

COMET: K-Project

VASCage	
Research Center of Excellence in Vascular Ageing - Tyrol	
Main location	Innsbruck, Tyrol
Other locations	Bruneck, South Tyrol; Vienna; London
Research programme	The overall goals of VASCage are to maintain and improve vascular health and to enable improved management of the consequences of vascular disease in the elderly. K-Project comprises of a single area with the four individual research projects (1) Gut, Diet, Microbiota and Vascular Aging; (2) Vascular Calcification & Aging of the Vascular Matrix; (3) Early Vascular Aging (EVA); and (4) Bruneck Project of Health in the Elderly.
Planned realisation and outcomes	
Specifically, VASCage intends to deepen our knowledge on the molecular mechanisms and risk factors of vascular aging, improve and individualize cardiovascular risk prediction, develop novel therapeutic strategies and diagnostic tools, launch ambitious prevention programmes, promote cardiovascular protection (health products), and take care for a broad clinical implementation of biomedical innovations.	
History of establishment	Based on the longstanding history and expertise of vascular research at MUI VASCage was established around the renowned Bruneck Study to further extend this research priority of MUI in close collaboration with Tyrol's and Vienna's economy.
Selected company partners (max. 10)	Selected scientific partners (max. 5)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Biomarker Design ForschungsGmbH 2. BIONORICA Research GmbH 3. Bruker BioSpin GmbH 4. Evercyte GmbH 5. InfPro IT Solutions GmbH 6. Milchhof Sterzing 7. Südtiroler Sanitätsbetrieb (SABES) 8. TILAK-Tiroler Landeskrankenanstalten GmbH 9. Tiroler Gebietskrankenkasse (TGKK) 10. VitaK 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MUI, Medical University Innsbruck 2. UI, University of Innsbruck 3. KCL, Kings College London
	Selected international partners ¹ (max. 5)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. KCL, Kings College London, UK 2. Maastricht University, NL 3. University of Cambridge, UK 4. Sanger Institute, Cambridge, UK 5. Bruneck Hospital, IT
Planned start of the K-Project	QIII 2014 (4 years)
Planned number of personnel	30 FTEs are involved (26 FTE s are scientists)
Total costs	EUR 4.304.835
Leader of consortium:	Medical University Innsbruck, Univ.-Prof. Dr. S. Kiechl and A.Univ.-Prof. Dr. J. Willeit
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¹ Partners with headquarters outside Austria