

Biomedical Alliance in Europe

# UPDATE MARCH

2021

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### 1. BioMed Alliance and EIT Health sign Memorandum of Understanding



BioMed Alliance is very happy to announce that we signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with EIT Health to facilitate cooperation related to education and the promotion of innovation.

EIT Health is one of the largest health innovation networks in Europe, representing all types of health stakeholders from academia to industry, and research and health care delivery to start-ups. It is part of the [European Institute of Innovation Technology](#) (a body of the European Union created in 2008 to strengthen innovation in Europe and part of Horizon 2020). With approximately 150 partners it aims at delivering innovative solutions to enhance the health of European citizens.

The signing of this MoU represents a move towards closer collaboration between the healthcare innovation sector and medical community across Europe and will greatly facilitate cooperation and allow us to work together on issues of common interest.

More information is available [here](#).

### 2. Coming up: BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting



The Biomedical Alliance in Europe’s Annual Spring Meeting will take place on 20 May 2021 from 10.30-12.00 and 15.00-17.00 CEST via ZOOM and we hope to see you all virtually. This year, we would like to organise two sessions. One in the morning on BioMed Alliance activities and a thematic session with policy experts in the afternoon on EU initiatives on health data sharing. The sessions will be separated by a break of a few hours, so participants have time to have lunch and catch up with other work between the meetings.

The morning session will be an important opportunity to stay updated on BioMed Alliance activities and the work of the different taskforces. We will also vote on the updated Statutes and ask for your approval on the 2020 Accounts. In the afternoon, we will ask external speakers and members to share their views on several initiatives in the field of health data at EU level (including the European Health Data Space and guidance on GDPR application for health data sharing).

More information will follow soon, and the registration form is available [here](#) until 30 April.

BioMed Alliance Spring Meeting - 20 May 2021		
10.30 – 12.00 ZOOM	Morning Session with discussion of BioMed Activities	Discussion of ongoing and upcoming activities of the BioMed Alliance, and governance related matters
12.00 – 15.00	Break	
15.00 – 17.00 ZOOM	Afternoon policy session with external speakers	Discussion on data sharing in EU health research, including the GDPR, the European Health



### 3. STOA Workshop: the need for better EU policies for health



On 22 April, the European Parliament Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) is organising a workshop, in cooperation with the BioMed Alliance and several of its members, on the new IVD Regulation and the need more evidence-based EU health related policies. Together with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), the European Haematology Association (EHA) and the European Federation of Clinical

Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (EFLM) we look forward to assisting STOA on the organisation of this interesting workshop.

MEP Alexandra Geese, member of the STOA panel, will chair the meeting that will gather prominent experts on the questions related to medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics, health data and evidence-based health policies. Among the panellists are several members of the BioMed Alliance and key policy makers. The meeting will be chaired by BioMed Alliance President Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier and Medical Devices Taskforce Chair Prof. Alan Fraser, who will together guide the discussions on prominent health policies. Prof. Elizabeth Macintyre (BoD Member and chair of the IVD WG) and members of the IVD WG will also play a key role in the event to raise awareness on challenges around the In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation (IVDR).

The workshop has the goal to inform MEPs about the implementation of the new IVDR and its consequences for the health system. Discussions will also focus on the need for early engagement with medical experts to help to ensure that EU health-related legislation matches the situation in practice to ensure effective, evidence-based EU health initiatives that are targeted towards the unmet needs of patients and public health systems.

Registration to the workshop is open to the public and possible [here](#) until 21 April.

### 4. BioMedScape Working Group organises first meeting kicking-off the work



On Monday 22 March, the first meeting of the BioMedScape working group took place to discuss the next steps of the project. At the moment, the BioMed Alliance is exploring how the CardioScape project could be scaled up and transformed into BioMedScape. We are also exploring possible short-term and long-term funding options by developing a dedicated strategy, evaluating alternatives and reaching out to potential partners.

During the meeting, representatives held an open discussion on CardioScape, the potential scope of BioMedScape, funding options and the next steps. We will keep exploring how to expand BioMedScape and a second meeting of the working group will soon be organised. The next steps will be to start compiling the existing data and tools, continue our efforts to secure funding, and identify potential pilot-areas for scaling up the project.



## 5. New Survey: how are patients involved in Continuing Medical Education?



The BioMed Alliance CME Experts Permanent Committee, in collaboration with the European Patients Forum (EPF), is launching a survey on patient engagement in Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Patient involvement in the education of healthcare professionals is essential to ensure the health workforce has the necessary tools to practice truly person-centred care. The aim of this survey is to gain a better understanding of the actual involvement of patients in different CME activities and to identify potential challenges and opportunities. While the BioMed Alliance assesses how medical societies approach patient involvement, the EPF is simultaneously running a survey among its members to assess the experience of patients with participating in CME.

