



MINISTÈRE
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPÉRIEUR
ET DE LA RECHERCHE

**EUROPEAN
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION**
SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

FORWARD LOOK

Consensus Conference Investigator-Driven Clinical Trials

29-30 September 2008

Maison de la Région Alsace
Strasbourg, France



Chair: Professor Jürgen Schölmerich (DFG, Germany)

Co-Chairs: Professor Håkan Billig (SRC, Sweden)
Professor Roger Bouillon (FWO, Belgium)

Coordinator: Dr. Carole Moquin-Pathey (ESF, France)
www.esf.org/emrc/idct

ESF: Professor Marja Makarow (Chief Executive)
ESF-EMRC: Professor Liselotte Højgaard (Chair)



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Consensus Conference of the Forward Look Investigator-Driven Clinical Trials

Rationale

Various categories of patient oriented research are necessary to develop academic knowledge into new diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic interventions, each associated with different risks. These include advanced therapy, proof-of-concept, first-in-man studies, impact measures and also post-marketing trials aimed to optimise treatment strategies and to assess the safety and the cost-effectiveness of new interventions through medico-economic studies.

The overall objective of the Forward Look launched by the ESF and managed by the EMRC is to develop a strategy and make recommendations for strengthening public-sponsored and investigator-driven clinical trials (IDCT) to best address health needs in Europe in an international perspective.

Main Objectives of the Conference

The conference will focus on addressing the concerns expressed in the EMRC White Paper about 'Present status and future strategy for medical research in Europe'¹ with a special emphasis on the specific needs of patient oriented research and the identification of the main problems faced by investigators when initiating a clinical trial in Europe with the aim to produce problem-solving recommendations.

We are honored that Professor Jürgen Schölmerich, Professor Roger Bouillon and Professor Håkan Billig have agreed to chair this conference aimed to challenge to a high level audience the recommendations produced at the occasion of five strategic workshops, organised in the frame of the Forward Look exercise, i.e.:

- **'Categories & Design of IDCT'** chaired by Professor Harry Janssen (Erasmus MC, Netherlands), and co-chaired by Professor Jacques Demotes (ECRIN, France)
- **'Regulatory, Legal Issues, Intellectual Property Rights & Data Sharing'** chaired by Professor Sally Davies (DH, United Kingdom), and co-chaired by Professor Jacques Demotes (ECRIN, France)
- **'Management of IDCT'** chaired by Professor Janet Darbyshire (UKCRN & MRC CTU, United Kingdom), and co-chaired by Professor Stefan Bielack (Olga Hospital Stuttgart, Germany)
- **'Education, Training, Career & Authorship'** chaired by Professor Eero Vuorio (University of Turku, Finland), and co-chaired by Professor Pierre Lafolie (Karolinska Institute, Sweden)

- **'Funding & Models of Partnership'** chaired by Professor Christian Bréchet (Mérieux-Alliance, France), and co-chaired by Professor Richard Sullivan (London School of Economics, United Kingdom)

For each strategic workshop, experts were asked to present from their perspective the main challenges they encounter and propose possible solutions based on examples.

Deliverables

After completion of the five strategic workshops a draft Forward Look report was produced under the coordination of their chairs in preparation of the Consensus Conference. This joint effort led to identifying 26 recommendations aligned with the problems and needs they aim to address and the stakeholder groups in charge of their implementation. The final report of the Forward Look activity 'Investigator-Driven Clinical Trials' will highlight the consensus reached on the key recommendations to strengthen patient oriented research in Europe.

The EMRC has an important role in the future development of medical research in Europe through its science policy and through dialogue with the European Commission, the European Research Council, Learned Societies, Universities and Academic Medical Centres. We firmly believe that a concerted and collaborative effort will have a positive impact for health and welfare in Europe and the rest of the world. We invite debate and action to bring our proposals to fruition.

