



Biomedical Alliance in Europe

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1. BioMed Alliance GA took place on 20 November



The 2019 Biomedical Alliance in Europe General Assembly took place on 20 November in our offices in Brussels. We were happy to see so many of you there to exchange views on activities, policy developments and potential directions for the future.

We started the day by taking a closer look at our past activities and our role in shaping EU policies. This included an overview by Prof. Karin Sipido of the achievements of the Scientific Panel for Health (which was established based on a BioMed Alliance proposal). We also discussed the results of a survey which collected input from members about BioMed Alliance activities and explored potential ways forward with all participants.

As a follow up to the panel discussion on Plan S during the spring meeting, Valentina Tursini, Scientific Publications Director (ESC) presented the latest developments regarding Plan S. Since the Spring Meeting there have been several new developments, e.g. the [application date](#) of Plan S was postponed to 2021 and a [new guidance](#) for medical societies was published.

The afternoon session was dedicated to discussing the activities of taskforces, committees and to discussing finances and governance.

Prof. Wilfried Ellmeier will start his presidential mandate in January 2020. He will be supported by prof. Gunhild Waldemar in her capacity as President-Elect and by prof. Axel Pries who will act as Past-President. The term in office of Past President Colm O'Morain comes to an end this year. Over the past years, he has worked hard to promote the BioMed Alliance and advance the interests of its members.

2. Tom Hemming Karlsen elected to Board of Directors



Tom Hemming Karlsen from EASL was elected to the BioMed Alliance Board of Directors during the General Assembly on 20 November.

Prof. Karlsen received the most votes out of the total of 6 candidates that applied for the vacant position. His experience as secretary general for EASL has provided him with expertise in EU Affairs and helped him get familiar with BioMed Alliance activities. We look forward to working with him in the coming years to continue expanding the BioMed Alliance.

3. Workshop Horizon Europe: key insights on health research funding



On 19 November, we organised a successful workshop on the funding opportunities for health research in Horizon Europe with the European Association of Urology (EAU). More than 50 participants joined for an afternoon of deliberations on Horizon Europe and its many components.



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The workshop started with a presentation from a European Commission representative on the structure of the programme and the opportunities for engagement. Afterwards, two panels exchanged views on strategic approaches and tips for success.

Funding for health research is provided through e.g. the Health Cluster and the Cancer Mission but also in other elements such as Digital Europe or even in environmental and social funding. In addition, an EFPIA representative highlighted funding opportunities within the next Public-Private Partnership for Health Innovation (the successor of the IMI). Other speakers highlighted how National Contact Points can provide assistance, the regional perspective and medical societies' experiences.

4. First meeting IVD Working Group with key players in the sector



The kick-off meeting of the new Working Group on In Vitro Diagnostics on 12 November brought together experts from member societies and other key players in the field.

The new regulation on In Vitro Diagnostic Devices will come into effect in 2022 and proposes new measures to guarantee the safety and efficacy of medical devices. During the meeting, we discussed the new regulation with representatives of the European Commission, Industry, Notified Bodies and Medical Societies.

Prof. Elizabeth Macintyre is chairing the BioMed Alliance IVD Working Group and will also represent us and provide scientific input in the European Commission IVD Working Group. Input from our members along with solutions for a smooth implementation of the regulation will be included in the work of the EC IVD WG.

5. Michel Ballieu speaks at first EPF Congress



Executive Director Michel Ballieu spoke at the first edition of the European Patients Forum (EPF) Congress on meaningful patient involvement in Continuing Medical Education (CME). He highlighted the need for unbiased high-quality CME during the plenary session 'Patients as teachers' on 14 November.

The BioMed Alliance has been actively working to improve independence and excellence in education through its CME Experts Permanent Committee.

6. Research more prominent role in new EU Commission



The title of Commissioner-Designate Mariya Gabriel has been changed to **include a reference to research**. Future European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced on 27 November in the European Parliament that Gabriel's new title will be: 'Commissioner for Research, Innovation, Education, Culture & Youth'.

In addition, the **European Parliament approved the composition of the new College of Commissioners** that day, so the 27 Commissioners are all set to take up office on 2 December (they were originally supposed to start in November).



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You may remember that we informed you a while ago that the word research was removed from the job title of Commissioner Gabriel and that she would instead be called Commissioner for Innovation & Youth.

We subsequently signed and promoted an [open letter](#) with a large number of individuals and other stakeholders to add the word research to her title, to reflect its importance to the EU. We were glad to learn that the position of stakeholders was taken into account and that her title is now reformulated.

7. Antimicrobial Resistance high on EU Agenda



The European Court of Auditors published a report on EU efforts to combat Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). AMR has been identified as an important threat to public health and has been high on the EU Agenda. The Court's report assesses different policies and strategies and e.g. argues that strategies to boost AMR research in the EU should be strengthened.

8. Upcoming

- On 31 January, we are organising a **workshop with FEAM on the future of health research in Europe** in the European Parliament.
- The next meeting of the **CME Experts Permanent Committee** will take place on 18 February from 10.30-16.00 at the BioMed Alliance Offices
- The 2nd **EU Health Summit** organised by the EU Health Coalition (in which the BioMed Alliance leads the research & innovation policy group), will take place in the first half of 2020.