The “stem cells” discipline represents one of the most dynamic areas in biology and biomedicine.

- Marine and aquatic invertebrate stem cell (MISC) biology is of prime research and medical interest.
- Main aim of this COST Action is to develop, consolidate and foster an international interdisciplinary network of both researchers and industries to promote the MISC discipline.

Further information on the Action website: http://maristem.eu/

Action chair:
Prof. Loriano Ballarin, Department of Biology, University of Padova, Italy
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To join the Action, please, contact your National COST coordinator.
Aims

The primary objective is to foster the study of marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cells (MISCs) for innovative ideas relevant to various biomedical disciplines. The Action aims at consolidating and strengthening the fragmented European MISC community, and integrating the MISC field with biomedical disciplines.

Other specific objectives are:
1. Consolidation of the European community of scientists involved in marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cell research.
2. Coordination of marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cell research, sharing of methodologies/databases used in marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cell research in various European countries and updating of scientific and technical guidelines for standardisation of methods, techniques and protocols, in order to maximise the extent and the quality of the results.
3. Establishing collaborations with industry for technology transfer and the exploitation of marine/aquatic stem cells in the fields of biomedicine and biotechnology.
4. Coordinate collaborative and scientific ties, at international level, with scientists working on marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cells.
5. Strengthening the European Community on marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cells through data sharing, setting up new collaborations among participants.
6. Promoting interactions of Action members in order to establish a defined identity and profile in the European field of marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cells and establish ties with European networks and scientific societies/institutions in related fields.
7. Stimulating contacts and the development of a joint research agenda in order to strengthen future research on MISC.

Working Groups

WGs are involved in the analysis and development of specific topics.

- **Wg1**
  Developing protocols for raising marine/aquatic invertebrate stem cells under *in vitro* conditions

- **Wg2**
  "-omics" to characterize the MISC phenotypes

- **Wg3**
  Blue technology.

- **Wg4**
  Networking with stakeholders

Short-term scientific mission within the action are encouraged.

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