1. EMRC White Paper 'Present Status and Future Strategy for Medical Research in Europe', Dec. 2007
At: www.esf.org/emrc/whitepaper

Programme

Monday 29 September 2008

13:00 - 14:00 **Welcome Buffet and Registration**
Maison de la Région Alsace, 1 place du Wacken 67070 Strasbourg – www.region-alsace.eu

14:00 - 14:20 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

Mrs. Monique Jung

Conseillère Régionale d'Alsace

Professor Marja Makarow

Chief Executive, European Science Foundation (ESF), Strasbourg, France

Professor Liselotte Højgaard

EMRC Chair and Professor and director, Clinical Physiology, Nuclear medicine & PET, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Professor Gérard Bréart

Director, Inserm Public Health Institute, Paris, France

Overview of the Forward Look Process

Dr. Carole Moquin-Patthey

EMRC Head of Unit, Strasbourg, France

14:20 - 18:00 **Day 1 - First Session**

Chair: **Professor Jürgen Schölmerich**

Vice-President, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and Professor, University Medical Center, Regensburg, Germany

14:30 - 15:45 **Categories and Design of Investigator-Driven Clinical Trials**

Professor Harry L.A. Janssen

Professor, Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Round table discussion – Dr. Philip Budashewitz

Associate Director, Clinical Research Policy Analysis and Coordination Program, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 18:00 **Regulatory and Legal Issues, Intellectual Property Rights and Data Sharing**

Professor Jacques Demotes

Coordinator, ECRIN, Paris, France

Dr. Chris Bird

Solicitor, The Wellcome Trust, London, United Kingdom

Dr. Trish Groves

Deputy Editor, British Medical Journal, London, United Kingdom

Round table discussion – Professor Kent Woods

Chief Executive, Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), London, United Kingdom

18:00 End of Day 1

19:30 - 22:30 **Conference Dinner**

Château de L'Île, 4, quai Heydt 67540 Ostwald

Transportation organised by bus from Hotel Sofitel, 4, place Saint-Pierre-le-Jeune, 67000 Strasbourg
Departure 19:15



Programme

Tuesday 30 September 2008

08:30 - 09:00 **Welcome Coffee and Registration**
Maison de la Région Alsace, 1 place du Wacken 67070 Strasbourg - www.region-alsace.eu

09:00 - 12:30 **Day 2 – First Session**

Chair: **Professor Håkan Billig**
EMRC Core Group Member for the Swedish Research Council and Professor,
Göteborg University, Göteborg, Sweden

09:00 - 10:00 **Management of Investigator Driven Clinical Trials**
Dr. Sarah Meredith on behalf of Professor Janet Darbyshire
UKCRN and Clinical Trial Unit, MRC, London, United Kingdom
Professor Stefan Bielack
Professor, Olga Hospital, Stuttgart, Germany
Round table discussion

10:00 - 11:00 **Education, Training, Career and Authorship**
Professor Eero Vuorio
Chancellor, University of Turku, Turku, Finland
Professor Pierre Lafolie (*excused*)
Professor, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Round table discussion

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 - 12:30 **Funding and Models of Partnership**
Professor Richard Sullivan
Professor, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom
Round table discussion

12:30 - 13:00 Lunch

13:00 - 15:00 **Day 2 – Second Session**

Chair: **Professor Roger Bouillon**
EMRC Core Group Member for the Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO) and
Professor, Leuven University, Leuven, Belgium

13:00 - 15:00 **Point of view from European Learned Societies and International Organisation**
Professor Stefan Anker
European Society of Cardiology (ESC), and Professor, Center for Cardiovascular Research,
Charité Hospital, Berlin, Germany
Professor Cyril Höschl
President, European Psychiatric Association (EPA) on behalf of the European Brain Council (EBC)
and Director, Clinic of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology, Prague, Czech Republic
Dr. Françoise Meunier
Director General, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC),
Brussels, Belgium
Professor Markus Büchler
Past-President, International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA) and
Chairman, Department of General Emergency and Visceral Surgery, Heidelberg, Germany
Dr. Philip Budashewitz
Associate Director, Clinical Research Policy Analysis and Coordination Program,
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA
Round table discussion

15:00 - 15:30 **Closing Discussions**
Chair: **Professor Liselotte Højgaard**
Chair, EMRC and Professor and director, Rigshospitalet, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

15:30 End of Day 2

Speakers

Professor Stefan Anker

Stefan Anker is professor for Applied Cachexia Research at the Department of Cardiology at the Charité Campus Virchow-Klinikum of Humboldt-University in Berlin, Germany. He finished his studies at Charité and began his research at the National Heart and Lung Institute of the Imperial College London in 1995, where he received his PhD in 1998. In 2002 he became one of the first so-called Juniorprofessor in Germany and started an entirely new research field: Applied Cachexia Research.

