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Abstract

The report describes the strategy and approach of the HyMedPoly project to producing written material to disseminate project activities. Two newsletters were produced in 2016 after the Early Stage Researcher cohort had been established. Further newsletters and wider written dissemination activities to facilitate exploitation of the innovative materials and products from the project are planned.

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- *This report is classed as **PU** = Public*

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Executive Summary

HyMedPoly is developing new therapies based on intrinsically antibacterial materials and aims to ensure that whenever possible research results are disseminated widely to the scientific and business communities as well as the general public. Consequently dissemination forms an integral part of the project's Exploitation Plan.

As an activity to assist dissemination of the early progress of the project, two newsletters were produced in 2016 after the Early Stage Researcher cohort had been established.

Following training in external communication of technical results to different types of stakeholders at the first HyMedPoly Summer School, the ESR cohort agreed to coordinate the production of the project's newsletter to consolidate their knowledge.

So far they have produced two newsletters, which are available for download from the HyMedPoly website, www.hymedpoly.eu. The first newsletter was produced by an ESR based at Politecnico di Torino and Vornia Ltd, whilst the second was produced by an ESR based at University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and Lucideon Ltd.

The newsletters profiled the ESRs, introduced the projects and gave updates of HyMedPoly activities.

News from the project is also being publicised both through the project website and through press releases.

Further newsletters and a wider range of articles will be written as the project group prepares its exploitation plans for HyMedPoly technology post project

List of Authors

Company	Author	Contribution
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1 Introduction to the HyMedPoly Project

Infection has become one of the toughest problems in the medical world and as bacteria become more resistant to drugs there are fewer effective antibiotics to fight against pathogens.

HyMedPoly is developing new therapies based on intrinsically antibacterial polymers, polymer composites with inorganic materials and polymers with antibacterial additives for the production of drug-free antibacterial hybrid biopolymers as therapeutic materials to prevent, control and remove infections.

Our ultimate goals are to develop a new generation of professionals who will play a pivotal role in pushing forward this challenging and knowledge-intensive field for the coming decades to benefit the European economy and who will be able to bring state-of-the-art technology to industry, advance products for hospitals and personal healthcare, and develop new and improved therapeutic strategies.

The HyMedPoly team has recruited a cohort of fifteen Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) to work with a group of nine universities and companies to:

- Validate the new materials concepts and determine key design parameters that will guide the development of families of novel therapeutic hybrid polymers to combat bacteria-related infection.
- Study industrial processing techniques to fabricate the medical materials and product demonstrators.
- Undertake a comprehensive and innovative training programme to meet industrial demands for fully rounded professional researchers.

Appendix 1 gives more details of the project group and the research projects supported.

2. HyMedPoly Dissemination through Written Material

Dissemination forms an integral part of the HyMedPoly Exploitation Plan, which has two distinct phases:

- Phase 1 (Months 1 – 24); Identify state-of-the-art antibacterial applications, key markets, and alternative applications. Disseminating HyMedPoly’s aims and early activities.
- Phase 2 (Months 25 – 48): Prepare Exploitation Plans for HyMedPoly technology post project. These activities will include:
 - Brochures on medical polymers (including biodegradable) technology in antibacterial applications, their benefits and format of use for potential collaborators and end users.
 - Participation in workshops, targeted technical presentations and discussions with potential partners and customers.
 - Prototype demonstrations.
 - Dissemination to other sectors where the anti-bacterial materials technology could be applied.
 - Continue to monitor key markets and emerging innovations.

HyMedPoly is aiming is to ensure that whenever possible research results are disseminated widely to the scientific and business communities as well as the general public.

Although at an early stage of their projects, the members of the ESR cohort are encouraged to present their work and to participate in outreach activities, which they are doing increasingly as they start to generate results from their projects. However in recognition of the importance of the ability to convey scientific knowledge and understanding to a wide range of stakeholders the ESRs have been trained in communication skills.

Training in external communication of technical knowledge was given to the ESRs as part of the first Summer School in February 2016 during the module “Industry Training II - Best Practices in Managing Collaborative R&D Projects– Communication and Knowledge Management”.

To consolidate this training, the ESR cohort agreed to co-ordinate the production of the project’s newsletters with the assistance of the project coordinator.

Up to the end of project’s second year, they have produced two newsletters, which are available for download from the HyMedPoly website, www.hymedpoly.eu.

