



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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1. General Assembly: Celebrating 10 successful years of BioMed Alliance



On Thursday 26 November, the Annual General Assembly of BioMed Alliance took place online. This year's event was particularly special as we celebrated our 10-year anniversary, and it was a great occasion to reflect on the numerous achievements of BioMed Alliance since its creation, as well as the future challenges to address. With more than 70 participants online, the event was very successful with lively discussions, amazing guest speakers, a vote approving the 2021 budget and the election of a new Board of Directors member.

For the "Friends of BioMed Alliance" session, we had the chance to have 4 speakers representing policy makers and health stakeholders. The first one was Anna-Eva Ampélas (Head of Unit B6 at the European Commission), who highlighted our role in providing input on the implementation of the Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation. Then, MEP Maria da Graça Carvalho, a highly valuable partner of BioMed Alliance in the Parliament, presented how she and other MEPs intend to continue working with us to advance health research in Europe. We also listened to Kaisa Immonen (Director of Policy at the European Patient Forum) who talked about our collaboration related to patient engagement within our CME Expert Committee, where she is a member. Finally, we were joined by Nathalie Moll (EFPIA Director General) who mentioned how EFPIA cooperates with BioMed Alliance on several initiatives, including within the EU Health Coalition. All of the speakers underlined the value of our cooperation and the importance to continue it. They pointed out the important role of stakeholders and experts in the creation and implementation of regulations and policies.

During the General Assembly we also elected a new Board member: we are very happy to welcome Prof. Wim J.G Oyen (supported by the European Cancer Organisation and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine) who will replace Prof. Steffen Gay in the BoD. In addition, the provisional budget for 2021 was unanimously adopted.

You can watch the videos we shared during the meeting to celebrate the 10 years of existence of BioMed Alliance [here](#). The minutes will be circulated in due time.

2. ESHG Joins BioMed Alliance



The BioMed Alliance continues to grow and is excited to welcome ESHG to its membership base. The European Society of Human Genetics joined in November. It is the 35th member of the Alliance.

[ESHG](#) was founded in 1967 and its aims are to promote research in basic and applied human and medical genetics, to ensure high standards in clinical practice and to facilitate contacts between all persons who share these aims. ESHG strives for the integration of scientific research and its implementation in the clinical field as well as for education of specialists and the public in all areas of medical and human genetics. It gathers today around 3,000 affiliated members. We look forward to a fruitful collaboration.



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3. BioMedScape Webinar



The BioMed Alliance is organising a webinar on 8 December from 14.30-15.45 CET, to introduce members to a new project we would like to put into motion: BioMedScape. This project is based on CardioScape, a study of the European cardiovascular research landscape which aims to establish a reliable and continuously up-to-date database of project funding in cardiovascular research in Europe, as well as to novel data analysis tools. The idea is to develop CardioScape into a BioMedScape project with the goal to extend the funding database and analysis tool to other biomedical disciplines. To this end, our eventual objective is to obtain European funding.

During the webinar, we will present the project, gather members' opinions about it, and identify the possible scenarios to set up a BioMedScape project with EU funding.

If you would like to attend the webinar but have not registered yet, you can do so [here](#).

4. Work on revision Code of Conduct & creation DoI form kicks off



The new BioMed Alliance Code of Conduct & Declaration of Interest Working Group held its first meeting on 13 November. The group is composed of experts and staff representing member organisations and will work on the update of the BioMed Alliance Code of Conduct and the creation of a Declaration of Interest Form.

Over the past years, the [Code of Conduct](#) has played an important role in providing an ethical framework for medical societies, and experts will review now which parts are in need of revision. Once finalised, the standard for a Declaration of Interest Form will also be an important tool to ensure a common approach among societies and help to enhance transparency and mitigate conflicts of interest. During the first meeting, the Working Group elected Nigel Clarke as chair and planned the work for the coming months.

5. Commission proposes to create stronger EU Health Union



The European Commission published several major health-related proposals in November that are supposed to help build a European Health Union, as announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union Address last September. The initiatives will provide a framework for the development of related legislative initiatives in the field of health at EU level.

Main elements:

- On 11 November, the Commission released a set of 3 proposals aiming at **strengthening the EU's health security framework**, to enhance crisis preparedness and response to cross-border health threats. The proposals include extensions of the EMA and ECDC mandates, to mitigate medicine and medical device shortages and enhance cooperation related to IVDs.
- In addition, it published the long-awaited proposal for the **Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe** on 25 November.
- Also, the Commission released more information related to the new European equivalent of the US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (**BARDA**) which will be called 'the Health Emergency Response Authority (**HERA**).

