



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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Highlights:

1. COVID-19 Information page launched..... 1
2. Digital Spring Meeting follows new format..... 1
3. Plan S follow-up actions..... 2
4. Statement on the postponement of the Medical Devices Regulation..... 2
5. Applications open for Group of Chief Scientific Advisors 2
6. Future of European Health Research Workshop Report available 3
7. Upcoming 3



1. COVID-19 Information page launched



The BioMed Alliance launched a new page providing an overview of resources on COVID-19. The page contains information on BioMed Alliance activities and highlights materials that medical & research societies and relevant authorities have published on the COVID-19 virus.

A series of links to relevant information pages is available on the page as well, including useful information on research funding, statistics and links to initiatives such as the [European COVID-19 Data Portal](#).

The BioMed Alliance Information page is regularly updated and can be found [here](#).

2. Digital Spring Meeting follows new format



The BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting takes place on 13 May 2020 from 14.00-16.30 online via ZOOM.

The format has been slightly changed due to the extraordinary circumstances. The meeting will be shorter (2.5 hours) and we will organise two breakout sessions where members can discuss in smaller groups on the future of health and research policy post COVID-19.

Vote on the accounts

The vote on the accounts will take place digitally, members will receive more information on this in the coming days.

Breakout sessions:

In two 'virtual breakout rooms' participants will discuss the future of health and research and the activities of medical societies in smaller groups. Both sessions are moderated by Board Members and participants are kindly asked to come up with ideas on how the BioMed Alliance and medical societies can work with stakeholders and policymakers towards a better future.

- Health research

In the first digital breakout room, we will discuss how we could improve the European biomedical research system based on the lessons learned from COVID-19 (e.g. to enhance coordination).

- The activities of medical societies

In the second digital breakout room, participants will explore how medical societies could adapt so they can continue to thrive in an uncertain world (e.g. managing financial constraints, relations with other stakeholders and changes in CME and business models).

Members can register for the Spring Meeting and choose their break-out session on the [online registration form](#) until 6 May.



3. Plan S follow-up actions



Discussions during last year's Spring Meeting and General Assembly showed that BioMed Alliance Members are affected by Plan S. Due to COVID-19, adaptation to the open access initiative within the foreseen timeline has become even more challenging for medical societies. The BioMed Alliance has therefore reached out to cOAlition S leaders asking for a constructive dialogue and it is establishing an internal BioMed Alliance Working Group on Plan S & Open Access Publishing to assist its members in the transition.

Plan S is the European open access publishing initiative of research funding organisations and the European Commission. According to Plan S, scientific publications that benefitted from public funds must be published in compliant Open Access journals or platforms by 2021.

The BioMed Alliance letter to the cOAlition S taskforce is available [here](#), and members that would like to join the Plan S & Open Access publishing taskforce are encouraged to [contact the office](#).

4. Statement on the postponement of the Medical Devices Regulation



The BioMed Alliance published a statement on 9 April welcoming the European Commission's [proposal](#) to postpone the application date of the Medical Devices regulation by one year, to 26 May 2021. The statement highlighted several key elements that should be taken into account in the context of the postponement.

Both the European Parliament and the Council have [approved](#) the proposal in April, so the application date is now officially postponed. Read our statement [here](#).

5. Applications open for Group of Chief Scientific Advisors



A call for applications to the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors was launched by the European Commission. Appointed advisors will provide independent scientific advice and recommendations on evidence-based policymaking to the European Commission. The deadline for applications is on 15 June and the focus is on high-level 'scientific leaders' in different disciplines, including health.

More information on the group is available [here](#) and more information on the application process can be found [here](#).



6. Future of European Health Research Workshop Report available



The report of the joint Workshop on the Future of European Health Research is available on the BioMed Alliance website.

On 31 January, the BioMed Alliance organised the workshop with the Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM) on the Future of European Health Research. The workshop took place in the European Parliament and both European policy makers and researchers held a series of interesting presentations on health research.

The report of the workshop is available [here](#).

7. Upcoming

- The next teleconference of the **Policy Officers Committee will take** place on 6 May
- The 2nd **EU Health Summit** organised by the [EU Health Coalition](#) was supposed to take place on 4-5 May 2020 but will be postponed due to COVID-19. The new date will be announced in the near future.
- The [second webinar](#) of the thematic network ‘**Profiling and training the health workers of the future**’ of the EU Health Policy Platform takes place on 13 May at 11.00. The topic is the digitalisation of care.
- The **BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting** 2020 will take place on 13 May 2020 (from 14:00 to 16:00) via ZOOM.
- The next meeting of the **Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices Taskforce** will take place online on 14 May
- The **General Assembly** will be held on 26 November 2020