The first issue was published in June 2016 (Figure 1). The ESRs selected an editor from their cohort, Jeddah Marie Garrucho (Jem) Vasquez, to edit the newsletter content. Jem is based at Politecnico di Torino and Vornia.

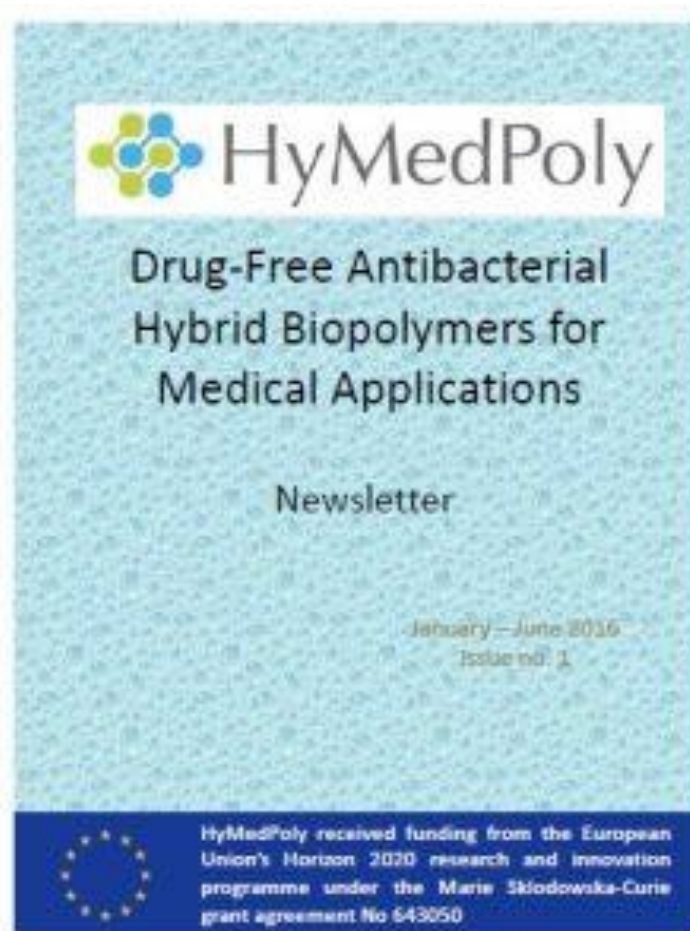


Figure 1 - The First HyMedPoly Newsletter

The content introduced HyMedPoly, the ESRs and their projects over 25 pages. Each ESR provided a profile of themselves detailing their experience and interests together with an introduction to their project.

Jem compiled and edited the newsletter, which was then formatted by the project coordinator, Lucideon. The final draft was circulated to each of the project beneficiaries for approval to publish following the guidelines specified in the HyMedPoly Consortium Agreement. The approval process ensures that potentially valuable Intellectual Property is protected and not published prematurely.

A typical page from the first newsletter is shown in Figure 2.

