



Nº1, JULY 2016

# NEWSLETTER



# EUROCAROTEN

EUROPEAN NETWORK TO ADVANCE CAROTENOID RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS IN AGRO-FOOD AND HEALTH

## WELCOME

**We are pleased to welcome you to the first issue of the EUROCAROTEN newsletter.**

The EUROCAROTEN European Network counts with the participation of researchers and industrial representatives from 31 countries with a common goal: to enhance the competitiveness of the European agro-food industry and promote health by coordinating research on carotenoids.

The aim of this newsletter is to inform scientists and stakeholders about aspects related to the COST Action including participating scientists and industry, general information on carotenoids and applications in everyday life, and the EUROCAROTEN events, initiatives and outcomes. EUROCAROTEN newsletters will be issued every three months through e-mails, our website and social media.

You can find more information about EUROCAROTEN COST Action on its COST website [http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA15136](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15136) and on our website [www.eurocaroten.eu](http://www.eurocaroten.eu).

*Yours sincerely,  
Joana Corte-Real  
Paula Mapelli-Brahm  
Kristina Kljak*



Subscription to the newsletter e-mailing list will be made available soon, via the EUROCAROTEN website.

For further information, please contact us via our e-mail [info@eurocaroten.eu](mailto:info@eurocaroten.eu). You can also send us your comments and proposals.

## NEWS FROM THE ACTION

### Past Events

#### Graz, 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016

1<sup>st</sup> Work Group (WC) & 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Committee (MC) Meetings  
1<sup>st</sup> EUROCAROTEN Symposium

### Future Events

#### Skopje, February 2017

EUROCAROTEN Conference and WG & MC Meetings

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## EUROCAROTEN INTERVIEW

### Talking with: Antonio J. Meléndez-Martínez

"I envisage that we will help carotenoid research through our dissemination strategy, which has the goal of reaching efficiently other stakeholders [...]. In my opinion this is key, as if we are able to make them fully aware of the importance of carotenoids, we will be favouring research on them"

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## CAROTENOIDS IN DAILY LIFE

### Carotenoid of the Month : Lycopene

The typical colour of tomato fruit is furnished by a pigment called lycopene. Its name is derived from the former Latin name of the tomato species *Lycopersicon* (meaning "wolf-peach"). Lycopene's chemical structure makes it a potent antioxidant that can protect our body from harmful effects of oxygen radicals...

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### Light affects carotenoid production and shelf life

[...] Extensive research is conducted worldwide for the increase of carotenoids with natural ways, without genetic modification of plants. Light is one of these ways. [...]

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## THINK TANK INFORMATION

### WHAT, WHO, AND HOW!

Helping and promoting the career development of Early Career Investigators.

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# MEETING REPORTS AND NEWS FROM THE ACTION



## 1<sup>st</sup> Work Group and 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Committee meeting in Graz

### PAST EVENTS

1<sup>st</sup> Work Group (WG) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Management Committee (MC) Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> EUROCAROTEN Symposium Graz, Austria. 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2016

#### Organizers:

- EUROCAROTEN Consortium
- Human Nutrition & Metabolism Research and Training Centre of the Institute of Molecular Biosciences, University of Graz
- Clinical Division of Nephrology of Department of Internal Medicine, Medical University of Graz

The 1<sup>st</sup> EUROCAROTEN Symposium “Carotenoids: from Plant Pigments to Human Health” took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, prior to the WG presentations. The Symposium covered diverse domains of carotenoid research, presented by established researchers with a long experience in the field. During the WG 1, 2 and 3 meeting the WG members gave a short presentation about their research activities and available infrastructures.

During the MC and individual WG meetings different topics concerning EUROCAROTEN were discussed. See the main outcomes below.

#### Outcomes:

- Discussion on the dissemination strategy;
- Presentation of the EUROCAROTEN Website structure and design;
- Presentation of the WGs tasks and deliverables;
- Discussion on the status and budget of the Action, implementation of COST policies, and scientific planning within the Action.

### FUTURE EVENTS

Next EUROCAROTEN Conference, WG and MC meeting will be held in February 2017 in FYR Macedonia, and will be organized by Professor Marina Stefova and Dr. Jasmina Petreska Stanoeva from Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics of Ss Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. More details will follow soon.



