



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

## THE FUTURE OF HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN EUROPE: THE NEED FOR STRATEGIC ACTION

23 May 2012 · Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine, Brussels

### OVERVIEW

In line with Europe's 2020 Strategy, biomedical and health research represent an outstanding example of research driving innovation and it can save lives. Through the development of medicinal products and the improvement of medical treatments, health research can boost scientific excellence and knowledge as drivers of future growth. Moreover, it has a crucial role in tackling those societal challenges, which weigh heavily on the EU's competitiveness and on its citizens well-being.

However, Europe's health research is not reaching its potential: promising discoveries are not getting to patients as rapidly as anticipated with excellent breakthroughs in basic science not being pursued, Europe's innovators are relocating outside Europe and national healthcare systems are trying to cope with increasing costs in a time of economic and demographic change. Moreover, despite similar infrastructures and technologies as well as common challenges facing health disciplines in Europe, there is significant fragmentation in research programmes and insufficient cross-talk between diseases and disciplines.

There needs to be a focus on accelerating biomedical research in Europe and promote Europe as a centre of health research innovation. Improved coordination and consolidation of excellent research across Europe and scientific input in biomedical research initiatives from the outset are vital to tackle the significant societal challenges in this domain. Long-term strategic research programmes that can trigger global multidisciplinary partnerships and address the full innovation cycle should be promoted.

The European Commission has joined with the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe, a consortium of 20 health research organisations representing around 250,000 scientists, to debate how to strategically move forward and help science achieve true innovation for a healthier and prosperous Europe.

This high-level meeting takes place in the run up to the launch of the EU's next Framework Programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020, and builds on the BioMed Alliance's urgent call for a strategic EU funding and programming approach across the entire health spectrum. Expected participants include EU policymakers, representatives of professional medical societies, European and national research centres, patients' organisations, Nobel Prize winners and officials from EU Permanent Representations.



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## CONFERENCE WELCOME DINNER

22 MAY 2012 · EUROPEAN COMMISSION RESTAURANT ·

19:30 Registration and refreshments

20:00 Buffet Dinner

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

23 MAY 2012 · BELGIAN ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE ·

8:00 Registration and morning refreshments

8:30 **Welcome Address**

15' » *Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Director, DG RTD, European Commission*

15' » *Ulf Smith, President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*

9:00 **“ACHIEVING A HEALTHIER EUROPE THROUGH RESEARCH & INNOVATION: DEFINING THE NEEDS”**

*Moderators: Gordon McVie, Senior Consultant, European Institute of Oncology  
Laurent Nicod, Treasurer, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*

15' » **THE ROLE OF RESEARCH IN ADDRESSING SOCIETAL CHALLENGES**

*Roger Bouillon, Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Member of the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) Core Working Group*

15' » **HEALTH CHALLENGES FACING EUROPE: TIME TO ACT**

*David Wood, Garfield Weston Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, Imperial College London*

15' » **THE NEED FOR COORDINATION AMONGST DISEASE AREAS: TACKLING CHRONIC DISEASES**

*Geoffrey Laurent, Director of the Centre for Respiratory Research, University College London*

15' » **IDENTIFYING AND TRAINING THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST: INVESTING IN EU RESEARCHERS**

*Valentin Fuster, Director, Cardiovascular Heart Center, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York & Director, The Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares (CNIC), Madrid*

30' Discussion



**10:30** Coffee Break

**11:00** **“HEALTH RESEARCH & INNOVATION IN EUROPE: COORDINATION AS A SUCCESS FACTOR”**

*Moderators:*

*Christian Suojanen, Head of Life Sciences, Valor Management S.A.*

*Karin Sipido, Vice-President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*

15' >> **HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH THROUGH COMPETITIVE FUNDING: LESSONS FROM THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL**

*Eero Vuorio, Director of Biocenter Finland & Chair, European Research Council Identification Committee*

