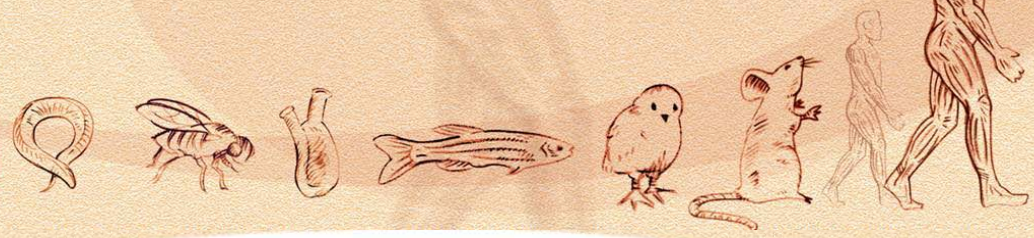
myores
european muscle development network



# MYORES : European Muscle Development Network

In Europe over 300,000 people are affected by muscular dystrophies whilst the majority of the aged population are affected by muscle degeneration leading to decreased mobility and loss of independence. This has severe consequences at both a personal and economic level.

MYORES is the first European Network of Excellence developing a Multiorganismic approach to study the Normal and Aberrant Muscle Development, Function and Repair, with an objective to understand how these muscular defects can be repaired.

Coordinated by INSERM (the French Institute for Health and Medical Research) and managed by INSERM-TRANSFERT, the Network activities started in January 2005, falls into the Priority 1 "Life Sciences, Genomics and Biotechnology for Health" programme in the 6th Framework Programme of the EU.
The European funding of 12 000 000 € for a five-year duration, supports the durable integration of the fragmented European capacities and expertise in the field into a coherent Network of Excellence of 23 organisations, including 37 research groups, from 7 European Countries.

The Network of Excellence MYORES integrates internationally recognised European specialists working on various aspects of muscle biology and pathology, bringing a critical mass of researchers who will be able to make significant scientific advancements in a sustainable virtual institute.

Fundamental to the advancement of our knowledge is the recent demonstration that, throughout evolution, many of the molecular mechanisms regulating muscle differentiation have been highly conserved. MYORES federates the studies on the muscle development in 6 animal models into a transversal approach. As molecular pathways can be easily assessed in invertebrates, the rapid extension of the knowledge gained in these systems, is an advantage to determine gene function in higher vertebrates. This creates a matrix flexible enough to bring out a better understanding of the pathways and their conservation through evolution, from lower invertebrates to upper vertebrates and Man.
All aspects of muscle differentiation are to be investigated and this will be translated into the mechanisms of repair in the adult. This is a unique aspect of the network and places MYORES at the international forefront of understanding of gene function during normal muscle development and disease.
To reach this goal, MYORES is backboned by state-of-the-art technical platforms and resources which will serve the Network's scientific objectives.

MYORES aims the rapid transfer and application of knowledge acquired in genetically amenable organisms into specific applications for human muscle diseases. The Network has a special 1 million euros fund dedicated to help this transfer to Small and Medium Enterprises, hence favouring a durable economic impact on the muscular field in Europe.
Last, but not least, MYORES, through communication and the broad publication of its scientific action and through education, intends to attract and train the younger generations of scientists into this essential field of research.

From its ability to maintain the Excellence of this Network, MYORES will have a durable impact on the European Research Area.

## Contacts for more information: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