For more information, please find our briefing on this topic on Dropbox [here](#).





6. Challenging negotiations on the next EU budget: close to finalisation?



On Tuesday 10 November, following ten weeks of hard negotiations, European Parliament (EP) and European Council negotiators reached a compromise on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF, the next EU budget for 2021-2027). The EP budget negotiators obtained a top-up of €16 billion on the package agreed by the Council last July, of which €15 billion will reinforce key EU programmes and €1 billion will increase flexibility to address future needs and crises. However, some member states (Hungary and Poland) threaten to block the agreement due to their disagreement with conditions regarding e.g. the rule of law.

Funding for health & research

In last July, the Member States proposed major cuts for health and research funding, reducing the financial envelope for Horizon Europe from €94.4 billion (as proposed by the European Commission), to €80.9 billion. They also intended to cut the budget of EU4Health by almost €8 billion to €1.6 billion.

Since then, Members of the European Parliament have been negotiating with EU leaders to reverse these proposed cuts to health and research. On Tuesday afternoon the negotiators announced an additional €4 billion for the Horizon Europe programme as well as an increased total financial envelope of €3.4 billion for the EU4Health programme.

Next steps

The budget deal must be ratified by the Member States. In a meeting of EU ambassadors on Monday 16 November, Hungary and Poland vetoed the agreement, jeopardising the technical discussions planned in early December to finalise the Horizon budget. Until a solution is found to this political crisis, the trilateral talks between the Parliament, the Commission and the Council, aiming to allocate the budget to the different pillars of Horizon Europe could be delayed. It also remains to be seen how exactly the budget will be allocated, what the priorities will be and how the extra funds will be divided within Horizon Europe.

Programme	Proposal from the Commission May 2020	EU Council position July 2020	European Parliament Position	Final agreement Parliament - EU Council Nov. 2020
Horizon Europe (2021-2027)	€94.4 billion	€80.9 billion	€120 billion	€84.9 billion
EU4Health (2021-2027)	€9.4 billion	€1.7 billion	€9.4 billion	€5.1 billion





7. Upcoming

- 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 attend the meeting or participate in the committee.
- The **CME Experts Permanent Committee** will organise a call on 8 December from 10.00-12.00, please let the office know if you would like to attend this meeting.
- On 8 December from 14.30-15.45 CET, we are organising a **webinar** to introduce members to a new project we would like to put into motion: **BioMedScape**. The registration form is available [here](#)





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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!

EAN further strengthens COVID-19 initiatives during second wave



The European Academy of Neurology’s (EAN) EANcore COVID-19 [Taskforce](#) have built upon their experience in the first wave of the virus to launch more initiatives and resources for members and physicians across the globe. These include a global patient registry, a [consensus statement](#), a range of [Breaking News](#) articles covering the latest scientific publications and a [patient survey](#) (in partnership with EFNA).

The EANcore COVID-19 initiative aims to help neurologists & health professionals in Europe and beyond prepare for and manage the challenges this global crisis is bringing. As cases increase again, EAN is committed to ensuring this resource remains accessible to EAN members and non-members all over the world.

For more info & access to COVID-19 resources visit: ean.org/ean/eancore-covid-19

To contribute to the Ean NEurocovid REGistRY (ENERGY) sign up via the [Contact Form](#) or email: covidregistry@ean.org

EBC launches new series of disease factsheets



The European Brain Council (EBC) is pleased to announce the launch of a series of disease factsheets providing a quick overview of key facts, history, known causes, diagnosis, symptoms and treatment of brain disorders, neurological and mental alike.



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Information contained in these fact sheets, developed with the help of experts for specific brain conditions, is intended for a wider general audience in search of useful information about brain conditions. These fact sheets fall under the #ILoveMyBrain campaign which was created by EBC to promote and connect all the work being done to promote brain health and prevent and treat brain disorders in Europe. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to gain more attention for brain disorders from EU policy makers and ensure that more resources are channelled towards research on the brain and for patients of brain disorders.

The disease fact sheets are a nice example of how to provide health information in an accessible way and are available on [the EBC website](#).

EASO organises Advocacy Stakeholder Sessions



EASO is pleased to announce the first in a series of Advocacy Stakeholder Sessions: a chance for EASO members and partners to come together around key issues, and to share perspectives on how to drive change from policies to practice.

This first session on **17 December** 15:00-16:30 CET takes as its focus: **Leveraging evidence for policy change**.

The session will address questions like: What tools and skills do we need to advocate on obesity in line with EASO's European strategy? And how do we best tell the story of the science on obesity through the language we use?

During the session, participants will hear from policymakers and are able to share questions, challenges and experiences.

[Registration here](#)

