Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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1. Release joint statement with EFPIA on translational research

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

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

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@biomedeurope.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@biomed europe.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’