



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

# UPDATE APRIL 2019

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## 1. BioMed Alliance meets high level DG SANTE officials



As part of our EU outreach activities, BioMed Alliance president Axel Pries and Board Member Elizabeth McIntyre meet Martin Seychell on 26 April. They will exchange views on the coordination of health research in Europe. Martin Seychell is the deputy director-general of the European Commission's DG SANTE and is e.g. responsible for public health policy. Afterwards, the BioMed Alliance Delegation has a discussion with Andrzej Rys, the Director responsible for health systems, medical products and innovation at the European Commission.

The European Commission has established a steering group on health coordination consisting of member state representatives last summer. The BioMed Alliance is interested in engaging with this initiative and in learning about other steps the Commission may take to improve the coordination of health (research) policy.

## 2. EU Elections | 23-26 May 2019



The EU Elections are rapidly approaching. From 23-26 May, European citizens will vote for members of parliament and their parties thus determining the composition of the next European Parliament from 2019-2024. In addition, the elections have an influence on the composition of the next European Commission.

The elections thus have a major impact on EU policy making. With the current rise in Euroscepticism they can be of major influence on the future of the EU.

Strengthening the European health research ecosystem requires policy makers that enjoy sufficient flexibility, see the need for European cooperation and recognise the value of science. If an increasing number of anti-EU members are elected and the Parliament becomes fragmented, decision making procedures could become lengthier and more complicated. Moreover, this may lead to less cooperation and coordination related to health research policy at EU level.

Because of the importance of the EU elections and their substantial influence on the work of the BioMed Alliance, we have invited an election expert from Interel to the Spring Meeting. He will provide an update on the latest developments and explain potential future scenarios.



### 3. Call for case studies on health data in research



A new initiative called #DataSavesLives brings together patient organisations, industry, medical associations and other stakeholders to raise awareness on the importance of health data sharing. The initiative facilitates discussions between stakeholders on the use of health data and will create a web platform providing information to citizens on this topic.

The platform will be launched this summer and will be jointly developed by the European Patients Forum and the European Institute for Innovation through Health Data. It should help raise awareness on the value and potential of health data, as well as related concerns.

If you have an example of a project showcasing how health data have been used to conduct research to fill important knowledge gaps, please contact us at [office@biomedeuropa.org](mailto:office@biomedeuropa.org). We would like to ask you to fill out the short survey and results may be used to build the web platform raising awareness on the use of health data in research.

### 4. CME Experts Committee holds first formal meeting



After the BioMed Alliance Taskforce was dissolved this year, a more permanent structure for cooperation on Continuing Medical Education was established in the form of the CME Experts Standing Committee.

The Committee held its first formal meeting on 17 April and consists of experts in medical education from different medical societies. The CME Experts Standing Committee aims to foster cooperation between medical societies on CME and explores potential actions to continue guaranteeing excellence of educational activities. It will work together with different stakeholders to ensure that high quality CME leads to better outcomes for patients in Europe.

The CME Experts Standing Committee also reflected on the activities of the taskforce. To raise awareness on the importance of quality CME, this taskforce drafted an article on the role of industry in CME Provision. The article was written by a number of leading academics and will soon be published in the American Journal of Medicine. It analyses CME provision in Europe and raises awareness on the effects of industry involvement on the provision and the quality of education. The abstract is available on the website of the American Journal of Medicine [here](#).



## 5. High-level speakers confirmed for the Spring Meeting



The programme for the Spring Meeting on 14 May has been circulated and features a diverse list of names.

In the morning, we will kick the day off by discussing the European Elections with an expert from Interel. Afterwards, key actors in relation to Plan S will present their reflections. In the afternoon, our Board members will chair discussions on past, ongoing and upcoming activities.

The list of speakers on Plan S includes:

- Keynote speaker: Robert Kiley, Head of Open Science at Wellcome Trust
- Panellist: Jean-Claude Burgelman, Head of Unit Open data Policies and Science Cloud, European Commission
- Panellist: Prof. Laszlo Fesus, Chair of the FEBS Publications Committee
- Panellist: Jan Cools, editor-in-chief of the HemaSphere journal, EHA
- Panellist: Thomas F. Lüscher, editor in Chief of the European Heart Journal / Valentina Tursini, Scientific Publications Director, ESC

## 6. Partial agreement reached on Horizon Europe



The EU institutions have reached a partial political agreement, subject to formal approval by the European Parliament and Council, on Horizon Europe. The agreement encompasses the majority of operative provisions of Horizon Europe and was concluded in the end of March. Certain aspects, such as the budget, the participation of third countries and the majority of the recitals will be decided at a later stage

Within the health cluster of Horizon Europe, 6 areas of intervention are proposed based on main health challenges in the EU. In addition, a mission on cancer and an institutionalised European partnership on health innovations is proposed.

The European Parliament amendment proposing the Steering Board for Health is not included in the current text, like many other amendments the EP proposed. The Steering Board for Health faced opposition from member states as they feared it would limit their decision-making power.

The BioMed Alliance is currently exploring the best direction forward, this could for example be making use of coordination and support actions or taking on a more prominent role in initiatives such as the next public-private partnership on health research





## 7. Upcoming

- On 6 May, the **Scientific Panel for Health** will organise its next forum, entitled “Enabling health equality in Europe: the role of health research”
- The BioMed Alliance’s annual **Spring Meeting** will take place on 14 May 10.00 to 16.00.
- The **elections for the European Parliament** take place from 23-26 May
- Members of Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices Task Force are organising a **workshop on registries** on 17 June. The meeting will provide an opportunity for medical societies and regulators to jointly discuss how registries should be organised to supply both regulatory and clinical needs. The next day on 18 June, the **next meeting of the taskforce on regulatory affairs and medical devices** will take place.
- The **Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)** will organise its [annual stakeholder forum](#) on 12 June. The theme is ‘Brain health and disease in the digital era - 2020 & beyond’
- The next meeting of the **CME Experts Standing Committee** will take place on 26 September