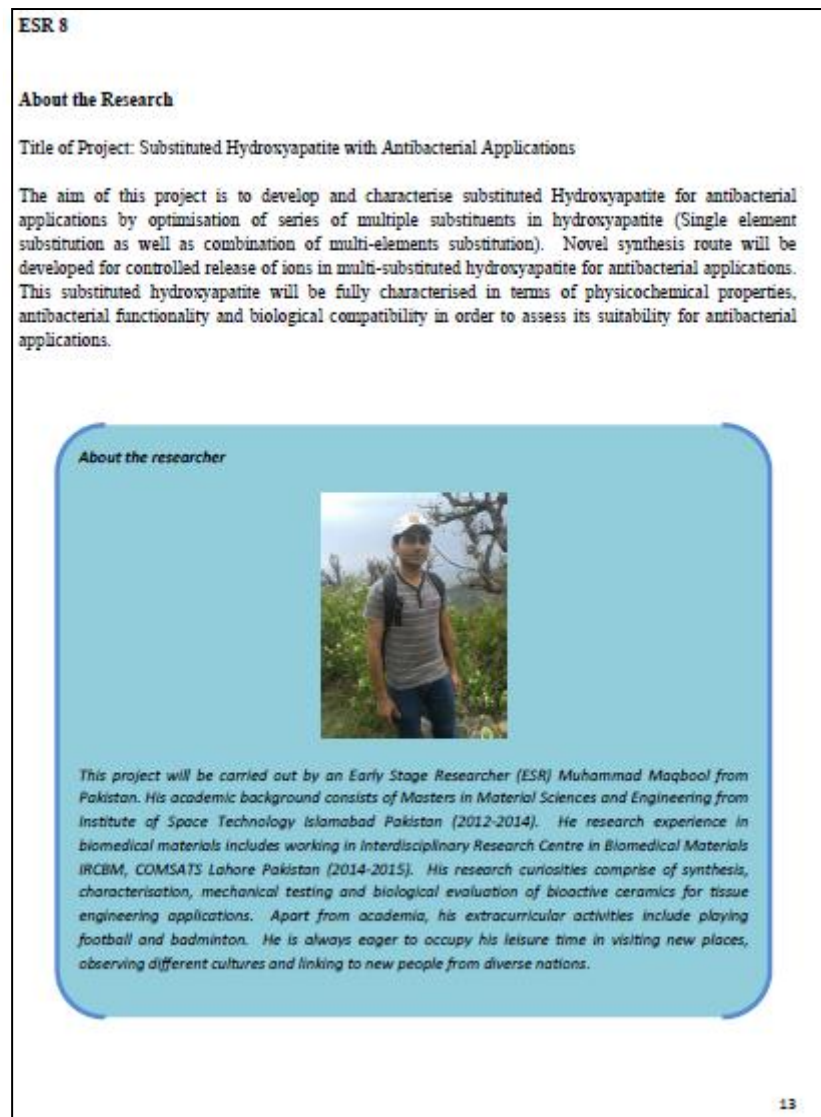


Figure 2 A typical page from Newsletter 1

A second newsletter was published in October 2016 following the same methodology as for Issue 1. The second issue was edited by an ESR from a different research group; Lukas Gritsch, who is based at University of Erlangen-Nuremberg and Lucideon. The newsletter introduced the three ESRs recruited since Issue 1, reviewed the HyMedPoly workshop “Biomaterials in Medicine: New concepts of drug-free antibacterial therapies” and gave updates from the project groups. Figure 3 shows the front page of the second newsletter.

The third newsletter is being edited by the research group at University of Westminster with a target publication in Q2 2017.

The newsletters can be downloaded from the HyMedPoly website at:

Issue 1; <https://hymedpoly.eu/2016/07/08/newsletter-january-june-2016-issue-no-1/>