Professor Stefan Bielack

Stefan Bielack is a pediatric oncologist and the head of the Department of Pediatric Oncology, Hematology, and Immunology at the Olgahospital, Stuttgart, Germany. His main scientific and clinical interest lies in the field of bone sarcomas, particularly osteosarcomas. He is chairman of the Cooperative German-Austrian-Swiss Osteosarcoma Study Group COSS and ESF ECT project leader of the European and American Osteosarcoma Study EURAMOS1. Professor Bielack is Vice President of the European Musculo-Skeletal Oncology Society - EMSOS and board member of the German Society for Pediatric Oncology and Hematology - GPOH. He also served on the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical Oncology and is a member of the editorial board of Cancer Treatment Reviews.

Professor Håkan Billig

Håkan Billig, MD, PhD is professor in Physiology, Sahlgrenska Academy at Göteborg University in Sweden and Secretary General of the Scientific Council of Medicine at the Swedish Research Council since 2004 and member of the EMRC Core Group since 2006.

Mr. Chris Bird

Chris Bird is a senior lawyer at The Wellcome Trust, an independent charity funding research to improve human and animal health, and the UK's largest non-governmental source of funds for biomedical research. Chris Bird has extensive experience of intellectual property as it relates to access to data and research outputs.

Professor Roger Bouillon

Roger Bouillon is a professor and chairman of endocrinology (internal medicine) at the University and University Hospital of the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. He received his medical training in this University and has a Board certification in internal medicine, endocrinology and nuclear medicine (*in vitro*). His PhD thesis dealt with calcium and vitamin D metabolism. Hormonal regulation of bone metabolism and vitamin D remained the primary focus of his research although the laboratory of endocrinology (+/- 65 persons) and endocrine clinic is also involved in many other endocrine diseases (especially diabetes and androgens). He has been Vice-President for Research of the K.U. Leuven and member of the Board of directors of his University and

University Hospitals (1995-2005) and is still a member of the Science Advisory Board of the Flemish Government (president of Science policy commission). He is a member of the Royal Academy of Medicine (Belgium) and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physician (London 2000 – present). He has been the secretary (founding member) and later President of the European Board of Endocrinology (UEMS 1988-2002). He is a member of several European Science Foundation Committees (Board member of the European Medical Research Council) and European Space Agency Life Science working group. He is a Board member (Vice President) of the International Bone and Mineral Society (IBMS) and of the vitamin D workshop Inc. He is a (co) author of more than 400 peer reviewed articles. The main topics of his research deal with various aspects of bone and calcium homeostasis, including basic, translational and clinical research.

Professor Markus Büchler

Markus W. Büchler studied medicine at the Universities of Heidelberg and Berlin and trained in Surgery at the Department of Surgery, University of Ulm, where he was appointed a Consultant Surgeon in 1987 and Vice Chairman in 1991. In 1992 he became Chairman and Professor of Surgery of the Department of Visceral and Transplantation Surgery at the Inselspital, University of Bern, Switzerland. Since 2001 he is Chairman and Professor of Surgery at the Department of General Surgery, University of Heidelberg. Since 2005 he is also the Chairman of the Surgical Unit of the Salem-Hospital in Heidelberg. He is a specialist in hepato pancreato biliary diseases (HPB) and particular in pancreatic surgery. Beside his substantial curriculum of scientific publications in the field of HPB diseases, in particular in translational research of pancreatic cancer, he is also editor and member of the editorial boards of leading journals in the field of general and gastrointestinal surgery and of translational and molecular research in pancreatology and other fields of gastrointestinal diseases.

