



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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1. EU Health Summit big success



The EU Health Summit on 26 October was attended by over 600 participants and it was a big success. The Summit brought together interesting speakers including: Commissioner Stella Kyriakides, Director of the ECDC Andrea Ammon and German Health Minister Jens Spahn. The BioMed Alliance chaired the Research & Innovation Breakout Session.

This edition's motto was: Time for Action. Recent events have shown that coordinated action at EU level in the field of health is urgently needed, and therefore this broad discussion with stakeholders and policy makers on the future of health policy was very timely. The members of the coalition have jointly developed a set of [10 recommendations](#) on the future of health in Europe which formed the basis for discussions during the summit.

BioMed Alliance President Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier chaired the Research & Innovation Breakout session and the panel included Prof. Martin Landray (ESC), Cristina Bescos (EIT Health) and Sabrina Montante (National Institute of Health of Italy). The speakers were selected by the Research and Innovation Policy group members and each shared their perspectives on the recommendations. After the panel discussion, there was a discussion with the audience on how the three EU Health Coalition recommendations on research & innovation should be implemented to improve European health research. COVID-19 has been a wake-up call, now it is time for change in the European health sector. Research can play an important role to exit the crisis, but its success depends on support, coordination, cooperation, infrastructure and European leadership.

The BioMed Alliance will continue the work with our coalition partners to transform the conclusions of the summit into concrete actions. The recordings are already available, and we will share the meeting report with you as soon as it is ready.

Access the recordings of the EU Health Summit:

- **EU Health Summit 2020, Plenary Session:**

<https://edvardsson.webex.com/edvardsson/lsr.php?RCID=b2605262561c4864aea7f4741623f445>

Password: DhEjy3PS

- **Breakout session 4: Research and Innovation:**

<https://edvardsson.webex.com/edvardsson/lsr.php?RCID=884bd51647ae44838efc36ab8b43968c>

Password: 2VcbTRG2

2. New statement: Open Access initiatives must not create inequality



In a new statement published on 5 October, medical societies from the Open Access Transition Working Group of the BioMed Alliance highlight a series of concerns around Plan S. They also express their support for a European Research Council statement from 20 July stating the ERC's concerns around this open access initiative and announcing their withdrawal from cOAlition S.



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The main concerns of BioMed Alliance regarding Plan S are focussed on the consequences for: researchers (including inequality and rising costs), guaranteeing the quality of research (especially in health research) and hybrid journals (which play an essential role in informing health care professionals through medical society publications).

The full statement is available [here](#).

3. Join the celebratory General Assembly on 26 November



The 2020 BioMed Alliance General Assembly is just around the corner and will take place on 26 November 13.00-16.30 online (due to the Coronavirus pandemic). This edition is a special one, as it marks the 10 years existence of the BioMed Alliance. We will have a celebratory ‘Friends of BioMed Alliance’ session where we invited key partners in EU Health Policy to reflect on our cooperation. We will for example hear from EPP MEP Maria Maria da Graça Carvalho (European Parliament, ITRE Committee) Anna-Eva Ampélas (Head of Unit B6 European Commission), Natalie Moll (director of EFPIA) and Kaisa Immonen (Director of Policy at European Patients Forum). There is also a special video message from our past-presidents reflecting on 10 years of BioMed Alliance.

The General Assembly is an important meeting where we provide you with an overview of ongoing activities and discuss together next steps and strategic directions. Our BoD members and the leaders of our taskforces and committees will provide an overview of our activities and reflect on policy topics related to our work. We will also vote on the budget and hold elections for a vacant seat in the Board of Directors.

If you have not done so yet, please register as soon as possible [here](#).

4. Regulatory affairs matter to clinicians



Our Senior Policy Officer Loredana Simulescu explains why regulatory matters are Medical Doctors’ business, in a new blogpost in an online news platform “The MedTech Week”. She highlights why it is important for clinicians to follow regulatory affairs and explains how the BioMed Alliance aims to get the voices of clinicians heard in regulatory affairs related to health. With the new Medical Devices Regulation and In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation there are many changes coming up that affect the activities of clinicians and researchers. The BioMed Alliance is not only closely following the latest developments but contributing to appropriate implementation.

Read Loredana’s blog [here](#).



5. Petra de Sutter new deputy prime minister of Belgium



Petra de Sutter was appointed to be the new deputy prime minister of Belgium this month. Prof. De Sutter has a health background as professor in Gynaecology and member of BioMed Alliance member ESHRE.

She has been a Member of the European Parliament for the past year and the BioMed Alliance has cooperated closely with her on several issues. She was for example a speaker at our event in January 2019 on the future of European Health Research, sent a letter with us to President Von der Leyen signed by around 50 MEPs this summer and helped us raise awareness on issues around the In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation.

