



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

# UPDATE MARCH 2019

## Highlights:

1. Release joint statement with EFPIA on translational research ..... 1
2. BioMed Alliance paper on precision medicine published in ERJ ..... 1
3. President-elect meets with Austrian ministers ..... 2
4. BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting ..... 2
5. Joint workshop on medical device registries ..... 2
6. New statement outlining concerns on GDPR implementation ..... 3
7. Upcoming..... 3



## 1. Release joint statement with EFPIA on translational research



19 March 2019, Brussels

**Bold vision needed to translate basic health research in to new ways of delivering healthcare and new treatments for patients**

Scientific communities from industry and academia through the Biomedical Alliance in Europe (BioMed Alliance) and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) have teamed up to address the gaps within the translational research ecosystem and call for more focus and funding for translational research and pan European mechanisms for coordination and implementation.

The BioMed Alliance and EFPIA jointly call for a bold vision to translate basic health research into new ways of delivering healthcare and new treatments for patients. The joint statement calls for more focus and funding for translational research and for pan European mechanisms for coordination and implementation.

The [statement](#) is the result of the joint BioMed Alliance-EFPIA meeting in February. We will cooperate with EFPIA in the future in specific areas to advance translational research.

## 2. BioMed Alliance paper on precision medicine published in ERJ



EDITORIAL  
PRECISION MEDICINE

### Moving forward from drug-centred to patient-centred research

A white paper initiated by EORTC and developed together with the BioMed Alliance members

Denis Lacombe<sup>1</sup>, Colm O'Morain<sup>2</sup>, Barbara Casadei<sup>3</sup>, Kate Hill<sup>4</sup>, Elsa Mateus<sup>5</sup>, Rik Lories<sup>6</sup> and Guy Brusselle<sup>7</sup>

**Abbreviations:** Director General, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer; <sup>1</sup>President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe and United European Gastroenterology; <sup>2</sup>President, European Society of Cardiology; <sup>3</sup>Chair of the EU Patient Advisory Committee, European Lung Foundation; <sup>4</sup>UKAARMS representative, Patient Research Partner; <sup>5</sup>UKAAR representative to Global Alliance; <sup>6</sup>European League Against Rheumatism; <sup>7</sup>Chair of the ERS Science Council, European Respiratory Society.

**Correspondence:** Denis Lacombe, Director General, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, Avenue Moussier 62/71, Brussels, 1200, Belgium. E-mail: denis.lacombe@eortc.org

[@EORTCpublications](#)

This paper discusses how to restructure the process of clinical research to maximise the potential of precision medicine <http://dx.doi.org/10.1183/13996607.01820-2018>

Cite this article as: Lacombe D, O'Morain C, Casadei B, et al. Moving forward from drug-centred to patient-centred research. *Eur Respir J* 2019; 53: 1801820 (<https://doi.org/10.1183/13996607.01820-2018>).

In order to fully unlock the potential of Precision Medicine, we need to move forward from drug-centred to patient-centred research. That is the message of the new [whitepaper](#) in the European Respiratory Journal which was created under the Academic Clinical Trials Task Force.

The paper initiated by EORTC and further developed by BioMed Alliance calls for a paradigm switch. It states that to unlock the full benefits of precision medicine, a holistic approach to the development of therapeutic

strategies and a re-thinking of the entire process are necessary.

This is an updated version of a paper published in August 2018. Members are free to promote the paper on their websites and social media channels to raise awareness on precision medicine.



### 3. President-elect meets with Austrian ministers



Wilfried Ellmeier, the president-elect of the BioMed Alliance, along with Ulrich Jaeger, former Board member, met with the Austrian Ministers of Health and Science to discuss our proposal for a Steering Board for Health under Horizon Europe (the next EU research programme). While both ministers seemed interested in the BioMed Alliance and our initiative, they stated that broader support from the big member states is needed.

Discussions on the Horizon Europe Proposal are still ongoing, although [a partial agreement](#) on some of the main provisions was reached on 20 March. The budget, involvement of non-EU countries and the implementation will be defined at a later stage.

### 4. BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting

**BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting**  
Tuesday 14 May 2019  
10.00-16.30  
BioMed Alliance Office Building  
(Square de Meeûs, 29), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

Our annual Spring Meeting will take place on 14 May in Brussels. The meeting will provide a platform for discussions on the European elections, on [Plan S](#) (the promotion of open access publishing), and on our ongoing and upcoming activities.

We have circulated the [Save the Date](#) which includes a description of the programme. The aim of this meeting is to allow members to exchange views on EU policy, to stay up to date on our work and to

provide input on BioMed Alliance activities.

If you would like to attend, then please confirm your participation before 15 April to: [office@biomedeuropa.org](mailto:office@biomedeuropa.org)

### 5. Joint workshop on medical device registries



The BioMed Alliance together with the ESC and EFORT are organising a joint workshop on Medical Device Registries on 17 June in Brussels. The meeting will facilitate a discussion between EU regulators, healthcare professionals, industry and patient representatives on both regulatory and clinical needs. The Save the Date is available [here](#) on our website.



## 6. New statement outlining concerns on GDPR implementation



The Biomedical Alliance in Europe produced a [statement](#) outlining the practical consequences of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on health research. While the overarching purpose of the regulation is commendable, in practice researchers experience that its implementation hinders health research. The statement highlights the experiences of health researchers with GDPR implementation and lists potential ways to reduce the resulting barriers for health research in Europe.

Considering the significant impact of the GDPR on health research we would like to update the statement with more case studies. **If you have any case studies showcasing how the GDPR affected health research, please send them to [info@biomedeuropa.org](mailto:info@biomedeuropa.org)**

## 7. Upcoming

- The next meeting of the BioMed Alliance **CME Experts Committee** will take place on 17 April in Brussels. During the meeting, key experts will discuss the future of continuing medical education.
- 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 from 10.00 to 16.00. Members are invited to this meeting to discuss policies that are high on the political agenda and activities of the BioMed Alliance. The final agenda will be communicated shortly.
- 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 workshop will be followed by a meeting with Members of Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices Task Force to discuss next steps and action plan on 18 June.
- 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’