

WRAP - DECISION ANALYSIS FORM

Decision situation description:

Our research institute has been invited to join an international Horizon Europe consortium on neurodegenerative diseases. We need to decide which of our research teams should represent our institute and what research component we should offer to the consortium. We have 3 weeks to make the decision and submit our expression of interest. The consortium requires a 4-year commitment and will involve approximately 0.5 FTE of senior researcher time plus 1 FTE of research staff.

1. WIDEN - EXPANDING YOUR OPTIONS

Currently considered options:

- Assign our Alzheimer's Disease research team led by Prof. Wiśniewski (focused on amyloid pathways)
- Assign our Neuroinflammation team led by Dr. Kowalska (focused on microglia activation)

Additional possibilities:

- Form a new interdisciplinary team combining members from both existing teams with complementary expertise
- Invite Dr. Nowak, who recently returned from a postdoc at Oxford with expertise in neuroimaging, to lead a new research direction

What if none of the above options are available?

- Propose collaboration with Gdańsk Medical University to jointly represent Polish research interests in the consortium
- Suggest a limited role focused only on patient recruitment through our affiliated hospital

Possible combinations of solutions:

- Create a joint team led by Prof. Wiśniewski with Dr. Nowak as co-investigator, bringing together amyloid research and advanced neuroimaging
- Form a multi-institute Polish node with Dr. Kowalska coordinating between our institute and Gdańsk Medical University

2. REALITY-TEST - TESTING YOUR ASSUMPTIONS

Key assumptions:

1. Assumption: *The consortium values novel methodologies over established research approaches* • How will we verify it? *Analyze the composition and publication history of already confirmed consortium members* • Required data: *Last 3 years of publications, successful grants, and methodological innovations of consortium leaders*
2. Assumption: *Our neuroinflammation approach would bring unique value not already covered by other consortium members* • How will we verify it? *Request preliminary information about existing partners and their research focus areas* • Required data: *Research profiles of confirmed partners, gaps identified in the consortium's preliminary research plan*

Possible experiments:

- Arrange a preliminary video call with the consortium coordinator to discuss what they're most interested in from our institute

- Have both team leaders prepare brief concept notes and share with 2-3 international collaborators for feedback on which seems more promising

3. ATTAIN DISTANCE - GAINING PERSPECTIVE

10/10/10 Analysis:

- In 10 minutes: *I'll be relieved to have made a decision that gives us the best chance of joining this prestigious consortium*
- In 10 months: *We'll need team members who are fully committed and can deliver preliminary results to establish credibility in the consortium*
- In 10 years: *We'll want this consortium participation to have led to sustainable international collaborations and follow-up funding opportunities*

External perspective:

- What would an expert advise? *"Choose the team with the strongest publication record in high-impact journals and clearest alignment with the consortium's main objectives"*
- What would my successor do? *Focus on building institutional capacity in an emerging area that positions the institute for future funding trends rather than just building on existing strengths*

4. PREPARE - PREPARING FOR FAILURE

Success indicators:

- *Acceptance into the consortium with a clearly defined and significant research component*
- *At least 3 joint publications with consortium members within the first 2 years*
- *Development of at least 1 new methodology or analytical approach that becomes adopted by other consortium members*

Contingency plan: If [problem] then [action]

1. *If our expression of interest is rejected, then immediately request detailed feedback and prepare for the next round or alternative consortia*
2. *If the workload exceeds our capacity, then restructure teaching obligations and hire an additional postdoc with institute development funds*

ACTION PLAN

Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
Contact consortium coordinator for additional information	Institute Director	22.03.2025	To do
Prepare concept notes from both potential teams	Prof. Wiśniewski & Dr. Kowalska	26.03.2025	To do
Gather feedback from international collaborators	Dr. Adamczyk	02.04.2025	To do
Final decision meeting with research committee	All stakeholders	05.04.2025	To do
Prepare and submit expression of interest	Selected team leader	12.04.2025	To do