



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

UPDATE September 2019

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1. BioMed Alliance Office Changes E-mail addresses



The BioMed Alliance Office has changed its e-mail addresses to provide more clarity on the identities of the senders. They may be used for all communications from now on. The new addresses are:

Michel Ballieu:	michel.ballieu@biomedeuropa.org
Loredana Simulescu:	loredana.simulescu@biomedeuropa.org
Marieke Meijer:	marieke.meijer@biomedeuropa.org

2. CME Committee meets for the second time this year



The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Experts Permanent Committee held its second formal meeting on 26 September. Experts from all over Europe came to the BioMed Alliance offices to discuss the Continuing Medical Education activities of medical societies.

Items on the agenda included discussions on the EFPIA Code of Practice, cooperation with external actors such as the EMA, results of an internal survey on CME, digital skills of the health workforce and participation in external meetings.

3. Event on public health post-Brexit



On 12 November, the BioMed Alliance joined a number of stakeholders in the health field for an event on Brexit and the European Parliament's role in prioritising patients, public health and health security across Europe.

The event addressed the continuing uncertainty about Brexit, and the risk of a no-deal scenario for patients and public health. An internal briefing about this topic has also been sent around to members of

the BioMed Alliance.

The United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the European Union on 31 October 2019, but so far negotiations on its departure have not yet been concluded. If negotiations are not extended or completed before this date, a no-deal Brexit could occur. This may have an effect on public health, health research and healthcare provision

4. BioMed Alliance publishes open letter on AMR with stakeholder group



The BioMed Alliance has joined an informal group of 16 other organisations active in human and animal health and signed an open letter to the Members of the European Parliament on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). AMR is an emerging worldwide threat to both human and animal health. The letter urges Members of Parliament to bring antimicrobial resistance to the forefront of EU interinstitutional discussions and to support the establishment of a dedicated AMR parliamentary group.



5. EU Health Coalition Statements on research coordination and access



The EU Health Coalition published two statements in September on research coordination and access to innovation. The first statement called for a balanced Horizon Europe fostering research and innovation that ensures sufficient coordination. The second one argues for the creation of a Stakeholder Forum for Better Access to Health Innovation to address persisting critical health challenges in the EU.

The BioMed Alliance is an active member of the EU Health Coalition and leads the research and innovation policy group, which drafted the statement on Horizon Europe. More information on the statements is available on the [website](#) of the EU Health Coalition.

6. New designate commissioners announced



with another portfolio.

The president-elect of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, announced her proposed candidates for the next European Commission. Their respective titles and portfolios were also announced. Surprisingly enough, there is no more Commissioner with the word 'research' in their official title and the portfolio for research is combined

The European Commission will combine the Research Portfolio with the one for Innovation, Education, Culture and Sports. Mariya Gabriel (Bulgaria) is nominated to take the lead on these topics (including Horizon Europe) as "Commissioner for Innovation and Youth". Ms. Gabriel has a background in political science and is currently Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. The proposed Commissioner for Health is Stella Kyriakides from Cyprus, who is a trained clinical psychologist.

The BioMed Alliance is of the opinion that the word 'Research' should be added to the official title of Commissioner-nominee Mariya Gabriel to show the importance of research to the European Union. We also hope that research remains a high priority for the Commission, now that its portfolio is combined with those for Education, Innovation, Culture and Sport.

In the coming weeks, the European Parliament will hold hearings questioning the nominees to evaluate them. Once they are officially approved by the European Parliament, the Commissioners will take up office on 1 November 2019.



7. Upcoming

- On 7 November, the BioMed Alliance and the Berlin Institute for Health will assist Tagespiegel in organising a session **on translational research** during the Future Medicine conference in the Berlin Science Week. The event will include a panel discussion with key speakers exploring different aspects related to the value of translational research.
- The first meeting of the **In Vitro Diagnostics working group** will take place on 12 November in our office.
- The [European Patients Forum Congress](#) will take place from 12-14 November in Brussels. BioMed Alliance Executive Director Michel Ballieu will participate as a panellist in the session on the role of patients in professional education on 14 November.
- We will organise a **workshop on Horizon Europe** (the EUs next Research and Innovation Framework Programme) with the EAU on 19 November from 14.00-18.00 in Brussels. More information will follow, please confirm your attendance to: Marieke.meijer@biomedeuropa.org
- The BioMed Alliance **General Assembly 2019** takes place on 20 November from 10.00-16.00.

