

VOLUME 4

APRIL 2026



ISOBOTICS

# NEWSLETTER

ISOBOTICS Website – [www.isobiotics-project.org/](http://www.isobiotics-project.org/)

April 2026 | Horizon Europe – MSCA DN | Project ID: 101072780

## ISOBOTICS DC COMIC SERIES SPOTLIGHT



**Communicating Science Through Storytelling!**

**<sup>14</sup>C • <sup>18</sup>F • <sup>3</sup>H as Radioisotope “Heroes”**

**Global Reach & Impact**

**10,000+ IMPRESSIONS AND COUNTING**

Across ISOBOTICS social media platforms

3,500+ accounts reached | 500+ impressions on X (Twitter)

Recognised by the European Research Executive Agency (REA)

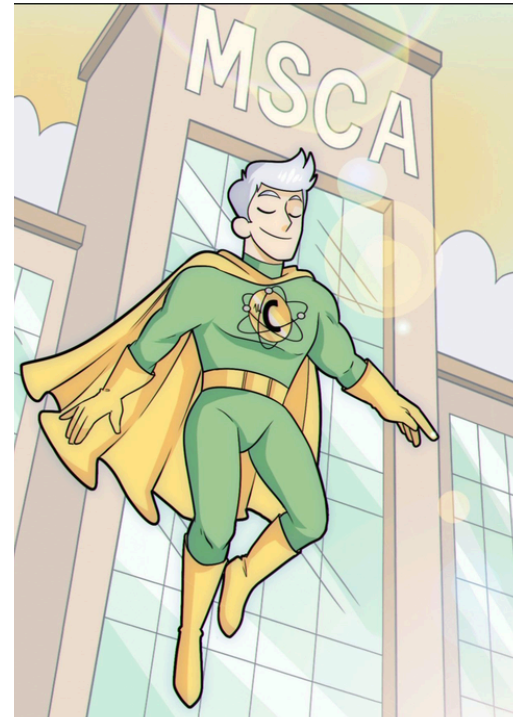


Illustration by Alessandra Alyah Patane

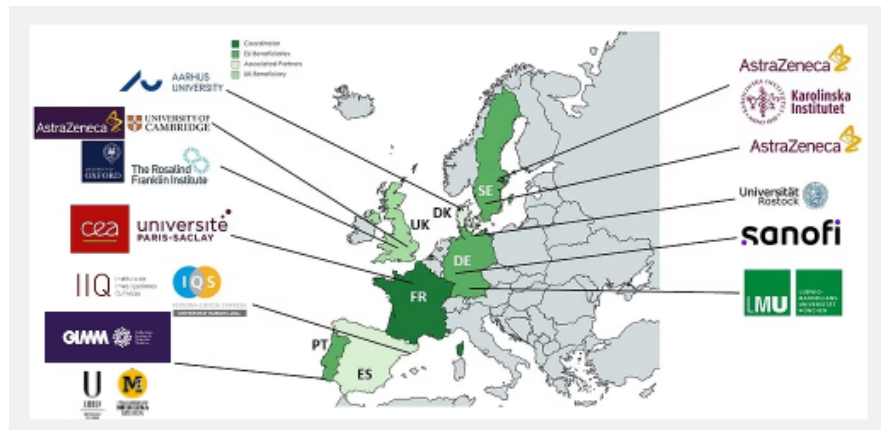


## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DC Comic Series Spotlight | Project Progress | Training & Meetings | Dissemination

**WELCOME TO THE FOURTH EDITION OF THE ISOBOTICS NEWSLETTER.**

This issue highlights key training activities, consortium updates, and scientific progress across the network, alongside recent publications and innovative dissemination initiatives such as the Doctoral Candidates Comic Series. It also features insights from doctoral candidates and reflects the project’s continued progress toward its final phase.



More information on:





# ISOBIOTICS PROJECT PROGRESS & IMPLEMENTATION

**VOL 4  
APRIL 2026**



## COORDINATION UPDATE

- Project coordination is currently transitioning, with Christophe progressively stepping back ahead of retirement.
- Grégory Pieters is assuming coordination responsibilities, ensuring continuity in project implementation and follow-up. He has also been designated as the primary Project Coordinator contact on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (SyGMa).
- Sophie Feuillastre supports coordination as Deputy Coordinator.

## FINAL ISOBIOTICS CONSORTIUM MEETING

Paris, France | 19–20 November 2026

Proposed format:

- **Day 1: Afternoon session (~14:00 CET)**
- **Day 2: Morning session**
- ✓ Dates confirmed based on consortium availability.
- ✓ DC participation mandatory. (EU contract)
- ✓ Former DCs invited. (subject to supervisor approval)
- ✓ Supervisors may present if DCs are unavailable

### ✓ 4th Training & Meeting – Sweden (Stockholm & Gothenburg | June 2025)

Successfully delivered with strong participation, focusing on advanced research training and interdisciplinary exchange.

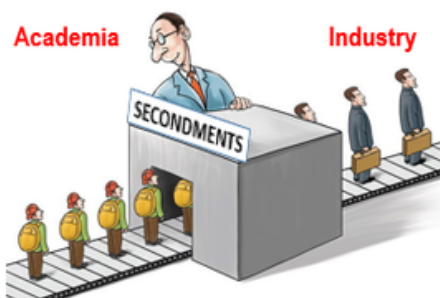
### ✓ 5th ISOBIOTICS Consortium Meeting – Virtual (April 2026)

- Successfully conducted with full consortium participation.
- Strong engagement from doctoral candidates and Advisory Board.
- Positive feedback on scientific progress and communication initiatives.
- Reinforced alignment for final phase activities
- Highlighted the impact of doctoral-led initiatives, including the Comic Series, with very positive international and public feedback.

