

## About us

**Aniridia** is a rare congenital ocular disease requiring intensive eye care, social and community support from birth and throughout an individual's lifetime.

**ANIRIDIA-NET** is a pan-European bottom-up network of researchers, ophthalmologists, trainees, aniridia patient organizations, industry and special interest groups funded by the **European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)** program, a funding agency for research and innovation networks that encourages communication and research collaboration.

## Our goals

Build a large, inclusive **EU network of ophthalmologists, scientists, trainees, aniridia patient organizations, industry, and special interest groups** to encourage communication and a rich training ground for a new generation of trainees.

**Improve aniridia management** through evidence-based research, harmonized clinical protocols, pooling/sharing of samples and models and consensus activities.

**Stimulate development of novel diagnostics and treatments for aniridia** based on innovative research in regenerative medicine/stem cells, investigational drugs, gene therapy, tissue engineering, transplantation, etc.

## Interested in joining Aniridia-net.eu?

There are several ways of getting involved in **ANIRIDIA-NET** Action: as a management committee member, as a working group member, as participant in Action activities or as a non-COST country participant. If you want to join this Action or take part in our activities, please get in touch with any of our Action members.



### Action Chair:

**Prof. Neil Lagali** ✉ [neil.lagali@liu.se](mailto:neil.lagali@liu.se)

### Action Vice Chair:

**Prof. Claus Cursiefen** ✉ [management@aniridia-net.eu](mailto:management@aniridia-net.eu)

### STSM Coordinator:

**Prof. Thomas Ritter** ✉ [thomas.ritter@nuigalway.ie](mailto:thomas.ritter@nuigalway.ie)

### ITC Conference Grant Coordinator:

**Sara Xapelli** ✉ [sxapelli@medicina.ulisboa.pt](mailto:sxapelli@medicina.ulisboa.pt)

### Training School Coordinator:

**Rozalia Hristova** ✉ [allea@abv.bg](mailto:allea@abv.bg)

### Science Communication Manager:

**Juliana Martínez** ✉ [juliana.martinez@juntadeandalucia.es](mailto:juliana.martinez@juntadeandalucia.es)



## More Info

If you would like further information about **ANIRIDIA-NET** Action's activities and achievements follow us through our website or on social media.

<https://aniridia-net.eu>

[www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)



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[/AniridiaNet](https://twitter.com/AniridiaNet)



Acknowledgement: This publication is based upon work from COST Action Aniridia-net.eu #CA18116, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology).



# ANIRIDIA-NET

## #CA18116

## COST Action

Networking to address an unmet medical, scientific, and societal challenge.



## Working groups

### WG 1: Clinical guidelines.

Harmonization / consensus on clinical examinations, treatment guidelines, patient information and clinical endpoints.

WG1 Leader:

**Prof Dominique Bremond-Gignac**

✉ [wg1@aniridia-net.eu](mailto:wg1@aniridia-net.eu)

### WG 2: Clinical and cohort studies.

Clinical and Cohort Studies: combining patient cohorts for multi-centre clinical studies, combining tissue/blood/tear samples for biomarker, genetic and high-throughput molecular analysis.

WG2 Leader: **Dr Vito Romano**

✉ [wg2@aniridia-net.eu](mailto:wg2@aniridia-net.eu)

### WG 3: Stem cells and regenerative medicine.

Approaches of stem cell biology, tissue engineering, gene delivery, gene modification or gene modulation for developing translational regenerative therapeutic strategies for the treatment of aniridia.

WG3 Leader: **Dr Stefano Ferrari**

✉ [stefano.ferrari@fbov.it](mailto:stefano.ferrari@fbov.it)

### WG 4: Transplantation, inflammation and immunity.

Evaluation of new/emerging transplantation techniques for aniridia-associated keratopathy, dry eye disease, surgical outcomes, fibrosis, immune response, inflammation, and corneal neovascularization.

WG4 Leader: **Dr Davide Borroni**

✉ [wg4@aniridia-net.eu](mailto:wg4@aniridia-net.eu)

### WG 5: Aniridia models for collaborative research.

Development of aniridia models, and new research technology for the identification of new therapeutic tools to treat aniridia-associated keratopathy.

WG5 Leader: **Prof Daniel Aberdam**

✉ [daniel.aberdam@inserm.fr](mailto:daniel.aberdam@inserm.fr)

### WG 6: Patient-driven research.

To foster patient participation in aniridia-focused research raising awareness towards unmet patient needs and challenges to identify research priorities.

WG6 Leader: **Prof Christina Grupcheva**

✉ [wg6@aniridia-net.eu](mailto:wg6@aniridia-net.eu)

## Activities

**Management and working group meetings.** ANIRIDIA-NET holds regular management committee as well as working group meetings to coordinate and organise the Action's scientific and networking activities.

**Training Schools.** ANIRIDIA-NET organizes training schools to share knowledge, support collaboration and build a rich training ground to develop the Action's goals.

**Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM).** These offer researchers the opportunity to conduct Action related activities at a participating host institution to foster linkages and build capacity in aniridia-focused research.

**Conference grants.** ANIRIDIA-NET grants PhD students, early career investigators and postdoctoral fellows from Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) funding to attend international science and technology conference related with the Action's goals.

**Publications.** ANIRIDIA-NET Action's results and achievements will be published as scientific papers, press releases, talks and posters.

