



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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1. EFLM Joins the BioMed Alliance



The European Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) has now officially joined the BioMed Alliance. It is the 33rd organisation to join the BioMed Alliance, bringing important expertise related to the fields of clinical chemistry and laboratory medicine. We would like to warmly welcome them to our growing organisation.

[EFLM](#) connects National Societies of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and creates a platform for all European “Specialists in Laboratory Medicine”. EFLM provides European leadership in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine to national professional societies, the diagnostic industry and to governmental and non-governmental organisations in order to serve the public interest in health care. EFLM represents the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) in Europe.

2. Leadership meets Commissioner Mariya Gabriel



The BioMed Alliance leadership met with Commissioner Mariya Gabriel to discuss how to improve biomedical research in Europe on 5 February. Commissioner Gabriel is responsible for the Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth portfolio within the European Commission. She oversees the implementation of Horizon Europe and manages all the strategic deliberations to develop a European Research Area.

The meeting was a good opportunity to discuss the value of biomedical research in our society and to call for strong support for collaborative and multidisciplinary health research initiatives across Horizon Europe.

The BioMed Alliance delegation was composed of BioMed Alliance BoD members: Prof. Axel Pries, Prof. Gunhild Waldemar and Prof. Berthold Koletzko. The BioMed Alliance leadership stressed the medical scientific community’s commitment to advance biomedical research in Europe and to foster the cooperation with the European Commission.

3. Survey on inclusion and diversity



As a follow-up to the General Assembly, the BioMed Alliance created a short survey on the role of diversity and inclusion in the activities of medical societies. All members are encouraged to fill it out by 13 March [here](#).

This topic was discussed during the last General Assembly when EASL proposed that members could actively work together to redress issues that women and minorities face in the research environment, particularly in terms of representation in member Society boards, committees, faculties etc. The General Assembly supported this position and we would like to assess how organisations view this topic and explore what we can do together. In the first instance we are conducting this survey to assess what existing mechanisms, tools and policies we currently have to foster diversity and inclusion and what additional steps should be taken.



4. Complicated negotiations MFF still ongoing



The European Council has not yet reached an agreement in the negotiations of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (the next EU budget from 2021-2027). Negotiations have been extremely complicated due to gap in funding resulting from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and the reluctance of certain countries to increase the budget above the threshold of 1% of the EU's combined gross national income. A higher budget is deemed necessary by the European Commission and other

Member States to ensure the EU will be able to achieve its goals related to e.g. Health, Climate Change and Digital Transformation.

The negotiations affect the budget of EU initiatives and programmes, including e.g. Horizon Europe and the next Public Private Partnership for Health. The BioMed Alliance therefore led the drafting of a EU Health Coalition [Statement](#) calling on the Council to allocate an appropriate budget to Horizon Europe to match research ambitions and support EU Health Research. The statement was picked up by the news outlet Politico and at the national level.

EU Leaders will continue negotiations in the coming period, but the clock is ticking. There is also time needed after the conclusion of the deal to implement decisions and prepare for the next financial framework. If negotiations are significantly prolonged, the implementation of Horizon Europe and the next European Partnership for Health Innovation may be delayed.

5. EC Presents 'Beating Cancer Plan'



On 4 February (World Cancer Day) we joined the European Commission Conference on Europe's Beating Cancer Plan in the European Parliament. The event was attended by EU Policy Makers, academics, cancer survivors and a broad range of stakeholder representatives in the health field.

The European Commission's 'Beating Cancer Plan' will focus on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. The plan is closely linked to the mission on cancer within Horizon Europe, which aims to maximise the impact of EU support for research in this area.

The programme included speeches from Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner Margaritis Schinas, key MEPs and cancer survivors.

There are currently [two consultations](#) open to gather feedback on the plan, the consultation on the Roadmap of the Cancer Plan is available until 3 March and the consultation on the outline of the Cancer Plan is open until 7 May. The final proposal for Europe's Beating Cancer Plan is expected to be presented in the last quarter of 2020.



6. Report workshop on European initiatives for health research



WORLD
HEALTH
SUMMIT

Prof. Karin Sipido, chair of the Scientific Panel for Health, published a report on the workshop on "European initiatives for health research and development" held during the World Health Summit in Berlin on 29 October 2019. The workshop was hosted by the BioMed Alliance, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the M8 Alliance and chaired by Prof. Sipido and Past-President Prof. Axel Pries. The report summarises the speakers' perspectives and views on the future design of European health research and global partnerships and is available on our website [here](#).

7. Upcoming

- The European Hematology Association (EHA) is organising a meeting for medical societies on **bureaucracy in clinical research** in the Hague on 17 March
- There will be a meeting of the **Policy Officers Committee** among policy officers at staff level on 30 March (contact the office if you'd like to attend)
- The 2nd **EU Health Summit** organised by the [EU Health Coalition](#) will take place on 4-5 May in the Flemish Parliament in Brussels, the registration form is available [here](#)
- The **BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting 2020** takes place on 13 May 2020
- The next meeting of the **Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices Taskforce** will take place on 14 May
- The **General Assembly** will be held on 26 November 2020