Dr. Philip Budashewitz

Philip Budashewitz is the Associate Director of the Clinical Research Policy Analysis and Coordination Program (CRpac) in the Office of Biotechnology Activities, Office of Science Policy, Office of the Director at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The CRpac program fosters the harmonization of policies and procedures that govern the conduct of clinical research. The program serves as the NIH focal point for the ongoing coordination, streamlining, and optimization of policies and requirements concerning the conduct and oversight of clinical research. CRpac also serves as a principle point of NIH clinical research policy development in coordination with other NIH offices, centers, and institutes as well as relevant U.S. federal departments, agencies, and international counterparts. In addition, Mr. Budashewitz is a U.S. Public Health Service Officer with extensive domestic and international experience in public health, biomedical

research, regulatory policy, as well as emergency preparedness and response.

Professor Jacques Demotes-Mainard

Jacques Demotes-Mainard, MD, PhD, is professor of Cell Biology, has a background in clinical neurology and a research curriculum as a basic neuroscientist, then as chair of a clinical research centre. Since 2004, Jacques Demotes co-ordinates the European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN, www.ecrin.org), funded by the EC FP6 then FP7 as the pan-European infrastructure for clinical trials. Professor Demotes is advisor at the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research.

Dr. Trish Groves

Trish joined the British Medical Journal (BMJ) as its first editorial registrar. She has edited most sections of the journal over the years and is now deputy editor and senior research editor. Trish Groves is a member of the international groups developing the SPIRIT statement on trial protocols and updating the CONSORT statement on reporting randomised controlled trials, and is on the council of COPE (the Council on Publication Ethics). She was first author of the HarperCollins Consumer's Guide to Mental Health (1996), and has written and presented programmes on research and health for BBC World Service Radio, and presented TVam's DocSpot. Trish Groves studied medicine at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London, and then specialised in psychiatry, gaining MRCPsych. She was also an honorary research fellow at the School for Public Policy, University College London.

Professor Liselotte Højgaard

Liselotte Højgaard is Professor, MD, DMSc, at the University of Copenhagen, Department of Clinical Physiology, Nuclear Medicine & PET Centre, Denmark. Professor Højgaard is the Chair of EMRC, the European Medical Research Councils. She is the previous editor-in-chief of the Danish Medical Journal, Member of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. Member of the Danish Political Research Council. Founder of the new education as Bioengineer at University of Copenhagen and the Danish Technical University. Born in 1957, Liselotte Højgaard is specialist in clinical physiology and nuclear medicine; researcher with 150 peer review publications, her special interest is in PET scanning in children with cancer.

Professor Cyril Höschl

Cyril Höschl, MD, DSc., FRCPsych., born on 12 November 1949 in Prague (Czechoslovakia). He received his MUDr. (Doctor of Medicine) grade at the Charles University in Prague in 1974. He started his career in Psychiatric Research Institute (PRI) in Prague and later on at Charles University in Prague. His research interests included psychoneuro-endocrinology, psychopharmacology and biological psychiatry. In 1984, Professor Höschl presented his original work on neuroendocrine

tests in psychiatry at several Canadian universities. In 1985, he was lecturing at New York University on his pioneering studies on calcium channel blockers in the treatment of affective disorders.

He was elected the Dean of the Third Medical Faculty of the Charles University in Prague (1990-1997) and appointed professor of psychiatry and chairman, Prague Psychiatric Centre (former PRI). He is fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatry, the President of the European Psychiatric Association, the President of the Czech Medical Academy and the President of the Federation of European Medical Academies and a member of many other societies. He has received several prestigious awards. He published more than 100 publications, incl. 3 monographs, and co-edited 5 more monographs and textbooks.