## DELIVERABLES SUBMISSION UPDATE

As of April 2026, **41** ISOBIOTICS project deliverables (1.1-1.8, 2.1-2.6, 3.1-3.5, 4.1-4.3, 5.1-5.5, 6.1-6.12, and 7.1-7.2) have been successfully uploaded and submitted on the European Commission's EU Funding and Tenders Portal (SyGMa – System for Grant Management), and are fully aligned with the project's deliverables submission timeline.

## SECONDMENTS UPDATE OF THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATES



- Secondment data collected from all Doctoral Candidates across the consortium.
- Progress is actively monitored across completed, ongoing, and upcoming secondments.
- Majority of secondments successfully delivered across academic and industrial partners.
- Standardized reporting template implemented to ensure consistency and tracking.
- Remaining secondment reports are being consolidated and finalized.



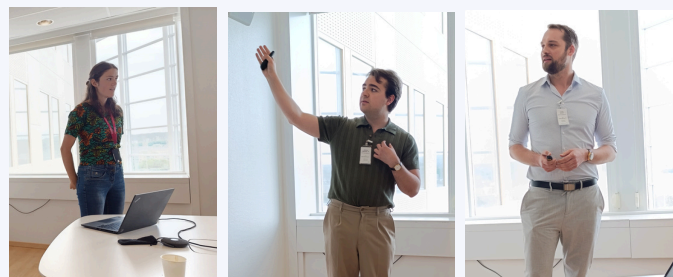
**BIOCLINICUM, KAROLINSKA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, SOLNA  
STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN  
TRAINING  
17TH JUNE TO 19 JUNE 2025**



**ASTRAZENECA AB R&D, MÖLNDAL, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN  
MEETING  
23 RD JUNE 2025**



**TAVOLO ITALIAN RESTAURANT, GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN  
GALA DINNER  
23 RD JUNE 2025**



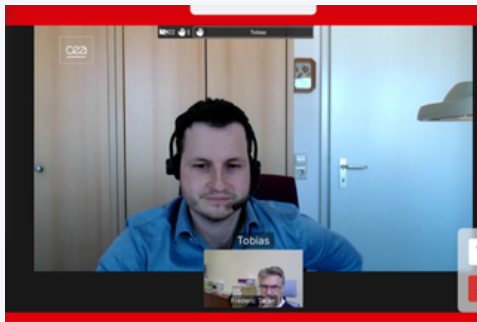
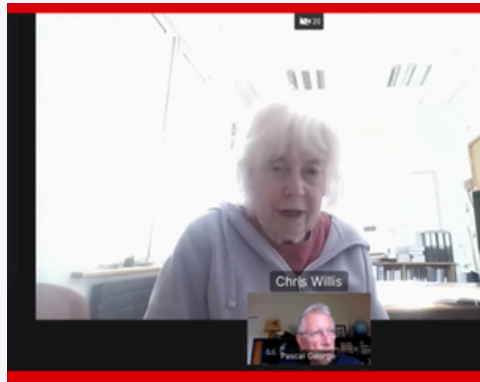
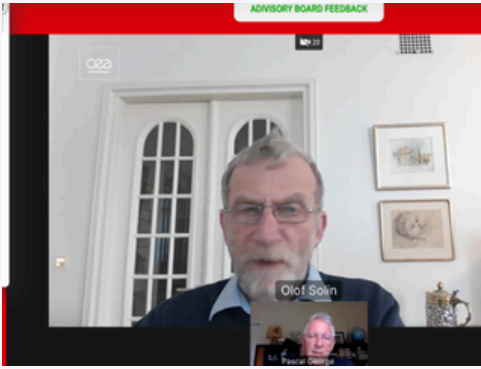
## **ISOBIOTICS 4TH TRAINING SCHOOL & CONSORTIUM MEETING - KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Location:** Stockholm, Sweden (June 17–19, 2025) at BioClinicum, Karolinska University Hospital, followed by the 4th Consortium Meeting in Gothenburg at AstraZeneca R&D (June 23, 2025).
- **Featured Training:** 3-day programme covering Scientific, Industrial, and Complementary Skills training, combined with facility visits.
- **Focus:** PET imaging, radioligand development, molecular imaging in drug discovery, radiopharmaceutical manufacturing, <sup>13</sup>C/<sup>14</sup>C labeling, therapeutic antibodies, antibody engineering, career development, and imaging facility exposure.
- **Participation:** 10/11 Doctoral Candidates attended; feedback showed very high satisfaction with the programme's structure, quality, and scientific relevance.
- **Top Highlights:** Strong appreciation for the PET imaging sessions, antibody engineering content, career development workshop, and Karolinska facility visit.
- **4th Consortium Meeting:** Included DC presentations, Advisory Board feedback, and project updates on deliverables, secondments, Open Access/Zenodo, amendments, and reporting.
- **Gala Dinner:** Social events and the Tavolo Gala Dinner fostered networking, informal exchange, and stronger inter-institutional collaboration.
- **Extended Impact:** The Sweden events directly preceded the IIS Symposium in Gothenburg, enhancing the scientific visibility and dissemination impact of ISOBIOTICS.