We were very happy to hear of her appointment and are sure she will do very well in advancing the interests of Belgian citizens.

6. Workshop series on the use of real-world data for healthcare purposes



Maastricht University together with PPMI Group (Public Policy and Management Institute) are organising a series of workshop sessions with the European Commission on the use of real-world data (RWD) for health purposes. The workshops are part of a project which builds on the extensive mapping of nearly 200 relevant projects in the field of RWD, seeks to assess how these projects are addressing the needs of stakeholders involved, and derives recommendations for the use of RWD by concerned stakeholder groups. The workshops take place on 9 and 13 November and there is a final workshop on 10 December. For more information, the programme is available [here](#) and the registration form [here](#).

7. Upcoming

- The next meeting of the **Taskforce on Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices** takes place on 24 November from 16.00-18.00 CET via ZOOM. Register [here](#) .
- The **General Assembly** takes place online on 26 November 2020 from 13.00-16.30. Register [here](#)
- The **Policy Officers Committee** will have its next meeting on 3 December from 9.30-11.00. Contact the office if you would like to become a member of the committee.



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8. Members News

This section includes articles submitted by BioMed Alliance Members themselves. If you have an item that could be relevant to other members and it is in line with the BioMed Alliance’s policy work, then please send it to us by the 21st of each month. Thank you for your submissions!

European Cancer Organisation - The European Code of Cancer Practice



The European Cancer Organisation developed a [European Code of Cancer Practice](#) (The Code), which is a new tool for empowering citizens and cancer patients with ten key overarching rights, signposting what cancer patients should expect from their health system.

The Code is a nice example of a useful tool that can both benefit patients and be used as an awareness raising tool at the EU level. It has already been [endorsed](#) by multiple stakeholders and was [translated in over 20 European languages](#). There will be more updates in the coming weeks, including at the [European Cancer Summit 2020](#) on 18-19 November. Please register [here](#), if you would like to attend.

More information about the European Code of Cancer Practice is available [here](#).

UEG - Nutrition and Artificial Intelligence hot topics on EU agenda



With health policy gaining momentum in the current EU legislative term, nutrition has become a key priority. To further emphasise their [positions on nutrition and alcohol-related harm](#), UEG held a session at the European Health Forum Gastein entitled ‘Science of healthy living: Challenging the status quo to enable healthier choices’.



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UEG experts Monique Van Leerdam and Shira Zelber Sagi, together with WHO Director on Noncommunicable Diseases, Bente Mikkelsen, made a case for the accessibility, availability and affordability of healthy food through coordinated public health interventions. Speaking of health promotion, Dr Mikkelsen stressed that COVID-19 has been a call for action on enhancing advocacy efforts, awareness raising and improving health literacy.

Another hot topic on EU's agenda is Europe's digital future with the goal of delivering a common approach to artificial intelligence (AI). Owing to their rapid development, AI technologies offer a great promise for gastroenterology practice and research in many fields, but there are also complex challenges to be considered. In view of this, Endoscopy and AI expert Alexander Meining represented UEG and the Biomed Alliance in the webinar "Preparing Health Care Professionals To 'Future' Healthcare Challenges (AI And Robotics)". He underlined that the use of AI and robotics needs to be further trained, taught and certified to cope with their fast developments.

EASO – ONE VOICE classification exercise on obesity



There is often confusion around how obesity is talked about - from policymakers and healthcare professionals, to researchers and patients alike. An ambitious project is currently underway of which EASO is contributing to and is worth sharing with the wider community. Coordinated through Work Package 8 of IMI [SOPHIA](#), a ONE VOICE classification exercise is underway. This exercise aims to find consensus across multiple stakeholder groups around the language, scope and its usage to describe obesity as a chronic, relapsing disease.

The project is an interesting example of how societies could use EU funding to improve awareness raising on prominent health issues. The consensus created through this particular exercise will allow for communication and education toolkits to be disseminated to equip all stakeholders in advocating for, and talking about, the treatment and long term management of obesity as an NCD (beyond primary prevention). Watch this space!

ERA-EDTA – launch of a new series of eSeminars!



The ERA-EDTA is organising a series of eSeminars to initiate an open discussion within the nephrology community on how to apply the findings of recent trials to the needs of patients. The eSeminars will bring together kidney disease experts to provide a detailed update on the latest studies, give information on study design, study population and results, and, most importantly, to evaluate the results by putting them into context and discussing their relevance for clinical practice.

The series will also focus on current and newsworthy topics, such as COVID-19 and results from the ERACODA registry, a European database collecting clinical information on kidney replacement patients with COVID-19.

The eSeminars can be attended free of charge and BioMed Alliance Members can view them as well. You can find information about upcoming events and watch recordings of past events [here](#).