EU Health Summit 2018 - A shared vision for health

The BioMed Alliance is teaming up with other European Organisations to hold a EU Health Summit on 29 November 2018 in Brussels. We are leading one of the 4 working groups on Research and Innovation.

The BioMed Alliance along with the partner organisations have put together recommendations for a shared vision for the future of health in Europe, calling upon the next European Commission and European Parliament to bring about necessary changes.

Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier, BioMed Alliance President-Elect, will be moderating the group discussion on Research and Innovation during the EU Health Summit. Together with Wolfgang Burtscher (Deputy Director General DG RTD), Prof. Karin Sipido (Chair of the Scientific Panel for health) and Sarunas Narbutas from Youth Cancer Europe, we will be addressing the urgent needs to strengthen and increase the coherence and visibility of EU health research.

The working group on Research and Innovation has proposed 4 main recommendations to foster health research is Europe.

✓ Establish a Steering Board for Health to ensure optimal coordination of research activities

A Steering Board for Health should coordinate health programmes and health missions under Horizon Europe, guide applicants and create greater visibility for European health research programmes. The Steering Board would also help increase the visibility and effectiveness of European health research through integrated and coordinated communication and increase the clarity and transparency through establishing a ‘blueprint’ of existing funding mechanisms (such as Horizon Europe, European Social Found, Digital Europe and national funds) and a ‘One Stop Shop’ for health research.

✓ Ring-fence the budget for health research

An increased EU budget for health research, as well as an increase in national funding for research is required in order to tackle the major health challenges Europe is facing. Sound measures are a must to ensure that outstanding basic research leads to the necessary translational impact in the real-world setting and improves patients’ lives.

✓ Further the collaboration of public and private sectors in health research

Set up a cross-sectorial health research Public Private Partnership. The ability to build unique institutionalised partnerships that contribute to breaking silos between industries, public and private sectors, research and healthcare, will increase Europe’s attractiveness in the global collaborative research landscape. Complex challenges of ageing societies also call for integrated care solutions and these require much smarter integration of products, services and technologies and much deeper collaboration between public and private health and health research stakeholders.

✓ Assessment of funded health research programmes

Research on research is needed. A mechanism should be in place able to assess the funded health research programmes and oversee if the outcomes have a translational impact in the real-world setting across the larger innovation ecosystem.