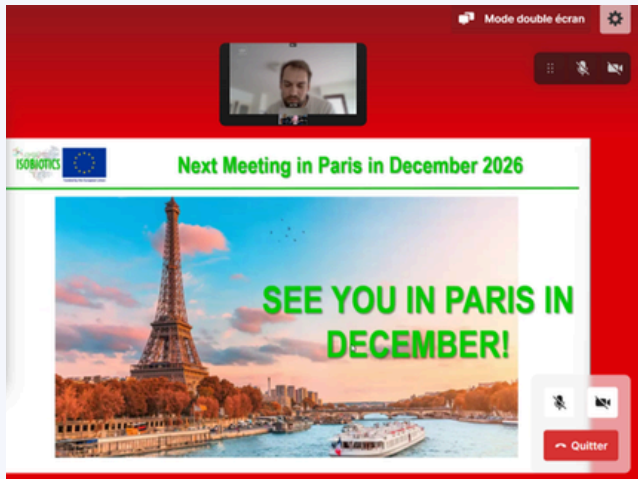
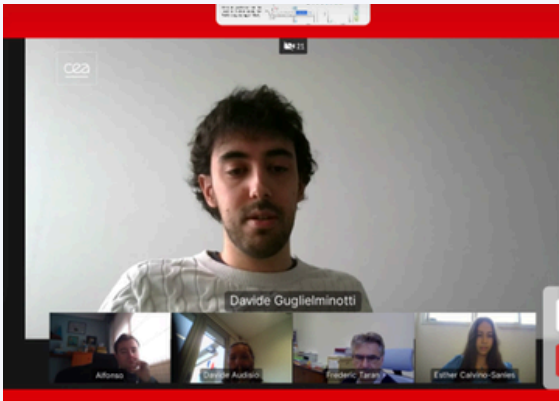




VIRTUAL CONSORTIUM MEETING  
CEA VIDEO CONFERENCING SYSTEM (ORGANIZED BY CEA)  
2ND APRIL 2026



## SNAPSHOTS FROM DOCTORAL CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS AND ADVISORY BOARD FEEDBACK.



### ISOBIOTICS 5TH VIRTUAL CONSORTIUM MEETING - KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Format:** Virtual consortium meeting held on April 2, 2026, organized by CEA. Due to technical issues with the Visio platform, the meeting was conducted via the CEA video conferencing system.
- **Participation:** Strong engagement from Doctoral Candidates, beneficiaries, and Advisory Board members across the consortium.
- **Scientific Programme:** Doctoral Candidate presentations across H-, C-, and F-labeling sessions, followed by interactive discussions.
- **Participation Note:** DC8 (Anika Schick) was unable to attend due to technical issues; her presentation was delivered by Dr. Chad Elmore.
- **Leadership Transition:** Meeting initiated by Dr. Christophe Dugave and subsequently led by Dr. Grégory Pieters, marking the coordination transition.
- **Project Follow-up:** Key updates on project progress, reporting, and next steps presented by Shivani Utekar.
- **Advisory Board:** Dedicated AB-DC session followed by highly positive and constructive feedback.
- **Key Messages:** Focus on final phase execution, timely deliverables, and preparation for the Final Meeting in Paris (November 2026).
- **DC Acknowledgment:** Justin Alich, on behalf of all DCs, thanked the consortium and coordination team (Christophe, Grégory, Shivani) for their support.
- **Outcome:** Strong virtual collaboration, alignment, and progress toward project completion.



ISOBIOTICS AT THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE SYNTHESIS AND APPLICATIONS OF ISOTOPICALLY LABELLED COMPOUNDS (IIS), GOTHENBURG, JUNE 2025.



**ISOBIOTICS DOCTORAL CANDIDATES AND CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AT IIS GOTHENBURG 2025, SHOWCASING STRONG SCIENTIFIC PARTICIPATION AND COLLABORATION**

### **IIS GOTHENBURG 2025 - KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Event:** ISOBIOTICS at the 15th International Symposium on the Synthesis and Applications of Isotopically Labelled Compounds (IIS), Gothenburg, Sweden. (June 2025)
- **Scientific Impact:** ISOBIOTICS doctoral candidates and consortium members made a strong impact through high-level scientific contributions and active participation.
- **Oral Presentations:** Justin Alich (DC2), Marc San José Gracia (DC6), Anika Schick (DC8), Elisa Martinelli (DC9), and Esther Calviño Sanlés (DC10)
- **Consortium Contributions:** Davide Audisio, Grégory Pieters, and Antoine Sallustrau contributed through presentations and session leadership.
- **Awards & Recognition:** Elisa Martinelli (DC9) and Anika Schick (DC8) received the Wiley Young Scientist Award
- Davide Audisio (CEA) received the Melvin Calvin Award.
- **Outcome:** *Strengthened international visibility, scientific excellence, and recognition of the ISOBIOTICS consortium.*

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS & PREPRINTS (POST-JUNE 2025)

### DC9 ELISA MARTINELLI – RESEARCH ARTICLE (OPEN ACCESS)

PUBLISHED: 07 MARCH 2026



From left to right - Elisa Martinelli & Dr. Volker DERDAU

**Partner of attachment:** SANOFI (Sanofi GmbH) DE  
**Supervisor :** Dr. Volker DERDAU  
**University of Attachment:** UROS (University of Rostock) DE  
**Director of Thesis :** Prof. Matthias BELLER



CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE PDF OF THE RESEARCH ARTICLE



**Publication Highlights** [DOI: 10.1038/s41467-026-69850-x](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-026-69850-x)

