‘THE FUTURE OF HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN
EUROPE: THE NEED FOR STRATEGIC ACTION’

- WELCOME ADDRESS -

BELGIAN ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, BRUSSELS · 23 MAY 2012
ORGANISED JOINTLY BY
ALLIANCE FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH IN EUROPE AND EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prof. Ulf Smith, President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe
Who is the BioMed Alliance?

-Speaking with one voice for the first time –

- 20 major European medical and biomedical scientific societies, across all disciplines
- 250,000 biomedical researchers from across Europe
- To take all actions necessary:
  - To promote excellence in biomedical research
  - To ensure appropriate support and thereby
  - Improve the well-being of all citizens in Europe
Led by a cross-disciplinary, expert Executive Committee

- **Ulf Smith, President, EASD**
- **Julio Celis, Vice-President, ECCO**
- **Karin Sipido, Vice-President, ESC**
- **Laurent Nicod, Treasurer, ERS**
Consultation with eminent Core Group members

Multidisciplinary: professionals, policymakers, patient advocates and pharmaceutical industry

- Sir George Alberti
- Maciej Banach
- Peter J Barnes
- Laurent Degos
- Wilfried Ellmeier
- Valentin Fuster
- Silke Mader
- Michael Manns
- Luis Marti-Bonmati
- Martine Piccart
- Tomas Zima

Advisors:
- Richard Bergstrom
- José Mariano Gago
- Harald zur Hausen
- Liselotte Højgaard
- Stella Kyriakidis
- Peter Lange
Why such an Alliance?

*Call to action!*

- An ageing population
- Growing prevalence of chronic diseases
- A declining labour force
- Rising healthcare costs
The NCD Cost Tally

- **Cancer**: US$ 290 billion in 2010 rising to US$ 458 billion in 2030
- **Cardiovascular disease**: US$ 863 billion in 2010 rising to US$ 1.04 trillion in 2030
- **COPD**: US$ 2.1 trillion in 2010 US$ rising to US$ 4.8 trillion in 2030
- **Diabetes**: US$ 500 billion in 2010 rising to at least US$ 745 billion in 2030
- **Mental illness**: US$ 2.5 trillion in 2010 rising to US$ 6.0 trillion by 2030
“IF YOU THINK RESEARCH IS EXPENSIVE, TRY DISEASE”

Mary Lasker, 1901–94
Health is Wealth

In a time of economic gloom:

These challenges can only be met by increased knowledge through biomedical research and a coherent and strategic European action that engages all key stakeholders in healthcare.
Major Return on Investment

“... the total health and GDP gains to public/charitable CVD research in the UK 1975–1992 give a total Initial Rates of Return (IRR) of around 39%. In other words, a £1.00 investment in public CVD research produced a stream of benefits that is equivalent in value to earning £0.39 per year in perpetuity”.

Biomedical research

Is an outstanding example of research-driven innovation which, through

✓ health promotion and prevention (including research)
✓ development of diagnostic and medicinal products
✓ improvement of medical treatments, and advances in health services research

may boost scientific excellence and knowledge as drivers of future growth in the European Research Area (ERA)
Call for Action:

- Boost biomedical and clinical research with appropriate funding

- *Create a strategic action for health in the form of a scientific-led European Council for Health Research*

- Encourage cross-talk and best practices across disciplines and accelerate research-driven innovation

- Implement structured consultation with *all relevant stakeholders* to steer health research and ensure proper targeting and priority-setting for funding

- Encourage long-term strategic research programmes capable of triggering global multidisciplinary partnerships
Activities to Date

- [www.biomedeuurope.org](http://www.biomedeuurope.org)
- Statutes
- BioMed Alliance response to Green Paper
- Article, European Voice, Dec. 2011
- 2 Press Releases
- Creation of Core Group and meeting to establish roadmap
- European Council for Health Research Concept Paper, consensus by all members
- European Parliament amendments
- Policymaker contact programme
- Concept Paper, Dissemination campaign
SESSION ONE: AIMS TO SET THE SCENE — HEALTH IS WEALTH
“Achieving a Healthier Europe Through Research & Innovation: Defining the Needs”

SESSION TWO: PARTNERSHIP TO ACCELERATE INNOVATION
“Health Research & Innovation in Europe: Coordination as a Success Factor”
SESSION THREE: H2020 - A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY
“The Future of R&I in Europe: the Need for a Strategic Action”

SESSION FOUR:
The Future of R&I in Europe: the Need for a Strategic Action – Views from Stakeholders