# EUROCAROTEN'S INTERVIEW

## TALKING WITH:

Antonio J. Meléndez-Martínez

**Affiliation** Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Universidad de Sevilla  
**Position** Associate Professor  
**Country** Spain  
**Area of Interest** Food Quality, Nutrition, Health

**Link to other interviews and networks:**

<http://carotenoides.us.es>  
<https://www.facebook.com/BERCARTGT/>  
<http://comunicacion.us.es/canal-ciencia/ia-us-tdora-una>  
<http://www.color.us.es/>



**Please tell us a bit about your lab and what you work on?**

We are interested in carotenoids as important contributors to food quality in general. Due to their versatility, carotenoids are related to different “dimensions” of quality, like sensory, technological, nutritional and functional quality. [...] In our lab we adopt a “from chemical structure to biological actions” approach. Thus, we are interested in their isolation, analysis, stability, colour, levels in foods and other sources, the study of their bioaccessibility/bioavailability, carotenoid-accumulating structures and more recently in their possible biological actions in simple models. To do that we use chromatography, colorimetry, UV-Vis spectroscopy, microscopy, simulated *in vitro* digestion protocols, chemical reactions, etc. [...]

**Which area of carotenoids research do you find most interesting?**

[...] Currently I am very interested in the studies relating the structure of chromoplasts with the deposition ability or their release during digestion, the production of carotenoids by extremophilic microbes or the formation and actions of oxidation products of carotenoids.

**As a STSM hosting lab, what type of collaborative projects would you envision?**

I envision “symbiotic” collaborations in which we offer our expertise and training capabilities to the visiting scientists and also have the chance to learn from them.

**In your eyes, how can the EUROCAROTEN Cost Action contribute to carotenoid research?**

[...] It is expected that EUROCAROTEN will catalyze collaborations in the field and boost carotenoid research through a synergistic effect by getting scientist with different backgrounds together around common research topics. This ecosystem will also be very favourable for the quality and multidisciplinary training of young researchers [...]. Last but not least, I envisage that we will help carotenoid research through our dissemination strategy, which has the goal of reaching efficiently other stakeholders [...]. In my opinion this is key, as if we are able to make them fully aware of the importance of carotenoids, we will be favouring research on them.

Read more @ [www.facebook.com/eurocaroten](http://www.facebook.com/eurocaroten)





# THINK TANK INFORMATION

The Think Tank (TT) group integrates the EUROCAROTEN Steering Committee (SC), with the goal of helping and promoting the career development of Early Career Investigators (ECI). Some of the objectives of the TT group include:

- To serve as an intermediary between the ECIs and the EUROCAROTEN Committees.
- Creating a space for dialogue and debate amongst ECIs.
- Dissemination of information relevant to ECIs via social networks, EUROCAROTEN webpage and Newsletter.
- To promote the organization of workshops and summer schools, according to the major needs appointed by the ECIs.
- Encourage and support ECIs to participate as candidates for prestigious fellowships such as Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.
- Promoting leadership and decision making within ECIs.

The TT group has two elected representatives (TTR), whom ECIs can contact at any moment with questions and/or suggestions. Representatives are renewed annually, and will be chosen from amongst the ECIs. Everyone is welcome to apply.

The TT is a work in progress, meaning that as we go along, our objective list may grow, and with your feedback we'll be able to provide a better support platform for the ECIs.



## Representatives for 1<sup>st</sup> year:

Joana Corte-Real ([joana\\_corte-real@lih.lu](mailto:joana_corte-real@lih.lu))

Paula Mapelli-Brahm ([pmapelli@us.es](mailto:pmapelli@us.es))

## ECI spokesperson:

Kristina Kljak ([kkkljak@agr.hr](mailto:kkkljak@agr.hr))



Joana Corte-Real

Kristina Kljak

Paula Mapelli-Brahm



# WORK GROUP NEWS

## WORKING GROUPS & LEADERS & VICE-LEADERS

### **WG1. Production: developing resources and biosynthetic pathways**

Leader: Paul Fraser ([P.Fraser@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:P.Fraser@rhul.ac.uk))  
Vice Leader: Pauline Snoeijs-Leijonmalm ([Pauline.snoeijs-leijonmalm@su.se](mailto:Pauline.snoeijs-leijonmalm@su.se))

### **WG2. Quality along the food chain**

Leader: Nora O'Brien ([nob@ucc.ie](mailto:nob@ucc.ie))  
Vice Leader: Anamarija Mandic ([anamarija.mandic@fins.uns.ac.rs](mailto:anamarija.mandic@fins.uns.ac.rs))

### **WG3. Nutrition and health**

Leader: Torsten Bohn ([torsten.bohn@iih.lu](mailto:torsten.bohn@iih.lu))  
Vice Leader: Joanna Dulinska-Litewka ([joanna.dulinska-litewka@uj.edu.pl](mailto:joanna.dulinska-litewka@uj.edu.pl))

### **WG4. Transfer, dissemination and exploitation**

Leader: Anneli Ritala ([anneli.ritala@vtt.fi](mailto:anneli.ritala@vtt.fi))  
Vice Leader: George Manganaris ([george.manganaris@cut.ac.cy](mailto:george.manganaris@cut.ac.cy))

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## DISCLAIMER

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