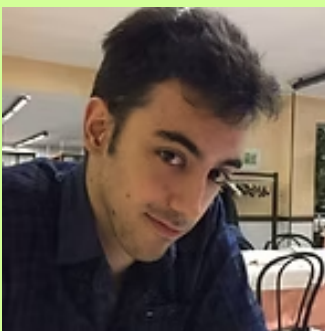
**Radiolabeling of oligopeptides by selective hydrogen isotope exchange with deuterium and tritium in aqueous buffers** *Nature Communications* (2026)



Publication UPLOADED IN THE ISOBIOTICS ZENODO Repository

<https://zenodo.org/records/18978993>

### DC5 DAVIDE GUGLIEMINOTTI - PREPRINT



From left to right - Davide Guglieminotti & Prof. Thomas Carell

**Partner of attachment :** LMU (Ludwig Maximilians University München) DE  
**Supervisor:** Prof. Thomas CARELL  
**University of Attachment :** LMU (Ludwig Maximilians University München) DE  
**Director of Thesis:** Prof. Thomas CARELL



CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE PDF OF THE RESEARCH ARTICLE



**Publication Highlights** [doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.11.26.690736](https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.11.26.690736)

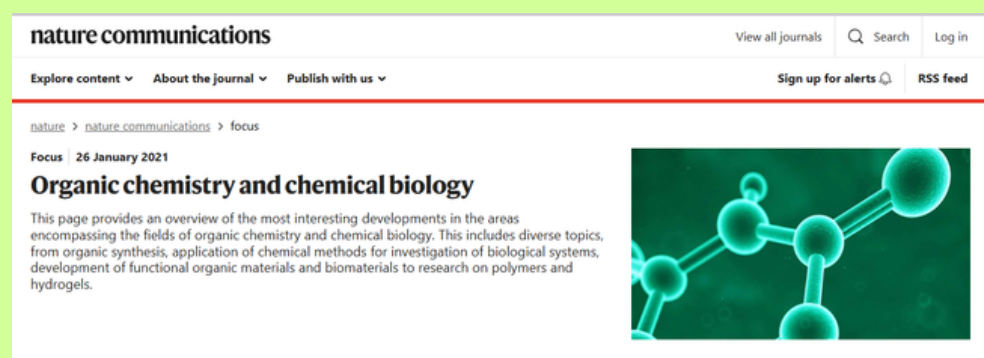
**Increasing TET expression and 5-hydroxymethylcytosine formation by a carbocyclic 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine antimetabolite** *bioRxiv Preprint* – January 2026

Publication UPLOADED IN THE ISOBIOTICS ZENODO Repository

<https://zenodo.org/records/18978993>

## FEATURED IN NATURE COMMUNICATIONS EDITORS' HIGHLIGHTS - 19 MARCH 2026

An ISOBIOTICS research publication led by DC9 Elisa Martinelli has been selected for the Editors' Highlights of Nature Communications, recognizing its scientific excellence and contribution to the field of organic chemistry and chemical biology.



nature communications

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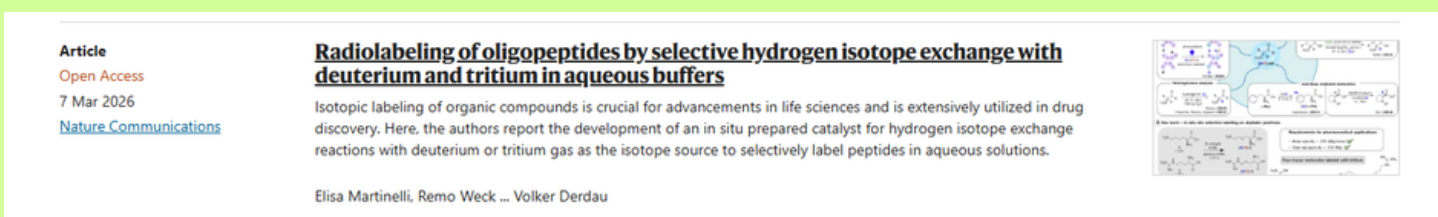

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nature > nature communications > focus

Focus 26 January 2021

### Organic chemistry and chemical biology

This page provides an overview of the most interesting developments in the areas encompassing the fields of organic chemistry and chemical biology. This includes diverse topics, from organic synthesis, application of chemical methods for investigation of biological systems, development of functional organic materials and biomaterials to research on polymers and hydrogels.