Issue 2; <https://hymedpoly.eu/2016/10/31/newsletter-issue-2-october-2016/>

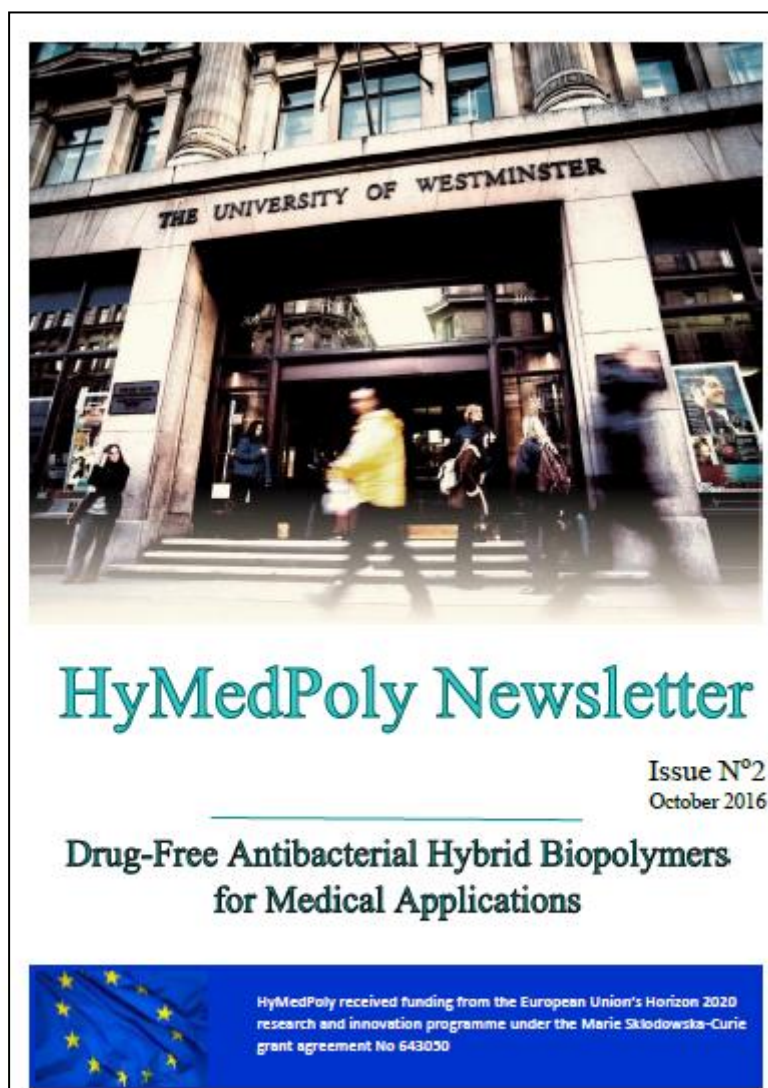


Figure 3 – Front page of Issue 2 of the HyMedPoly Newsletter.

News from the project is also being publicised both through the project website and through press releases. For example, a press release, “Lucideon and partners awarded € 3.9 m grant to train Industry PhD researchers to develop antibacterial medical materials”, was written following the project launch meeting for the beneficiaries to publicise their participation in the project through their media channels.

As the project group enters Phase 2 (Months 25 – 48) and prepares its exploitation plans for HyMedPoly technology post project, it expects to write more dissemination material both reporting the project outcomes and highlighting the benefits of using intrinsically antibacterial materials and products.

[End of Report]

Appendix 1 – The HyMedPoly Project Group and Research Projects

HyMedPoly aims to develop new therapies based on biomedical polymers and inorganic materials. The nine universities and companies from across Europe shown in Table 1 are creating a cohort of 15 European Industrial Doctorates. The projects, detailed in Table 2, are to synthesise new biopolymers with added antibacterial functionality and develop functionalised bioactive ceramics and glasses that can act as active agents to kill bacteria and prevent their growth.

The new material systems from HyMedPoly are aimed at applications such as wound care, implants and bio film prevention.

Table 1.1: The HyMedPoly Consortium Members

Consortium Member		Legal Entity Short Name
Beneficiaries		
1.	Lucideon	Lucid
2.	University of Westminster	UoW
3.	Politecnico di Torino	Polito
4.	University of Erlangen-Nuremberg	FAU
5.	Vornia	Vornia
6.	University of Southampton	Soton
7.	Knappschafts-Hospital Bochum GmbH	KHB
Partner Organisations		
8.	IK4 Tekniker	IK4
9.	Eurescom	EUR

Table 1.2: The HyMedPoly Research Projects

ESR	Project Title	Researcher	Academic Host	Non Academic Host
1	Degradable Antibacterial Polyesters and Composites	Jeddah Marie Vasquez	Polito	Vornia
2	Design and Engineering of Therapeutic Polyurethanes	Subha Purkayastha	Polito	Vornia
3	Bioresorbable Antibacterial Polyesters	Lukas Gritsch	FAU	Lucid
4	Biodegradable and Bioresorbable Polyesters	Binh Thi Thanh Phan	FAU	Lucid
5	Novel Antibacterial Natural Polymers	Elena Marcello	UoW	Vornia
6	Hydrogel Based Hybrid Antibacterial Polymers	Isabel Orlando	UoW	Vornia
7	Bioactive Silica Glass	Seray Kaya	FAU	Lucid
8	Substituted Hydroxyapatite	Muhammad Maqbool	FAU	Lucid
9	Bioactive Phosphate Glass	Agata Łapa	FAU	Lucid
10	Innovative Antibacterial Polymers	Alexandra Paxinou	UoW	KHB
11	Antibacterial Materials For Tissue Engineering Scaffolds	Sheila Piarali	UoW	KHB
12	Mechanobiology of Cell-Surface Interaction	Faezeh Shalchy	Soton	Lucid
13	Mechanics of Porous and Structured Materials	Loris Domincale	Soton	Lucid
14	In-vitro Bio-evaluation of Antibacterial Polymers	Ayesha Idrees	Polito	KHB
15	Antibacterial Testing of Polymers	Patricia Valera	Polito	KHB