



**UNITED EUROPEAN
GASTROENTEROLOGY
FEDERATION**



EASL and UEGF Support the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe's Call for a "European Council for Health Research"

Geneva, 12th December 2011 –The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and the United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF) fully support the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance)'s call for a European Institute of Health.

At its General Assembly meeting held in Brussels at the beginning of December, the BioMed Alliance discussed the best ways of working towards ensuring that health research is prioritised and, in conjunction with its 17 members, decided to call for the establishment of a European Council for Health Research. The creation of this new structure would focus on the need for common strategic planning of biomedical and clinical research in order to tackle the health challenges currently facing Europe.

"This is an excellent initiative which will enable better coordination of biomedical and clinical research" said Prof. Mark Thursz, Secretary General of EASL. "We are all aware of the potential that exists within European research centres but we are also conscious of the fragmentation that makes cooperation difficult".

Both EASL and UEGF agree that reviewing current structures and implementing a dedicated infrastructure aimed specifically at health would seem the best way of spearheading key advances to tackle the major societal challenges facing all Europeans in the areas of liver and gastrointestinal diseases.

Prof. Matthias Löhr noted on behalf of UEGF that "a centralised structure would build upon existing resources and ensure smoother cooperation, streamlining funds and simplifying the administrative processes linked to research funding".

EASL and UEGF will be working closely over the coming months to support BioMed Alliance in its efforts to ensure that Europe has a truly European interconnected research programme for biomedical research and with it a dedicated infrastructure which would represent a single agency with strong input from the research community.

Contact details:

Margaret Walker, EASL Director of EU Public Affairs, margaret.walker@easloffice.eu
Mobile number: + 41 79 946 15 49

Sorika Berner-Altenecker, UEGF Office Vienna, sorika.berner@medadvice.co.at
Mobile number: +43 699 1997 1610

Notes to Editor:

The European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)

EASL is the leading liver association in Europe. EASL attracts the foremost hepatology experts as members and has an impressive track record in promoting research in liver disease, supporting wider education, and promoting changes in European liver policy.

EASL believes the EU has a key role to play in raising awareness of liver disease in Europe, increasing additional funding for research, setting standards and guidelines for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care of liver disease across the EU and encourage member states to make liver disease a public health and research priority. EASL is one of the seven founding members of UEGF

For more information please visit www.easl.eu

The United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF)

The UEGF is a professional medical non-profit organisation comprising all of the major European societies with an interest in disease of the digestive system, including the oesophagus, stomach, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, intestine and bowel. The European societies that make up the Federation include medicine, surgery, paediatrics, GI oncology and endoscopy. UEGF is the most comprehensive organisation of this kind in the world and our affiliated societies represent over 22.000 European specialists.

For further information visit www.uegf.org