Article


Open Access

7 Mar 2026

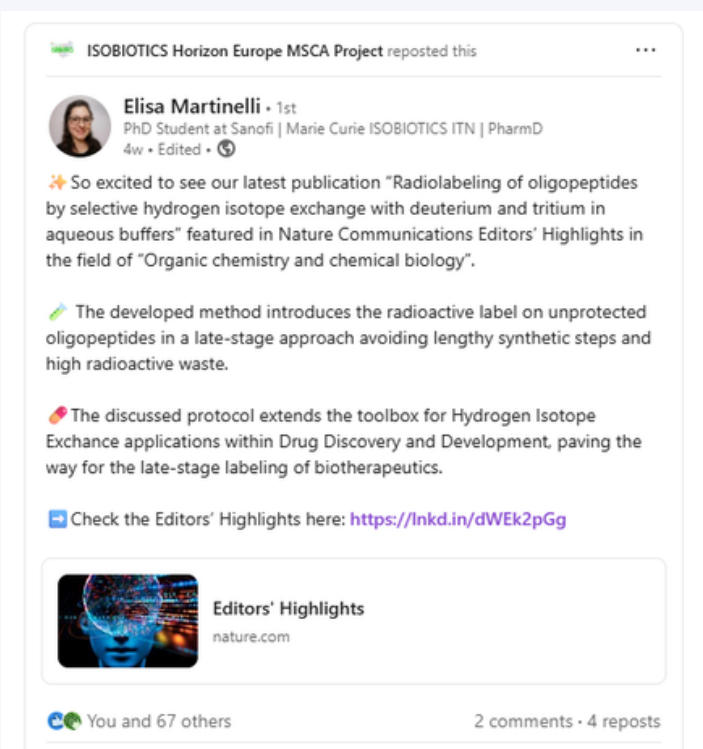
Nature Communications

### Radiolabeling of oligopeptides by selective hydrogen isotope exchange with deuterium and tritium in aqueous buffers

Isotopic labeling of organic compounds is crucial for advancements in life sciences and is extensively utilized in drug discovery. Here, the authors report the development of an in situ prepared catalyst for hydrogen isotope exchange reactions with deuterium or tritium gas as the isotope source to selectively label peptides in aqueous solutions.



Elisa Martinelli, Remo Weck ... Volker Derdau



ISOBIOTICS Horizon Europe MSCA Project reposted this


Elisa Martinelli • 1st  
PhD Student at Sanofi | Marie Curie ISOBIOTICS ITN | PharmD  
4w • Edited

So excited to see our latest publication "Radiolabeling of oligopeptides by selective hydrogen isotope exchange with deuterium and tritium in aqueous buffers" featured in Nature Communications Editors' Highlights in the field of "Organic chemistry and chemical biology".

The developed method introduces the radioactive label on unprotected oligopeptides in a late-stage approach avoiding lengthy synthetic steps and high radioactive waste.

The discussed protocol extends the toolbox for Hydrogen Isotope Exchange applications within Drug Discovery and Development, paving the way for the late-stage labeling of biotherapeutics.

Check the Editors' Highlights here: <https://lnkd.in/dWEk2pGg>



You and 67 others 2 comments • 4 reposts

[Snapshot of the Nature Communications Editors' Highlights feature and DC9 Elisa Martinelli's LinkedIn post announcing this recognition.](#)

Access the publication featured in Nature Communications Editors' Highlights:

<https://www.nature.com/ncomms/editorshighlights>

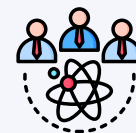
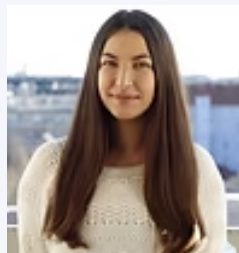


## COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES:

### DC 4 Malamatenia PAPAVALILEOU

Faculdade de Farmácia, Universidade de Lisboa – Instituto de Investigação do Medicamento (iMed), Portugal. 7–11 July 2025

- GiMM at NOS Alive: When Science Goes to Festivals, 9 July 2025



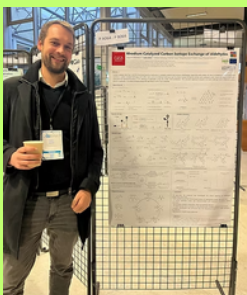
## DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES: POSTER PRESENTATIONS

### DC 2 JUSTIN ALICH

- Poster and flash presentation at the 28th International Symposium on Synthesis in Organic Chemistry, Cambridge, UK, 21–24 July 2025



Poster presentation at JCO 2025 – Organic Chemistry Days, organized by the Société Chimique de France (SCF), École Polytechnique, Palaiseau, France, 29–31 October 2025



### DC 4 Malamatenia PAPAVALILEOU

Poster presentation at the 1st CAML and GiMM PhD Meeting 2026, Faculty of Medicine, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 26–28 January 2026



### DC 9 ELISA MARTINELLI

R&D Sanofi Germany Week 2025, Frankfurt am Main (DE), November 2025

“Late-stage functionalization in Drug Discovery and Development”



### DC 8 ANIKA SCHICK

EFMC-ASMC 2025 – International Symposium on Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry, Porto (Portugal), 31 August – 4 September 2025



### DC 10 Esther CALVIÑO SANLÉS

Poster presentation at the 1st CAML and GiMM PhD Meeting 2026, Faculdade de Medicina, University of Lisbon, Portugal, 26–28 January 2026



## ORAL PRESENTATIONS

### DC 9 ELISA MARTINELLI

R&D Sanofi Germany Week 2025, Frankfurt am Main (DE), November 2025

Young Talents Session: “Late-stage functionalization in Drug Discovery and Development”



### DC 10 Esther CALVIÑO SANLÉS

16th National Organic Chemistry Meeting & 9th National Medicinal and Biological Chemistry Meeting  
Flash oral communication





## ISOBIOTICS DOCTORAL STUDENTS COMIC SERIES

As part of their dissemination activities, ISOBIOTICS doctoral candidates were encouraged to communicate their research through a creative format accessible to a broader audience.

To achieve this, the doctoral candidates collaborated with illustrator Alessandra Alyah Patanè to develop a three-episode comic series, presenting radioisotopes  $^{14}\text{C}$ ,  $^{18}\text{F}$ , and  $^3\text{H}$  as engaging scientific “heroes”.

This initiative translates complex concepts in radiolabelling, drug development, and medical diagnostics into a visual storytelling format, making cutting-edge research understandable beyond the scientific community.

### WHY A COMIC SERIES?

- Communicate complex science to a broader audience.
- Move beyond traditional academic formats.
- Humanise research through doctoral candidate involvement.
- Challenge perceptions around radioactivity.

