



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

# UPDATE May 2019

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## 1. Annual Spring Meeting attracts 60 participants



On 14 May, the BioMed Alliance organised its annual Spring Meeting bringing together around 60 participants for discussions on the European Elections, Plan S and BioMed Alliance activities.

The day before the Spring Meeting, we began the week with face-to-face meetings with policy officers and the Board of Directors to discuss internal affairs and general policy activities.

The Biomed Alliance opened the doors the next day to representatives of member organisations and external speakers. We kicked the day off with a presentation by Richard Steel from Interel on the stakes in the European Elections. Afterwards, speakers from Wellcome Trust, the European Commission and the European Heart Journal exchanged expertise and positions on Plan S and its consequences for health research and medical societies.

The discussions on Plan S showed that medical societies still have many concerns about Plan S and that there are also certain misunderstandings. Further discussions are needed to ensure a smooth implementation of Plan S.

## 2. BioMed Alliance delegation participates in MedTech Conference



The BioMed Alliance was invited to join the Global Med Tech Compliance Conference in Paris to elaborate on its position on Continuing Medical Education (CME).

Prof. David Vodusek (chair of the BioMed Alliance CME Experts Permanent Committee) and Michel Ballieu (Executive Director) participated in discussions with industry representatives to talk about the importance of independent high-quality CME.

## 3. BioMed Alliance strengthens relations with EMA



BioMed Alliance Staff have been in contact with officials of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). We discussed our activities and were invited to register to the EMA stakeholder database. We are also in the process of identifying relevant meetings, groups and activities where we can engage and provide a contribution.

By registering as a stakeholder, the BioMed Alliance; can easily be identified for consultation on relevant issues, will be kept up to date on events, receives communications and will be informed on EMA consultations.



## 4. Article on CME published in the AJM



The recently dissolved BioMed Alliance taskforce on the future of CME has produced an [article](#) raising awareness on the importance of unbiased and qualitative medical education. The article was written by a number of leading academics and is published ahead of print by the American Journal of Medicine (AJM) on [PubMed](#).

The aim of the article is to reflect on the role of industry in CME Provision and to identify the balance that is ultimately right for patients.

## 5. Recruitment experts of the Mission Boards under Horizon Europe



DG RTD has opened recruitment for the Horizon Europe Mission Board for Cancer and it is looking for individuals who can bring strategic skills and expertise. The deadline for applications is 11 June 2019.

The missions are a new element in Horizon Europe and will be coordinated by Mission Boards. There is one mission on health which focusses exclusively on cancer.

Each of the 'Mission Boards' should consist of up to 15 members. Candidates shall be individuals appointed in a personal capacity. They shall act independently and in the public interest.

The application consists in filling in annex 1: classification form and annex 2: selection form MB cancer, which can be found here:

[http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=calls.calls\\_for\\_app](http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=calls.calls_for_app)

## 6. EU citizens cast their votes



The EU Elections took place from 23-26 June in the 28 Member States of the European Union (including the UK). Despite losing seats, estimates indicate that the European People's Party (EPP) remains the biggest European party with



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around 180 seats, followed by the Socialists and Democrats (S&D) with around 145 seats<sup>1</sup>.

The gains for Eurosceptic parties were not as big as expected but they did significantly increase their presence in the European Parliament. The Greens (Greens/EFA) and the Liberal bloc (ALDE plus Renaissance plus USR) have also grown in size at EU level. With the rise of smaller parties, the new Parliament may become more fragmented potentially complicating decision making.

The outcome of the elections determines the composition of the European Parliament and has an influence on the composition of the European Commission. The main parties will now try to build a coalition and negotiations will begin to divide the top jobs in the EU, that includes those of European Commission President, European Parliament President, President of the European Central Bank and European Council president.

In the coming months, new members of the European Parliament will set up their offices and top EU Jobs and European Commissioner posts will be divided. According to the EP's planning<sup>2</sup>, it will vote on the new president of the European Commission July and on the new college of Commissioners in October. However, this planning is provisional and depends on the complexity of the negotiations.

In addition, it is important to note that after Brexit, the UK's seats will be partially reassigned, and the power balance may slightly shift.

For more information, see the election news on [Euractiv](#) and [Politico](#).

## 7. Upcoming

- 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 programme can be found [here](#).
- The day after the Registries Workshop on 18 June, the **next meeting of the taskforce on regulatory affairs and medical devices** takes place.
- 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'
- The BioMed Alliance will participate in a **meeting of the European Hematology Association** entitled 'Increase patients safety and data quality, and diminish bureaucracy in clinical research; what is truly needed?'. The meeting is between several stakeholders and will decide on concrete actions.
- The next meeting of the **CME Experts Permanent Committee** will take place on 26 September

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<sup>1</sup> At the moment of writing the definitive results were not yet announced, see: the [EP website](#)

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament (20 May 2019), 'Key dates ahead', <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/elections-press-kit/0/key-dates-ahead>