

Interview with Anders Karlén, COMBINE Project Coordinator, Uppsala University

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What are the challenges of working in large collaborations involving many and diverse partners?

Some processes take time when decisions must be anchored in all partners involved. There may be varying expectations by partners, and it is important to communicate regularly to ensure effective collaboration and engagement. COMBINE has 11 partners located in 6 different countries, and with the COVID-19 pandemic we have unfortunately not been able to meet in-person over the last year. With virtual events, it is more difficult to provide networking opportunities, something that is important for new projects.

What are the learnings from your previous experience in the IMI project ENABLE?

Learnings from leadership and administrative procedures in the ENABLE projects are applicable and valuable for the coordination and support role of COMBINE. Having been involved in the AMR field on the European level for more than 7 years have given me a fantastic scientific experience as well as a very valuable network.

How does COMBINE support the work of the other AMR Accelerator projects?

COMBINE coordinates support to the AMR Accelerator projects in data management and communication via the Coordination Committee, the Data Management Group and the Communication Champions Team. In these groups, which include representatives from all participating projects, information is shared, communication strategies aligned, data governance streamlined and potential synergies between the projects are explored. In addition, the Communication Advisory Board and the Ethics Advisory Board, which consist of external advisors, are resources for advice and guidance to the projects.

About COMBINE

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About AMR Accelerator

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About the Innovative Medicine Initiative

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is Europe's largest public-private initiative aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients. IMI supports collaborative research projects and builds networks of industrial and academic experts in order to boost pharmaceutical innovation in Europe. IMI is a joint undertaking between the European Union and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, EFPIA.

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