



ISCH COST Action TD1206



Development and Implementation of European Standards on Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases (StanDerm)

## STSM Report

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**Host:** University of Osnabrueck, Department of Dermatology, Environmental Medicine, Health Theory, Faculty of Human Sciences

**Date:** 10 to 21 March 2014

**STSM research goal/topic:** Harmonizing patch testing procedures within TD1206

### Purpose of the STSM:

1. To create sustainable basis for transnational research cooperation between Belgrade University Hospital (Clinic of Dermatovenereology, Clinical Center of Serbia) and University of Osnabrueck (Department of Dermatology, Environmental Medicine, Health Theory, Faculty of Human Sciences).
2. To get insight on the current research and practice in the field of OSD.
3. To harmonize Serbian patch testing protocols and database organisation with our Osnabrueck partners.

### Work carried out and the main results:

During the STSM (10 working days) at the *Department of Dermatology, Environmental Medicine, Health Theory, Faculty of Human Sciences in Osnabrueck* I got insight into the current diagnostics, treatment, follow up and scientific evaluation of patients with OSD on the level of secondary and tertiary prevention. All PATCH testing procedures were introduced to me including preparation of patients' own material handled at work for PATCH testing. The knowledge I gained and the protocols will help me to harmonize Serbian PATCH testing protocols and database organisation with the one used in Osnabrueck.

Harmonizing of PATCH testing protocols will provide substantial ground for future cooperation and research projects. Furthermore, it is a basis for COST TD 1206 allergen surveillance at work places through Europe. Also, I had an opportunity to get insight into the organisation of Osnabrueck OSD research center including patient management and health education. I attended the lectures for patients concerning preventive measures and preventive behavior, usually of crucial interest for evolution of

OSD. I will try to increase awareness of OSD and preventive measures in my department in Serbia, and increase scientific activities in the field of OSD.

Impaired skin barrier function is responsible for the development of contact dermatitis in predisposed persons. Irritation tests are of special interest in determining a disturbed/preserved skin barrier function, with a sustainable predictive value for susceptibility to irritation. I had the opportunity to learn the technique of the alkaline irritation test, to realize the importance of positive findings in disturbed skin barrier function, and also to be able to interpret the results. Moreover, I got to know the tape stripping technique (D-Squame®) to obtain epidermal cells which can be used for assessments of e.g. skin proteins, lipids or cytokines. In the future, this will help to perform common projects on skin barrier function in patients with occupational skin diseases, especially with the planned COST TD 1206 proposal to Horizon 2020/PHC 4.

**Benefits:** This STSM will create a sustainable basis for transnational research and future collaboration between Belgrade University Hospital (*Clinic of Dermatovenereology, Clinical Center of Serbia*) and the University of Osnabrueck (*Department of Dermatology, Environmental Medicine, Health Theory, Faculty of Human Sciences*). It will also lead to harmonizing PATCH testing procedures within TD1206 allowing for comparability of results. Furthermore, harmonised procedures are a substantial ground for further cooperation in research and common publications. By knowledge dissemination, this STSM will lead to increased awareness of OSD significance among medical doctors (GP, paediatricians, dermatologists) and importance of introducing all OSD preventive measures in Serbia. Also, it might form the basis for the awareness campaign.