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MEETING ABSTRACT

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on-course.eu: searching for European courses in biomedical research made easy

Christa JANKO^{1,2}, Claire JOHNSON³, Klaus WASSERMANN^{1,*},
Anthony PAYTON⁴, Pavel DALLAKIAN¹, Mike HARDMAN⁵
and Michael WOLZT⁶

¹*Managing Entity IMI EMTRAIN, Medical University of Vienna, Austria;* ²*current address: Eli Lilly Regional Operations, Austria;* ³*EMBL–EBI, United Kingdom;* ⁴*Centre for Integrated Genomic Medical Research, University of Manchester, United Kingdom;* ⁵*Coordinator IMI EMTRAIN, AstraZeneca, United Kingdom;* ⁶*Coordinator IMI EMTRAIN, Medical University of Vienna, Austria*

on-course.eu [1] is the most comprehensive postgraduate biomedical course database in Europe. Launched in February 2012 it has grown rapidly. Currently the on-course.eu database contains more than 7,400 European courses from a wide range of disciplines relevant to biomedical research, including courses on transferable skills. Course seekers are offered free-text search with advanced search filters. A bookmarking function allows pooling courses in comparison lists. Registered users can set search preferences in their user profiles for repeated use. All data is implemented in a structure which prepares on-course.eu for automated feeds from course providers' databases. Course providers benefit from easy-to-use data entry and editing, a recently improved registration tool and a newly introduced automated e-mail reminder option. The Toolkit for Trainers resource provides trainers with advice on choosing teaching methodologies. A learning-style quiz is also included. The on-course.eu platform provides detailed background information to users including statistics, publications, live-data graphs, information about trends and gaps and other facts and figures relevant for biomedical education and training. In the back-end on-course.eu curators can run effective queries to monitor course information. on-course.eu's current usage statistics show steadily increasing user numbers. Future plans are aiming at linking courses to competency profiles. on-course.eu will soon include training courses for managers of research infrastructures. on-course.eu is also exploring options of supporting the European science4refugees initiative. on-course.eu was designed and built with input from a broad stakeholder group from industry and other employers, academics, students, policy makers and course providers. Continuing analyses of on-course.eu data regarding trends and gaps and surveys on demand areas formed the priorities within on-course.eu.

Link

1. <http://www.on-course.eu>

*Presenting author e-mail: klaus.wassermann@meduniwien.ac.at