



## Biomedical Alliance in Europe

### Call to support the European Medical and Research Societies

Dear President Dr. von der Leyen,

The COVID-19 pandemic poses considerable challenges for the healthcare sector and its professionals. Healthcare workers across Europe are working around the clock to care for European citizens. They rely on research-based medical societies and associations to provide and share up to date information on evidence-based clinical practice and on cutting edge research results. Currently, the 33 not-for-profit European medical and research societies that form the Biomedical Alliance in Europe provide information on Covid-19 to their ~400.000 members, release specialised e-learning materials on this topic, and facilitate collaborative research on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and the development and evaluation of vaccines.

In the current crisis evoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, we salute your considerable efforts to attenuate adverse impacts on the people of Europe and to help support struggling commercial entities that provide work and income to European citizens.

Please allow us to draw your attention to the fact that European medical and research societies and associations are severely hit by the COVID-19 crisis and need your help. Providing continuing medical education and the dissemination of research results is the main mission of these not-for-profit organisations. To a large extent, this mission is made possible by annual congresses attended by hundreds of thousands of healthcare professionals from Europe and the rest of the world, by renowned (bio)medical journals issued by these societies, and increasingly by digital sharing of information. Over recent decades, our European societies have attained a world-leading role in many of these areas, contributing also to the establishment of diagnostic and clinical treatment guidelines. It was only possible to achieve this through the massive voluntary work of highly qualified medical and research experts, selected for their desire to contribute to health care optimisation at European level.

Our congresses play a crucial role in continuously updating the knowledge of health professionals and are the key source for developing online educational materials. Unfortunately, but understandably, many societies have had to cancel or postpone their congresses this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, many of these not-for-profit associations are losing essential components of their economical basis, threatening their essential services to healthcare communities and, in some cases, even the very existence of societies.

The current COVID-19 pandemic requires that we work together to strengthen the environment for translational and clinical health research and by steering and coordinating research efforts in Europe. European medical and research societies are indispensable in this endeavour to maintain and develop the outstanding quality of European health services. Thus, we ask you to support us during these difficult times by addressing the financial threat our societies currently face, and by providing supporting measures to assist our mission.

We are more than happy to give you more information and discuss suggestions with you.

Yours sincerely,

Wilfried Ellmeier, President of the Biomedical Alliance in Europe

Steffen Gay, Tom Hemming Karlsen, Berthold Koletzko, Elizabeth Macintyre, Chantal Mathieu, Axel Pries (past-president), Gunhild Waldemar (president-elect), Tobias Welte, Board members of the Biomedical Alliance in Europe.

On behalf of the 33 members of the Biomedical Alliance in Europe.



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### About the Biomedical Alliance in Europe:

The Biomedical Alliance in Europe is the result of a unique initiative of 33 leading European medical societies that together include more than 400,000 researchers and health professionals. It is a not-for-profit organisation committed to promoting excellence and innovation in the European healthcare field with the goal of improving the health and well-being of all European citizens.