### SERIES OVERVIEW

- 3 episodes:  $^{14}\text{C}$  |  $^{18}\text{F}$  |  $^3\text{H}$
- 15 illustrated panels.
- Developed with **Alessandra Alyah Patanè**.
- Disseminated via ISOBIOTICS Website, LinkedIn, and X.

### OUTREACH & VISIBILITY

- **10,000+ impressions and counting across ISOBIOTICS social media platforms.**
- **Significant accounts reached across LinkedIn and X audiences.**
- **Strong engagement generated across multiple comic releases.**
- **Active interaction from key stakeholders and research communities.**
- **Recognition and engagement from the European Research Executive Agency (REA).**
- **Reposts and visibility amplification by the International Isotope Society, extending outreach to global expert networks.**
- 📊 **Detailed post-level analytics are being tracked across individual comic releases.**



European Research Executive Agency (REA) and **Lorenzo Ballerini** liked your post · Mar 26  
ISOBIOTICS Student Comic Series – Episode 3

Meet Professor Tritium ( $^3\text{H}$ )



International Isotope Society

Lindsey (Fischer) Horty · 1st  
1w · 🌐

Very cool comics created by the ISOBIOTICS Student Comic Series. Check this superhero carbon-14.

Most relevant ▾



European Research Executive Agency (REA)  
99,510 followers

Thank you for your lovely work! 🙌

Like · 🗨️ 1 | Reply · 1 reply



ISOBIOTICS Horizon Europe MSCA Project **Author** 3w  
HORIZON EUROPE-MSCA-DN-2021 #101072780 : 01-02-202...

European Research Executive Agency (REA) Thank you very much for your kind words and support! 😊

Like | Reply | 53 impressions



Marc San José Gracia · 1st

Marie Curie PhD Fellow | R&D | Innovation & Testing | Chemistry | Transia...  
3w · 🌐

The 2nd episode is out! 🎉

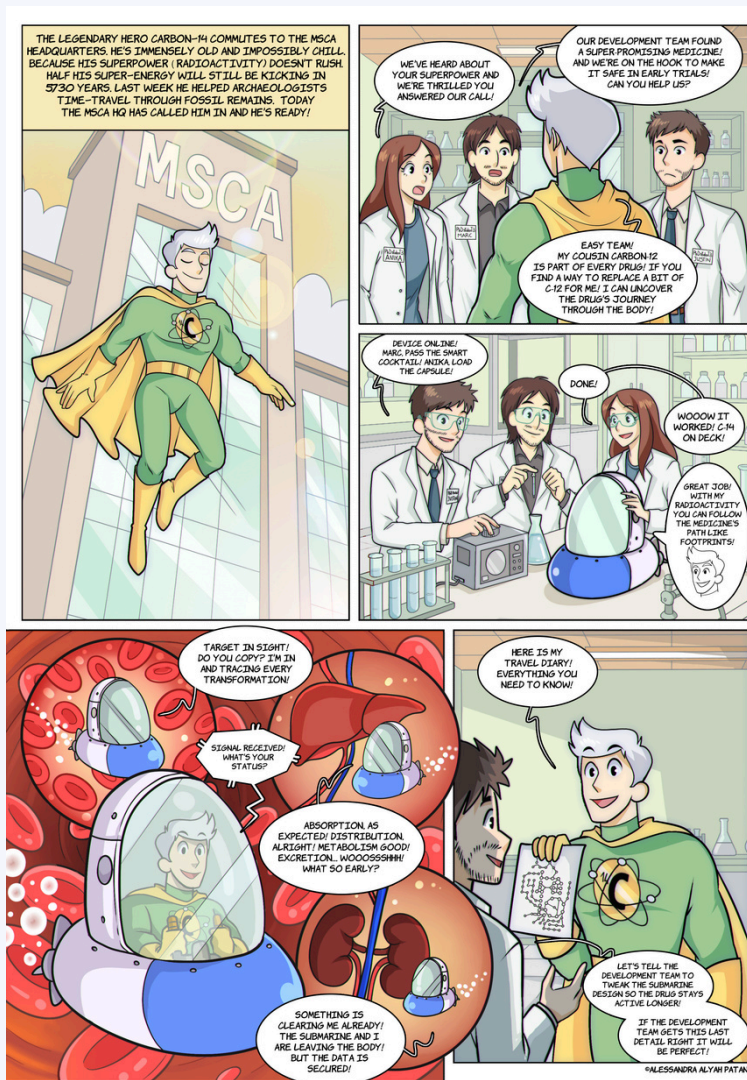
After showing how the radioactive isotope of carbon (carbon-14) supports ADME studies during drug development, now it's turn for fluorine-18, a super short-lived radionuclide. It loses half of its activity in just 110min... what does this mean???

Think of it like aging: you enter IKEA at 28 years old. 2 hours later (definitely still inside), you are 56. After 4h (eating swedish meatballs) you're 112... and when you are pushed to leave, you've aged over 200 years 😂

Despite this short lifetime, fluorine-18 is key in diagnostic imaging, helping doctors see what's happening inside the body in real time, for example, in detecting cancer.



# EPISODE 1 – CARBON-14



➔ Explore the full episode on the official **ISOBIOTICS** website, LinkedIn, and X platforms below, or download the full comic as a PDF.



## ISOBIOTICS DOCTORAL CANDIDATES' VOICES

### **What inspired the idea behind the comic series?**

We realized that something as important as the role that radioisotopes play in developing new drugs was often hidden behind dense, intimidating—sometimes even boring—explanations. The comic was born from the idea of showcasing their importance through a lively, visual adventure that anyone can enjoy and understand.

