



Ljubljana, 11 April 2018

## **Travel grant report**

I am thankful to ERNDIM for granting me the financial support and to professor Vincent and Dr. Marie for hosting me in the Laboratory for Inherited Metabolic Diseases at Saint-Luc University Hospital, Brussels, in February 2018.

Our laboratory is the only laboratory for inherited metabolic diseases in Slovenia. This year we are introducing expanded newborn screening for inherited metabolic diseases with tandem mass spectrometry and the laboratory at UCL is highly experienced in this field. Their annual number of screened newborns is around 20000; the same as the number of newborns that will be tested in our laboratory. The workflow learned in their laboratory will be applicable also in ours.

The purpose of my stay was to gain hands-on training. My main interests is the running of an expanded newborn screening programme with tandem mass spectrometry, as we will soon be establishing the necessary laboratory protocols. In the Laboratory for Inherited Metabolic Diseases at Saint-Luc University Hospital I took part in the whole newborn screening process and selective screening for inherited metabolic diseases, from the processing of the sample information to the analysis of the samples, the subsequent interpretation of the results and following-up of abnormal results. Other laboratory methods that we want to include in the future were also thoroughly explained to me, especially quantification of fatty acids in human plasma on for detecting peroxisomal disorders and quantification of steroids in human plasma.



In order to get a broader understanding of the Belgian screening programme, prof. Vincent and dr. Marie kindly arranged for me to visit other screening laboratories in Belgium. I want to thank dr. Laeremans from Université libre de Bruxelles in Brussel, dr. Boemer from Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Liege in Liege and prof. Eyskens from Antwerp University Hospital in Antwerp for their time and the time their team kindly took for explaining me their programmes.

I really enjoyed my time in Belgium and I am grateful to the grant ERNDIM provided and the kind welcome to UCL laboratory from Prof. Vincent and dr. Marie. It has been a truly exceptional experience and I have learned many things that I will put in use in our newborn screening programme. It was a pleasure to stay in your laboratory where everyone was kindly willing to help me. We are now setting up the protocols for our new expanded screening programme and the knowledge gained in Belgium is already being incorporated into our programme.

Best regards,

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