Professor Harry Janssen

Harry Janssen (1964) graduated from medical school at the Catholic University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands. During his study he spent one year as research fellow in Hepatology at the Mayo Clinic. He obtained his PhD in Rotterdam on the role of immune modulating therapy in chronic hepatitis B. He then trained in Internal Medicine at Leiden University Medical Center and in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Rotterdam Erasmus University Medical Center. Following his registration as Gastroenterologist he returned to the Mayo Clinic for a research fellowship in Hepatology at the Center of Basic Research in Digestive Diseases. In 2001 he became a staff member and in 2006 he was appointed as professor of Hepatology and head of the liver unit in Rotterdam. As principle investigator Prof. Janssen coordinated several European and global multicenter studies on interferon treatment for chronic hepatitis B. He was awarded a Clinical Fellowship and an Innovation Research grant (VIDI) from the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO) to study strategies of immune control in viral hepatitis and published numerous international articles on this subject. Prof. Janssen is chairman of the Dutch Association of Hepatology and was elected as Rising Star in Gastroenterology and Hepatology by the Association of the National European Societies of Gastroenterology. Currently he is member of the editorial board of Hepatology and has published over 130 original peer-reviewed papers. In addition to his long-standing expertise in antiviral therapy of chronic hepatitis B, prof. Janssen is a leading scientist in the field of vascular disorders of the liver.

Professor Pierre Lafolie

Professor Pierre Lafolie is a MD, PhD, Associate professor at Karolinska Institute. He is trained as physician specialised in clinical pharmacology and pharmaceutical medicine. Pierre Lafolie worked with pharmaceutical companies and the Swedish Medical Products Agency before returning to a combination position as senior reader and senior consultant at Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institute. Member of the network committee of ECRIN, the European

Speakers

clinical trial infrastructure network he initiated SWECRIN, the Swedish part of ECRIN, one among 15 other national networks in ECRIN. Professor Lafolie was chairman of the ESF working party establishing in July 2003 the ESF Syllabus for Clinical Investigator Training and is Chairman of the ECRIN Working Party on Education and Training. He initiated the first Scandinavian course in Pharmaceutical Medicine in 2002, which is still running and is responsible for the training, competence development and infrastructure support in clinical trials at Karolinska as Head of Karolinska Trial Alliance, a node in Stockholm for infrastructure support.

Professor Marja Makarow

Professor Makarow is Chief Executive of the European Science Foundation since 1 January 2008. Prior to this position she was Vice-Rector for Research of the University of Helsinki, and is Professor of Applied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, also at the University of Helsinki. Marja Makarow is an advisor to the Finnish Government as a member of the National Council for Science and Technology Policy. She has contributed to science policy through the Academy of Finland, serving on a number of its committees, most recently for impact analysis and foresight of public research funding. She has been a member of a number of committees dealing with research, researchers' careers, infrastructure, innovation and technology transfer at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Trade and Commerce in Finland, and at the European level. Her responsibilities at the international level include the Presidency of the European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC/EMBO) from 2004 to 2007. She has been a member, and Chair in 2007, of the Life Science Panel of the EURYI programme managed by the European Science Foundation, and evaluator of the Starting Grants scheme of the European Research Council. Marja Makarow is the recipient of a number of awards, honours and decorations, and has published widely in reputed scientific journals.

Dr. Sarah Meredith

Dr. Sarah Meredith is Head of Clinical Operations at the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit – MRC-CTU, Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Primary Care and Population Sciences at University College London and Honorary Consultant in Public Health at Redbridge Primary Care Trust. Sarah Meredith has a strong interest in the impact of regulations on clinical research and she led the work on trial management for the UK Medical Research Council/Department of Health joint project to codify good practice in publicly funded clinical trials, which culminated in the Clinical Trials Toolkit website. Her research is mainly on the risks and benefits of healthcare interventions.

Dr. Carole Moquin-Patthey

Carole Moquin-Patthey, Pharmaceutical Doctor (major in Industry) and PhD in Pharmacochimistry, was appointed as the Head of the Medical Sciences Unit, the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) at the European Science Founda-

tion (ESF) in January 2005. Until December 2004, she was the Director of the Department of Scientific Strategies and Partnering (DAPS) at Inserm (National Institute of Health and Medical Research) in Paris – France, for nearly four years. Prior to her position at Inserm, she was the Scientific Director of the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM), a French private foundation, and had various assignments in pharmaceutical and biotech companies, in France and in the USA, more specifically with Boehringer Mannheim (Rueil-Malmaison, France), as Coordinator of Clinical Trials, and with the biotech company Enzon Inc. (New Jersey, USA) as Research Scientist in charge of FDA New Drug Applications filing for rare diseases. Carole Moquin-Patthey was a member of the French National Consultative Bioethics Committee for Health and Life Science from 2003 to 2007.

