

Improving the outcome of pregnancy: Prospect of a novel pre-eclampsia risk prediction test thanks to FP7-funded project IMPROVED

The EU-funded project IMPROVED established a unique collaborative framework between innovative SMEs and a network of European clinicians and Researchers to enable the **development of a clinically robust predictive blood test for pre-eclampsia in first time pregnant women.**

The IMPROVED consortium is delighted to report that one of the SME partners, Metabolomic Diagnostics, Cork, Ireland has finalised its translational research work and is now preparing its test, PrePsia™ for clinical validation within the context of IMPROVED. To this end, six clinical centres in four European countries (Sweden, the United Kingdom, The Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland), supported by health economists from The Netherlands, ICT database specialists from Sweden, a clinical trial unit from Denmark and a project management company from Switzerland, engaged in a multi-year recruitment campaign which resulted in over 4,000 first time pregnant women committing blood specimens and information about their pregnancies into the IMPROVED clinical study. Herewith a unique biobank has been created which will enable Metabolomic Diagnostics, in collaboration with the IMPROVED clinicians and researchers, to demonstrate the merits of PrePsia™ in the prediction of pre-eclampsia.

Professor Kenny, Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor at University of Liverpool, and Principal Investigator of IMPROVED will discuss the progress achieved by the IMPROVED consortium at the biannual international conference of the International Society of Hypertension in Pregnancy, which takes place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 6-9th.

Building on the significant progress made during the IMPROVED project, Metabolomic Diagnostics established an ambitious business plan to introduce PrePsia™ into the European market and beyond. In recognition of the disruptive potential of Metabolomic Diagnostics' and its first product PrePsia™, the [company has been awarded €2 million in EU Funding under the latest Horizon 2020 SME Instrument H2020 call in March 2018.](#)

"The goals of IMPROVED were highly ambitious, and required for an intense collaboration between frontline midwives, clinicians, researchers and companies," says Professor Geraldine Boylan, on behalf of the project coordinator, UCC, based in Cork, Ireland.

"As the coordinator of this project, we are very pleased that IMPROVED was able to foster a truly collaborative environment enabling us to collectively make big steps forward in achieving the common goal of bringing much needed novel pre-eclampsia risk test to the women of Europe and the world. Dr Fergus McCarthy, the clinical lead at UCC on IMPROVED, also commented that the legacy of IMPROVED will extend well into the future, as Metabolomic Diagnostics and the consortium of IMPROVED clinicians and researchers are all committed to supporting the release of PrePsia™ to the market as soon as possible. The biobank, that has been generously supported by patient participation in this study, will also be a very valuable resource for further research in related areas enabling further health innovation within Europe."

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