



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

Input on the Scientific Panel for Health Vision Paper

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe welcomes the Scientific Panel for Health Vision Paper and supports the recommendations and themes outlined in the paper.

We welcome the SPH Vision Paper's calls to action on investigating the possibility of a science-led European Health Research Body. The BioMed Alliance is convinced that strategic long-term planning is an urgent need to ensure basic science discoveries and promote better health for citizens.

The BioMed Alliance strongly supports the establishment of a dedicated body for European Health Research. During the preparation of H2020, the biomedical research community advocated the creation of a properly financed body for research.

The SPH was the result of an advocacy campaign enabled by the BioMed Alliance and lawmakers and it is a major first step towards better targeted health and research innovation in Europe. The SPH policy paper highlights that “this is a pilot and a dedicated body is needed for a long term commitment to better research for better health in Europe”.

In the context of H2020 preparation, the BioMed Alliance created a multidisciplinary, multi-professional “Core Group” of top-level biomedical experts, political advisors, patient advocates and industry representatives aiming at developing the concept of a European Health Research body. The Core Group wrote a concept paper¹ for a dedicated body for European Health Research and this could be a starting point for discussion and debates in light of the next framework programme.

The biomedical research community is aware that this new body should not add another layer of complexity and bureaucracy to the EU process. The European Health Research body can act as a set of reforms, as proper funding mechanism and scientific advice platform to implement long-term, sustainable, research programmes and exploit in full the benefits of coordination and co-operation across Europe in the hope of avoiding fragmentation.

As it was identified in the concept paper developed by the BioMed Alliance, the European Health Research body should:

¹ http://www.biomedeuropa.org/images/pdf/developments/Concept_Paper_EuCHR_Biomed_Alliance_FINAL.PDF



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- Focus on accelerating excellent biomedical research in Europe and promote Europe as a hub for health research innovation.
- Seek better coordination and strategic planning for biomedical research funding programmes at European level.
- Define and support high-level health research programmes in order to achieve translation of findings into innovative outcomes.
- Promote deeper and longer-term collaborative initiatives that address the current gaps in the Innovation Cycle and strengthen cross-talk and collaboration across all relative disciplines.
- Have a bottom-up structure, headed by excellent scientists.
- Provide strategic advice on the steering of European health research to policy-makers.
- Incorporate all relevant stakeholders, not only biomedical scientists but also patient representatives and leading investigators from other fields, in order to boost creativity and innovation in this sector and promote a healthier Europe.

The European Health Research body under scientific leadership can ensure expert input on policy from the outset, advance innovation and competitiveness by understanding the complexity of the innovation cycle, encourage participation from more researchers across borders and ensure savings for national health systems.

The biomedical research community encourages the Scientific Panel for Health in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders to gather ideas and recommendations on how this dedicated body for European Health Research could be set up and what its main functions could be. Stakeholders' input and the Scientific Panel for Health high level expertise and advice should be taken into consideration in the preparation of the next Framework Programme.

The Biomed Alliance is willing to collaborate and help the SPH's experts with input and recommendations in order to accelerate EU Research and innovation throughout the next framework programme.

President: *Colm O'Morain*
Past- President: *Karin Sipido*
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 BioMed Alliance

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About the BioMed Alliance

The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe (BioMed Alliance) is a unique initiative of 22 leading European medical societies uniting more than 400,000 researchers and health professionals.

The BioMed Alliance was created in 2010 to gather support across different disciplines and areas in biomedical and health research to address common issues at European level.

Mission

The BioMed Alliance is committed to promoting excellence in European biomedical research and innovation with the goal of improving the health and well-being of all European citizens.

BioMed Alliance aims:

- To provide a network for our members to speak with one voice and interact with EU policy makers on key topics for European biomedical and health research
- To provide recommendations for policy and decision makers on facilitating and improving biomedical research in Europe
- To advocate for an EU regulatory environment that promotes European excellence and innovation in biomedical research by adopting specific policy statements
- To ensure that the European Research Area is supported with sustainable research policies and adequate funding programmes at EU-level to tackle future societal challenges

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