



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

UPDATE DECEMBER

Overview 2019





Introduction



On behalf of the BioMed Alliance we would like to wish you happy holidays and all the best for 2020. We are very grateful for your support in the past year and look forward to working on many interesting activities together in the future.

It has been quite a year and we are happy that the BioMed Alliance continues to grow both in membership, expertise and recognition. Take a look at this special end-of-the-year Update providing an overview of the main highlights of this year and a glimpse of what lies ahead in 2020.

All the best from Loredana, Marieke and Michel from the BioMed Alliance Office in Brussels!

A few words from Past-President Colm O'Morain

The Biomedical Alliance in Europe has successfully increased its visibility and profile over the last few years with increased membership. This adds to its credibility to be the voice of translational research in Europe.

However, being heard is not enough and action is needed. I am encouraged that policy makers in the European Commission continue a dialogue with us and we are considered as the point of reference for health research. It is noteworthy that European Parliamentarians welcome our views and have hosted Symposiums in the European Parliament.

The BioMed Alliance was founded with the aim of creating a virtual Institute of Health to prioritise and to increase funding for health research. An important development is the Scientific Panel for Health championed by Professor Karin Sipido which needs funding to ensure continued success.

Our membership has many shared goals. In order to achieve these goals Task Forces were created and every member was invited to nominate a volunteer to serve on these Task Forces. Each of these Task Forces had defined aims such as clinical trials, medical devices and continued medical education.

We have supported member initiatives and pan-European projects such as animals in research and GDPR. It is encouraging that the list of shared interests is growing. The BioMed Alliance depends on its volunteer board of nine members dually elected by the General Assembly and governed by Statutes. We are fortunate to have an excellent full-time staff of Loredana Simulescu and Marieke Meijer ably supported and mentored by our Chief Executive Officer Michel Ballieu.

Prof Colm O'Morain has come to the end of his term in the Board of Directors and we are very grateful for his efforts as a Board Member, President and Past-President.





2019 was an eventful year at EU level..



2019 was an interesting year in terms of EU affairs, it was the year that the Brexit was supposed to come into effect (but did not), when the European Elections were more important than ever and the year that policy makers decided and worked on the implementation of several important pieces of legislation (Horizon Europe, the Medical Devices Regulation, the Multiannual Financial Framework).

..and for the BioMed Alliance



We welcomed 5 new members

EBC, EFORT, ESICM, ERA-EDTA and ECCO officially joined our ranks and brought the total number of members to 32



We created new committees and taskforces

In 2019, both the CME Experts Permanent Committee, the Taskforce on Regulatory Affairs and Medical Devices and the IVD Working Group held their first official meetings.



We brought our communication efforts to the next level

We started our monthly newsletter in 2019. In addition, we launched a cartoon on unbiased continuing medical education, assisted in the publication of several academic articles, published statements and significantly increased our social media presence.



We gained recognition among stakeholders & policy makers

We met with e.g. Commission and EMA Officials, national decision makers, health attachées and MEPs to discuss our views on health and health research policies. We also continued our cooperation with other stakeholders both bilaterally and through multi-stakeholder initiatives to join forces.



We helped organise interesting events

Next to our Spring Meeting, General Assembly and taskforce meetings we also organised successful external events. The BioMed Alliance e.g. jointly organised a workshop on Medical Device Registries and a workshop on Horizon Europe, and helped organise a panel discussion during the Future Medicine Conference in Berlin.





What is next for 2020?



We have already started planning some interesting events and activities in 2020 and will see a few governance changes next year.

We will start the year by welcoming a **new President, Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier** has prepared for this role over the past two years as President-Elect.

This means that **Prof. Axel Pries will step down as president** and will continue to be active as Past-President. We can all agree that Prof. Pries has been a great president that was very committed to the BioMed Alliance who has helped the organisation to develop itself substantially under his leadership.

Prof. **Gunhild Waldemar** will start her two-years term as **President-Elect** in January. Prof. **Tobias Welte** will take over her role as **treasurer** in 2020.

We will also welcome a **new Board Member**, Prof. Tom Hemming Karlsen will take over from Prof. Colm O'Morain who has come to the end of his term in the Board.

