



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

UPDATE JANUARY

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1. BioMed Alliance welcomes EBC and EFORT



We are happy to announce that two new members have joined the ranks in January 2019. We would like to welcome the European Brain Council (EBC) and the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology (EFORT) to the BioMed Alliance and we look forward to a fruitful cooperation.

[The EBC](#) aims to promote brain research to improve the quality of life of people that live with mental or neurological conditions. It is a platform that fosters

interaction between societies, patient organisations, professional societies and industry partners. [EFORT](#) promotes the exchange of scientific knowledge and experience in the field of prevention and both the conservative and surgical treatment of diseases and injuries related to the musculo-skeletal system. It brings together national orthopaedic and trauma associations from 39 countries across Europe.

We are sure that both new members will provide valuable new input to the activities of the BioMed Alliance and therefore we can continue to advance biomedical innovation at European level.

2. BioMed Alliance creates Permanent Committee on Continuing Medical Education



Members of the BioMed Alliance decided to create a Permanent Expert Committee on Continued Medical Education (CME) during a taskforce meeting on 22 January 2019. The committee will be chaired by Professor David Vodusek and will allow members to exchange views and identify ways to ensure unbiased and high-quality education for doctors.

Continuing medical education is essential for healthcare professionals to keep track of the latest developments in healthcare and provide the best possible care to their patients. The European system for guaranteeing the quality of CME is quite complex. Therefore, members of the newly established expert committee will study and discuss this important topic and further explore the potential role of the BioMed Alliance in enhancing the quality of CME now and in the future.



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In the coming months, an article on CME written by members of the BioMed Alliance will be published in the American Journal of Medicine. Member organisations have also supported the production of a cartoon which raises awareness on the importance of high-quality and unbiased CME. A preview of the cartoon is available [here](#). The cartoon will soon be officially published, and members will receive communication guidelines advising how to share it with their networks. Members are free to promote the cartoon to reach a broad target audience of both medical professionals and the public.

3. Gunhild Waldemar represents the BioMed Alliance in the European Parliament



On 23 January, BioMed Alliance Board Member Prof. Gunhild Waldemar presented the BioMed Alliance at a European Parliament event on Neurological Diseases. She argued that more funding and improved coordination in health research are needed to be able to provide better access to healthcare for EU citizens. Professor Waldemar also highlighted the value of collaborative research and stressed that a Steering Board for Health under Horizon Europe could improve coordination and help create synergy between health research programs.

4. BioMed Alliance creates taskforce on Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices



The kick-off meeting of our new Task Force on Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices took place on 25 January. High-level experts in this field discussed the latest developments in the regulatory framework for medical devices and identified areas where the BioMed Alliance can share its expertise.

The chair of the taskforce, Prof. Alan Fraser, provided key insights into the regulatory context and the EU system for the assessment of Medical Devices. The taskforce agreed on certain priority areas, this includes reaching out to both European and International actors active in regulatory affairs and medical devices.

The European Commission would like to involve experts in the assessment process of medical devices and therefore it will launch a call to recruit interested doctors later this year. Since medical professionals can play a key role in ensuring the quality and safety of medical devices it is important that a broad pool of doctors from different disciplines responds to the call.

BioMed Alliance members will discuss their conclusions at an EU Commission Joint Research Centre meeting in Ispra next month. They will also be able to provide input on the involvement of experts in the assessment of medical devices.





5. Meeting with Dutch attachés on the Steering Board for Health



The BioMed Alliance had an interesting meeting with the attachés for health and research of the Dutch Permanent Representation to the EU in the end of January. We presented the BioMed Alliance and discussed the potential creation of a Steering Board for Health to enhance coordination and coherence in EU Health Research. Dutch representatives agreed that the current research framework has certain limitations and is fragmented. Nonetheless, they do not see a permanent structure as the best solution and argue that issues should instead be addressed within the current structure.

Although EU member states seem hesitant to support the proposal to create a Steering Board for Health, they do see the need for more coherence in health research. We will continue our advocacy activities to explore ways to work with member states to promote coordination and coherence in EU health research.

6. Upcoming

- BioMed Alliance members will participate in a European Commission Joint Research Centre expert meeting on 11 February to discuss the role of experts in the evaluation of medical devices.
- A BioMed Alliance roundtable on the value of translational research will be organised in collaboration with EFPIA, on 26 of February.