The survey will be open for participation until Monday 26 April, and education experts working for BioMed Alliance members are encouraged to reply. The CME Committee will accept one submission per organisation and will use the results of both the BioMed Alliance & EPF survey to organise follow-up activities to enhance patient involvement in CME and CPD. The survey is available [here](#).

## 6. Commission adopts Strategic Plan & Work Programme for Horizon Europe



### Strategic Plan

The European Commission adopted the first strategic plan for Horizon Europe for 2021-2024, setting out four strategic orientations to steer investments during the first half of the new EU research and innovation

programme.

The strategic plan also details the different clusters of Horizon Europe, including Cluster 1 Health, and the co-funded partnerships and programmes that will be supported. For more information, the Strategic plan is available [here](#).

### Work programme

The draft Work Programme 2021-2022 for the Health Cluster in Horizon Europe was also released by the European Commission, presenting the calls for proposals for each of the six destinations that have been defined for the first year of the Health Cluster. Under the new framework programme, the Health cluster will benefit of a total budget of 8.25€ billion for collaborative research and innovation projects. The focus of the calls for 2021-2022 is put on the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthening the EU health system by contributing to enhance high-quality accessible healthcare, the resilience of our health system to emerging threats, better access to digital services for all and a competitive and secure data-economy.

Given that the Work Programme published by the Commission is still a draft version, it might be subject to minor changes before its final version that is expected to be published in April. For more details about the calls for proposals, the draft Work Programme is available [here](#).



## 7. Upcoming

- The next meeting of the **Policy Officers Committee** will take place on 14 April
- The **STOA Workshop** “The need for better EU policies for health” will take place online on 22 April.
- The **Spring Meeting** will take place online on 20 May. The registration form and detailed agenda will be soon communicated.
- The **General Assembly** will be organised on 30 November.







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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 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. Thank you for your submissions!

#### EULAR: Presents factors associated with COVID-19-related death in patients with rheumatic diseases

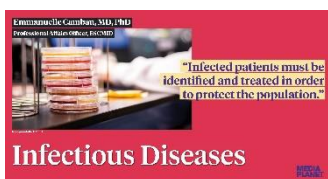


EUROPEAN ALLIANCE OF ASSOCIATIONS FOR RHEUMATOLOGY

The European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology (EULAR) recently published a press release informing on the characteristics associated with COVID-19 related-death in people with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. It follows the publication last January, of the results collected by the COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance in its physician-reported registry and presents a summary of existing risk factors associated with COVID-19-related death.

The COVID-19 Global Rheumatology Alliance physician-reported registry was launched in March 2020 with the mission to collect, analyse and disseminate information about COVID-19 and rheumatology to patients, physicians, and other relevant groups to improve the care of patients with rheumatic disease. Like for many specific diseases, there is strong concern about the risk of developing a severe COVID-19 course for rheumatic diseases patients. But clinical information is limited, hence the importance to collect and analyse real-world data on risk factors from patients and physicians. More information on the registry and the results from the research supported by EULAR is available [here](#).

#### ESCMID: presents the MediaPlanet Infectious Diseases campaign



The European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID) is supporting the MediaPlanet 2021 Infectious Diseases campaign launched on March 24, World Tuberculosis Day.

This campaign is dedicated to raise awareness for the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment innovation in infectious diseases; concerns which are very topical in the



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middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the urgency to tackle infectious diseases should not stop with the SARS-CoV-2 as many more medical infections are also causing millions of deaths but are not given as much attention, such as tuberculosis. Medical expertise and specialties in infectious diseases should be further supported across the world to ensure that health systems are ready to better control future pandemics. Emmanuelle Cambau, ESCMID Professional Affairs Officer and member of the BioMed Alliance IVD WG, wrote an article on the need for medical expertise to tackle infectious diseases for the Global Cause on the 2021 Infectious Diseases campaign. More information in infectious diseases and the campaign, as well as the article, are available [here](#).

### EBC: Launch of the Brain Innovation Policy Roadmap



On the occasion of the Brain Awareness Week 2021 that took place mid-March, The European Brain Council (EBC) released its Policy Roadmap 'Brain Health in Europe: Fostering Innovation, Improving Outcomes' which calls for the establishment of an EU-wide and public health combined Brain Plan.

Brain disorders are widespread and encompass both neurological and mental disorders, but a joint approach for all brain disorders across disciplines to foster innovation in research and treatment and ultimately improve the quality of life of affected patients. The Policy Roadmap recommends among others to develop of enabling policies and common research platforms to share data and results of research, leverage the European Health Data Space, and improve access to treatment and care. These are general recommendations that can easily be applied within each medical discipline to better address specific diseases in a more comprehensive and collaborative way and foster innovations that will benefit to all patients across Europe and lead to better health outcomes.

The full EBC Policy Roadmap is available for reading [here](#).