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## Press Release

### FOURTH SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE NANODIARA PROJECT IN SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

*Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, 14 October, 2011. – From 5 to 7 October, 2011, the fourth NanoDiaRA scientific meeting took place at the Paracelsus Medizinische Universität in Salzburg. Over 40 principal investigators, trainees and collaborators from the 15 different partner institutions shared their research progress since the start of the project 18 months ago and discussed future steps. At the meeting the NanoDiaRA team also welcomed their project officer Dr. Maj-Inger Nilsson from the European Commission.*

During the “partners’ exchange day” participants focused on collaborative work: Inter-institutional talks about particle production, imaging and animal models alternated with several breakout sessions dedicated to, amongst others, toxicology, biomarkers, in vivo testing, clinical and ethical questions. In his guest lecture Professor Kenneth Dawson (Trinity College Dublin) presented nanoparticle interfaces as the key to understanding interactions with living organisms.

Another focus of the fourth scientific meeting was a programme addressing the young investigators of the 15 partner institutions where the participants had the opportunity to observe human joints, their anatomy and functionality in a “hands-on” workshop.

Finally, the work package leader presented the latest progress and an outlook for the upcoming period. Each presentation was followed by questions of the consortium and debates about the next steps that should be made to reach the collaborative goal of the project.

*The project “Development of novel nanotechnology based diagnostic systems for rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis (NanoDiaRA)” is funded by the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union. Its consortium consists of 15 European partners from both university and non-university institutions. The coordinator of the NanoDiaRA project is the Europäische Akademie zur Erforschung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler gGmbH, Germany ([www.ea-aw.eu](http://www.ea-aw.eu)) dealing with the scientific study of the consequences of scientific and technological advances for individuals, society and the natural environment. MatSearch Consulting Hofmann, Switzerland ([www.matsearch.ch](http://www.matsearch.ch)), an independent consulting organization specialized in the field of materials science and technology, is responsible for the scientific coordination.*

*Further information: [www.nanodiara.eu](http://www.nanodiara.eu)*