### **Why did you choose to appear in the comic yourselves?**

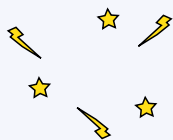
We also wanted to show that this kind of science can also be carried out by PhD students like us—real people behind the research, not just abstract concepts. - **Rafael Jiménez RIOBOO**

### **What inspired the idea behind the comic series?**

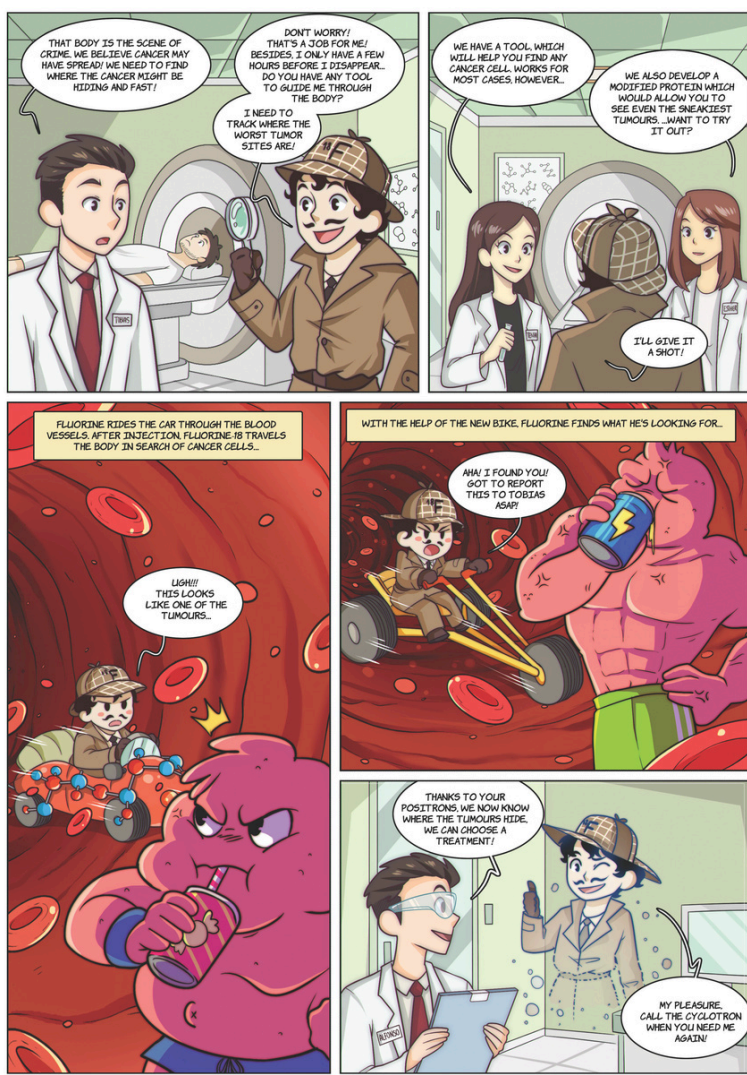
We believed that dissemination of complex science to broad audiences is better achieved with a visual representation, and what better format than a comic! The superhero genre also provides an accessible way to convey the idea that radioactivity can be incredibly useful in medicine and pharmacy.

### **What impact do you think it created?**

Every communication about radioactive labelling is very important to recognize its value in society/industry, so we are happy believing that we helped raise interest in this topic. - **Alfonso Fumanal IDOCIN**



# EPISODE 2 – FLUORINE-18



Explore the full episode on the official **ISOBIOTICS** website, LinkedIn, and X platforms below, or download the full comic as a PDF.



## ISOBIOTICS DOCTORAL CANDIDATES' VOICES

### What inspired the idea behind the comic series?

We wanted to confront the idea that research is out of reach for the general public, by showing that something impossible to see with the naked eye, yet does have massive impact in human health research.

### What impact do you think it created?

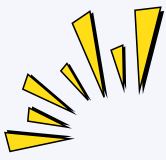
Moving away from complex academic posters towards something more colourful, fun, that mirrors our excitement and sparks curiosity across lawyers, carpenters, athletes, graphic designers...

### How does this comic help destigmatizing the word radioactivity for the general public?

When connecting the intimidating concept of radioactive isotopes to the narrative, people feel more connected and manage to understand its relevance for human health research. - **Marc San José GRACIA**