Dr. Françoise Meunier

Françoise Meunier has led the coordination and administration of all EORTC activities since 1991 with the mandate to promote the EORTC as a major European organisation in the field of oncology with a network of 2,500 oncologists in over 300 universities and a Headquarters staff of 160, representing 17 different nationalities. As Director General, she is responsible for the organisation of scientific activities, public relations and medium-term EORTC strategy as defined by the EORTC Board. Before joining the EORTC, Françoise Meunier was Head of the Infectious Disease Department at the Institut Jules Bordet in Brussels, Belgium. Françoise Meunier published more than 150 peer-reviewed articles and is member of numerous international scientific societies. She is member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine.

Professor Jürgen Schölmerich

Professor Schölmerich was born in Marburg, Germany and educated at the University of Heidelberg ("Physikum" 1971) and the University of Freiburg (MD, 1973). He obtained lecturer in medicine (PhD) at the University of Freiburg (1984), the certification for internal medicine (1985), the certification for gastroenterology (1988) and for "Special intensive care medicine" for internal medicine (1993). He was research fellow (1982, 1985) and visiting professor (1995) at the University of California, San Diego. He is presently Director of the Department for Internal Medicine I (Gastroenterology / Hepatology, Hematology / Oncology, Endocrinology / Metabolic diseases, Infectious diseases, Rheumatology / Immunology, Intensive Care Medicine) at the University of Regensburg (since 1991). He served as Deputy Medical Director (1992 – 1994) and Medical Director (1996 – 1999) at the University Medical Center of Regensburg. Professor Schölmerich was elected to the Executive Committee of the International Organization for the Study of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IOIBD, 1998 – 2001). He served as Deputy Chairman (2001 – 2004) and Chairman of the IOIBD (2004–2007). In 2004 he was elected to the Senate and in 2005 to Vice President of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). His research areas are inflammatory bowel disease,

the innate immune system and bacterial-epithelial interactions in the intestine, liver cirrhosis and complications, and bile acid metabolism.

Professor Richard Sullivan

Professor Richard Sullivan was trained in academic surgery (urology) before moving to industry where he worked in a senior role in medical affairs and R&D. Following this he moved to the world's largest cancer research NGO, Cancer Research UK where he was Director of Clinical Centres and Programmes serving on both the Executive and Scientific Executive Boards. He is now Professor in the Department of Social Policy, LSE, a consultant to Kings College Integrated Cancer, London and visiting professor of International Relations to the NATO College. He is on a wide variety of international advisory boards and, in addition to being a Senior Fellow at WHO IARC chairs the European Cancer Research Managers Foundation which he set up in 2001. Richard Sullivan has published extensively on cancer research, biomedical policy, and international security.

Professor Eero Vuorio

Dr. Vuorio, Professor of Molecular Biology, has served as Chancellor of the University of Turku since September 2003. After receiving his medical degree from the University of Turku, he has worked as a visiting scientist and professor at the University of Chicago, at the Swiss Federal Technical High School (ETH) in Zürich, and at the University of Texas in Houston. He has served six years in the Academy of Finland as a Board member and as the chair of the Research Council for Health. He has chaired the National Advisory Board for Research Ethics since 2004. In addition to his domestic expert and administrative tasks, Dr. Vuorio has also had several corresponding duties abroad. He is the national delegate on the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Council (EMBL) and served as Vice-Chair from 2000 to 2002 and Chair from 2003 to 2006. He also has expert duties at the European Commission, including member of an Advisory Group to Framework Programme 6 and the European Science Foundation (ESF). He also works as a part-time Executive Manager of BBMRI, the Biobanking and Biomolecular Resources Research Infrastructure.