15' >> **COORDINATION AND ORGANISATION OF CLINICAL TRIALS**

*Françoise Meunier, Director General, European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)*

15' >> **NEW OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: THE IMI MODEL**

*Michel Goldman, Executive Director, Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)*

15' >> **RARE DISEASES: EUROPEAN COORDINATION AT A GLANCE**

*Béatrice de Montleau, Board Member, Rare Diseases Europe (EURORDIS)*

30' Discussion

**12:30** Lunch

**13:30** **“THE FUTURE OF R&I IN EUROPE: THE NEED FOR A STRATEGIC ACTION”**

*Moderator:*

*José Mariano Gago, Advisor, Alliance for BioMedical Research in Europe*

*Ulf Smith, President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*

20' >> **HEALTH RESEARCH IN HORIZON 2020: THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION (2014-2020)**

*Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Director, DG RTD, European Commission*

20' >> **HORIZON 2020: REPORT FROM THE EC HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE EU**

*Liselotte Højgaard, Chair, European Medical Research Councils (EMRC), President, Copenhagen Research Forum & Member, European Commission High-Level Group on Health Research and Innovation in the EU*

20' >> **THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR HEALTH RESEARCH (EUCHR): A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR EUROPE**

*Julio E Celis, Vice-President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*



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**14:30 Panel Discussion**

**“THE FUTURE OF R&I IN EUROPE: THE NEED FOR A STRATEGIC ACTION – VIEWS FROM STAKEHOLDERS”**

*Moderators:*

*Liselotte Højgaard, Chair, European Medical Research Councils (EMRC), President, Copenhagen Research Forum*

*Julio E Celis, Vice-President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*

- 15' » *Alice Dautry, Director General, Institut Pasteur, FR & Member, Heads of International Research Organizations (HIROS)*
- 15' » *Nicola Bedlington, Director, European Patients' Forum (EPF)*
- 15' » *Monika Kosinska, Secretary General, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)*
- 15' » *Jeremy Haigh, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA)*

**15:30 General Discussion**

**16:30 Rapporteur's Summary**

- » *Tony Kirby*

**16:50 Closing Comments**

- 10' » *Ruxandra Draghia-Akli, Director, DG RTD, European Commission*
- 10' » *Ulf Smith, President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe*

**17:10 Networking Reception**

*\*\*Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice\*\**

*\*\* English is the official Conference language. No translation will be provided\*\**

## DIRECTIONS

European Commission Restaurant  
Rue Van Maerlant 2, 1040 Brussels · 1st floor



Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine  
Paleis der Academiën · Rue Ducale 1, B-1000 Brussels





**FROM BRUSSELS-NATIONAL AIRPORT TO BELGIAN ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE:**

- » Licensed taxis are available outside the Arrivals hall. The fare to Brussels city center is approx. €40.
- » Bus Airport line: take the No.12 bus (or No. 21 after 20:00 or on weekends) to “Place Luxembourg”, a ten-minute walk from the venue. It leaves three times an hour from the Bus Station on the level below Arrivals. The journey should take around 30 minutes and cost €6 if the ticket is bought on board (€3 if bought in advance).
- » Trains leave the station on Level -1 of the airport four times an hour. Reaching the venue should take around 25 minutes and cost €5.40. Take the train to Brussels Central Station.

**FROM BRUSSELS CENTRAL STATION (GARE CENTRALE) TO BELGIAN ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE:**

- » It is possible to walk to the venue (10’)
- » Licensed Taxis are available outside the station (4’).

**FROM BRUSSELS SOUTH STATION (GARE DU MIDI) TO BELGIAN ROYAL ACADEMY OF MEDICINE:**

- » Licensed Taxis are available outside the station (6’).
- » Metro Line N°2 leaves from the South Station on Level -1 to metro stop Trone, a 2’ walk from the venue.

## CONTACT DETAILS

Conference Organization, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

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