ cells: Transcriptomic analyses” school, organised by NYRA together with the European Academy of Andrology (EAA) and ANDRONET took place in Copenhagen between 24th and 28th of February 2025. This immersive course was the first of its kind, focusing on the challenging aspects of analysing RNA expression in male gonadal tissues. The participants were able to perform bioinformatic analysis of single cells and bulk transcriptome data of testis from start to finish under the guidance of experienced ANDRONET members: Chloé Mayere, Lena Arévalo and Sara di Persio. The organizing committee consisted of A. Kovacevic, J. M. Paturlanne, D. Marcu, A. de la Iglesia and G. Saritas, together with the entire

NYRA board.

Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) travel grants

The funding for short-term scientific missions (STSMs) has been used up for this funding period. However, there are still three available ITC grants, of up to 1000€ each, covering conference attendance of early career researchers (PhD students or post-docs < 8 years) from ITCs. To be eligible, the conference must take place within the third granting period (i.e. until the 31st of October 2025).

For more information on the topic of ITC travel grants please visit <https://www.andronet.cat/stsms/> or contact the Grant Awarding Coordinator Dr. Davor Jezek (contact information available on the webpage).

Science Corner

Recent ANDRONET publications

The list below includes articles published since the previous Newsletter, covering the period from February 2025 to the mid-June 2025, and a few not listed before. If you want to share your latest publications, please notify the Science Communication Coordinator or post the reference on the ANDRONET Slack.

Important: if you are a contributor to an article that is co-authored by other ANDRONET members, or if you have benefited from an ANDRONET travel or STSM grant kindly acknowledge the ANDRONET COST Action CA20119 support.

Collaborative publications with ANDRONET members from several countries:

Acknowledging ANDRONET:

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Other publications from ANDRONET members:

Not acknowledging ANDRONET

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Event Calendar

29th June to 2nd July 2025

ESHRE 41st Annual Meeting

Paris, France

One of the largest conferences on reproduction, organised by the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology.



12th September 2025

Restoring Natural Fertility: Old Challenges and New Perspectives

University of Padova – Aula Morgagni

Participation is free but registration is mandatory.



27th to 29th November 2025

11. DVR Congress: From Bench to Bedside and Back

Münster, Germany

The meeting is organised by the umbrella association of reproductive biological and medical specialists of Germany. Although primarily in German, the organisers have included several sessions in English with international as well as national speakers.



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