Professor Kent Woods

Professor Kent Woods took up the post of Chief Executive at the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency - MHRA in UK in January 2004. He had previously held Department of Health appointments as Director of the NHS Health Technology Assessment Programme (1999-2003) and Regional Director of R&D, NHS Trent (1995-1999). Professor Woods trained in medicine at Cambridge and Birmingham, completed his MD research in 1980 and was a Medical Research Council International Fellow in epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health in 1982-3. Most of his 150+ research publications have been in cardiovascular medicine; he has been principal investigator or steering

committee member for a number of large clinical trials. He was a consultant physician at Leicester Royal Infirmary from 1984-2003 and was appointed to a Professorship in Therapeutics at Leicester University in 1996. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London) and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Support Team:

Dr. Ralf Emmerich

Dr. Ralf Emmerich is managing consultant in the Life Sciences sector of Capgemini Consulting. Capgemini, one of the world's foremost providers of Consulting, Technology and Outsourcing services, enables its clients to transform and perform through technologies. Capgemini Consulting is the management consulting discipline of the Capgemini Group. With 5,500 consultants, Capgemini Consulting is a recognized global leader in large-scale, enterprise-wide transformation. Before joining Capgemini in 2005, Ralf Emmerich worked for 5 years in venture capital business and investment banking. He was supervisory board member of a biotechnology company and a venture capital fund focused on life sciences. He studied Biochemistry and Economics in Bayreuth, Paris and Lahr and received his PhD from the ETH Zurich.

Mr. Jean-François Gouzer

Jean-François Gouzer works toward business transformation and strategy development in the healthcare ecosystem. With the Life Sciences practice of Capgemini Consulting, he supported bio-pharmaceutical companies to adapt to current R&D and marketing issues. Jean-François Gouzer also took part in a number of initiatives federating healthcare stakeholders to accelerate access to novel treatments and to redesign the public-private model for therapeutic innovations that balances current market-driven incentives with knowledge-based rationales.

Mr. Simon Hadlington

Simon Hadlington is a freelance journalist and writer specialising in science, technology and medicine. He has been a staff journalist on Nature and has written for many newspaper and magazines. He has also helped to write numerous reports for a variety of governmental and non-governmental organisations in the UK and Europe.

Mr. Julien Weber

Julien Weber joined the European Science Foundation in December 2005 and is the EMRC Unit Coordinator since November 2006. Holding bachelor degrees in "Accounting", "Business and Law" and "Marketing" Julien Weber worked previously in London (UK) for Natexis Pramex a firm helping French companies to settle down in the UK. His role was mainly to assist companies with all their legal/administrative tasks.

European Science Foundation

The European Science Foundation (ESF) is an independent, non-governmental organisation of national research organisations.

Our strength lies in the membership and in our ability to bring together the different domains of European science in order to meet the scientific challenges of the future. ESF's membership currently includes 77 influential national funding agencies, research-performing agencies and academies from 30 nations as its contributing members.

Since its establishment in 1974, ESF, which has its headquarters in Strasbourg with offices in Brussels and Ostend, has assembled a host of research organisations that span all disciplines of science in Europe, to create a common platform for cross-border cooperation.

We are dedicated to supporting our members in promoting science, scientific research and science policy across Europe. Through its activities and instruments ESF has made major contributions to science in a global context.

The ESF covers the following scientific domains:

- Humanities
- Life, Earth and Environmental Sciences
- Medical Sciences
- Physical and Engineering Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Marine Sciences
- Nuclear Physics
- Polar Sciences
- Radio Astronomy Frequencies
- Space Sciences

European Medical Research Councils

The European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) is the membership organisation for all the medical research councils in Europe under the ESF.

Its mission is to promote innovative medical research and its clinical application towards improved human health.

EMRC offers authoritative strategic advice for policy making, research management, ethics, and better health services. In its activities, EMRC serves as a voice of its Member Organisations and the European scientific community. EMRC disseminates knowledge and promotes the socio-economic value of medical research to the general public and the decision makers.