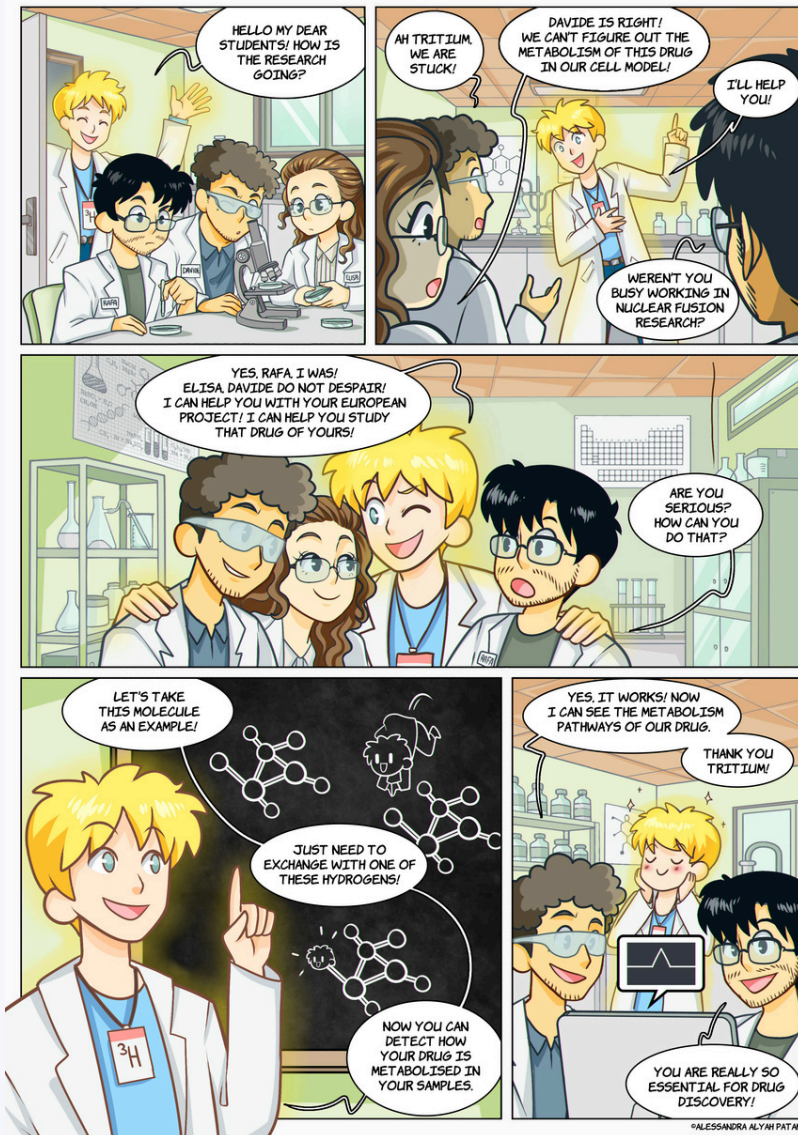
### What did you personally learn from translating your research into a comic format?

I learned that even complex topics can be broken down into something short and clear - it's not easy, but it's possible if you focus on the core idea. The harder part was turning artistic, creative ideas into something concrete, which is a bit different from the kind of problem-solving we're used to in research. Working as a team made a big difference there. - **Justin ALICH**



# EPISODE 3 – TRITIUM ( $^3\text{H}$ )

👉 Explore the full episode on the official **ISOBIOTICS** website, LinkedIn, and X platforms below, or download the full comic as a PDF.



## ISOBIOTICS DOCTORAL CANDIDATES' VOICES

### **Why did you choose to create a comic?**

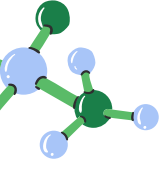
We wanted to tell a story that makes the science accessible to everyone, easy to share, and quick to engage with. A comic felt like a warm, welcoming format that lowers barriers without dumbing anything down. And I'll admit—having three of our students doing their PhDs in Paris, definitely nudged us toward a more creative approach!

### **What feedback did you receive?**

The response has been overwhelmingly positive. What really touched me was hearing that some of our PIs were approached by researchers abroad—including in the US—asking if they could use the comic in their own settings. It was both surprising and deeply encouraging to see the work resonate across borders.

### **What was the most challenging aspect of the comic?**

Striking the right balance between scientific accuracy and simplicity was more challenging than we expected. We worked hard to visualize complex concepts clearly without oversimplifying them to the point of being misleading. Finding that middle ground took time, iteration, and a lot of thoughtful discussion—but it was worth it to respect both the science and the reader. - **Tobias FUNDER**



Rafael Jim nez Rioboo (ES)



Justin Alich (DE)



Alfonso Fumanal Idocin (ES)



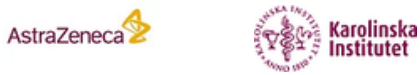
Malamatenia Papavasileiou (EL)



Davide GUGLIELMINOTTI (IT)



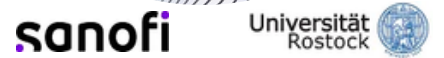
Marc San Jos  GRACIA (ES)



Tobias Funder (DE)



Anika SCHICK (DE)



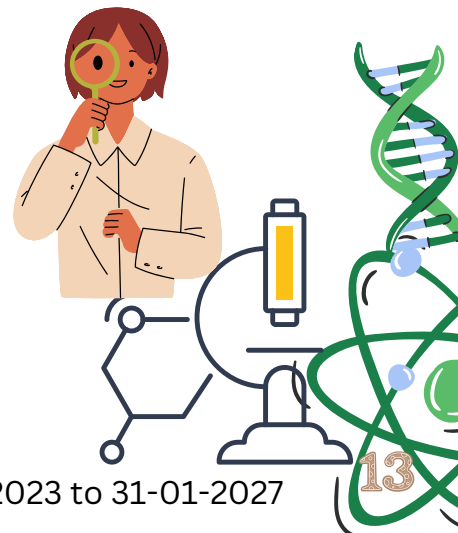
Elisa MARTINELLI (IT)



Esther Calvi o Sanl s (ES)



Marine GUINGAND (FR)



# HAVE A QUESTION ON YOUR MIND?



Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates!



<https://www.isobiotics-project.org/>



<https://twitter.com/ISOBIOLOGICSeuDN>



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/isobiotics-horizon-europe-msca-project-07358a2b1/>



[isobiotics.project@gmail.com](mailto:isobiotics.project@gmail.com)

Don't hesitate to ask everything about us!



Coordination and Management Team  
(CEA-Saclay/SCBM)



**Dr. Grégory  
PIETERS**  
(Project  
Coordinator)



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