A word of introduction from BoD Member Tom Hemming Karlsen

I am honoured to be given the opportunity to serve the BioMed Alliance. My institutional base is Oslo University Hospital and University of Oslo. I am Head of Research at the Division of Surgery, Inflammatory Diseases and Transplantation, covering a broad research portfolio across 27 research groups amidst where I am also responsible for my own translational liver research. I serve several institutional responsibilities as full professor of internal medicine at the University of Oslo, and still do work as senior consultant within the Department of Transplantation Medicine to maintain clinical expertise and contact with patients. Beyond own and institutional experience related to EU grants and associated calls development, the key background from which I will draw to contribute to the BioMed Alliance comes from serving on the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) Governing Board from 2014-2019. From 2015-2017 I held the position as EASL Vice Secretary and from 2017-2019 as EASL Secretary General, and was deeply involved in shaping EASL's policy and EU-oriented agenda.



Despite the establishing of the BioMed Alliance, medical associations still perform the predominant volume of their research policy work through their primary organisational structures, some of which is topic-centred or oriented towards national states and beyond scope of the BioMed Alliance. However, based on my experience with EASL, I still see a potential in further building on the individual association capacities to forward the mission of the BioMed Alliance, through deeper connections and intensified communication channels with the individual member societies. The alignment requires clear differentiation and understanding of roles, but holds potential to amplify the impact of the BioMed Alliance. The common society needs related to CME and the MDR are obvious, but for research and the research-oriented origin of the BioMed Alliance there is still a potential for maximising the policy impact for health-related research in the EU through overcoming single-topic agendas. The platform the BioMed Alliance has built over its 10 years of existence is well positioned to do so, and I look forward to participating in the efforts.

Dates next Spring Meeting & General Assembly are confirmed



The BioMed Alliance Board of Directors has confirmed the dates for the 2020 Spring Meeting and the General Assembly:

- Spring Meeting: 12-13 May 2020
- General Assembly: 25-26 November 2020

Both meetings will take place in the meeting room in the BioMed Alliance Offices and more information will be published in due time.





Reinforcing cooperation in taskforces



In 2020, the activities within the CME Experts Permanent Committee, the Regulatory Affairs & Medical Devices Taskforce and the IVD Working Group will continue. In addition, we are planning to regenerate discussions in the Clinical Trials Taskforce.

The General Assembly highlighted that members also see the benefit of formalising cooperation on other topics and we will explore setting up other taskforces on topics such as: Plan S, conditions for research and career development and equal opportunities in research.

Continuing advising EU Policy Makers

We will continue interacting with EU Policy Makers and provide them with advice through different channels. This e.g. entails publishing statements, replying to public consultations and participating in informal and formal meetings.

For example, we have secured a meeting with the new Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel on 5 February. The BioMed Alliance Leadership will meet with Commissioner Gabriel to discuss her priorities for the coming years and to see how we could assist her to advance EU health research.

In addition, we will continue our activities to advise the European Commission in the implementation of the Medical Devices Regulation (MDR) and the In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation.



Building alliances with other stakeholders



In 2020 we will continue our cooperation with other stakeholders active in the EU Health Policy sphere. We will start the year by co-organising an event with **FEAM** on the Future of European Health Research in the European Parliament on 31 January. In addition, we will continue our cooperation with other stakeholders on **Anti-Microbial Resistance**, and we will participate in a **thematic network on profiling an training the health care workers of the future** via the Health Policy Platform. We will also continue our work in the **EU Health Coalition** by leading the Research Policy Group and by co-organising the upcoming high-level Summit on 4-5 May in Brussels.

Upcoming important dates

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| • 8 January—European Parliament | EU Health Coalition New Years Reception |
| • 31 January—European Parliament | Event with FEAM: Working Together for the future of European Health Research |
| • 5 February—European Commission | BioMed Alliance Leadership meets Commissioner Mariya Gabriel |
| • 18 February—BioMed Alliance | CME Experts Permanent Committee |
| • 4-5 May—Location TBC | EU Health Summit |
| • 12-13 May—BioMed Alliance | Spring Meeting |
| • 25-26 November—BioMed Alliance | General Assembly |

