

## Medical Research Funding in Horizon 2020

At its final meeting in October 2012, EMRC, the **European Science Foundation (ESF)** Standing Committee for the European Medical Research Councils prepared a statement regarding the discrepancy between public investment for healthcare and public support for (broadly defined) biomedical and health research with the intention of informing the public at large and the medical world including the medical science organisations and patient organisations, of the consequences of this situation.

The situation of biomedical research input in € and scientific output is further detailed in **Table 1**.

<b>(Bio)medical research OUTPUT</b>	<b>EU25</b>	<b>USA</b>
No. of publications (2009) (world = 100%)	~ 38%	~ 33%
No. of top 10% or top 1% higher ranked publications (2007) (relative numbers)	1	2
No. of citations (2007) (world = 100%)	~ 42%	~ 48%
<b>Public INPUT for (bio)medical research</b>	<b>EU21</b>	<b>USA</b>
€ per person / per year (purchase power equivalent 2009 for Health and Biomedical Research)	~ 40	~ 143
EU FP7	<15% of total budget for 'health research'	
Horizon 2020 proposal	10.5% plus unknown share of ERC grant money but about 30% already committed to EIT, IMI, industry, etc.	
<b>Comparative data</b>		
€ per person / per year for global healthcare (purchase power equivalent in €)	2,730	6,400
€ spend for alcohol and tobacco	~ 800	n/a
<b>Industrial return</b>		
R&D Investment by pharma (2011 estimate)	27.5 bn €	38.5 bn \$
Number of biotech companies (relative number)	1	4

**Table 1:** (Bio)medical research input by public funding in the European Union (2009-2011) compared with the research output as assessed by publications and citations (2007-2009) in comparison with other related data and industrial R&D investment in health research.

### Acronyms:

EIT: European Institute of Innovation and Technology  
IMI: Innovative Medicines Initiative

These data clearly indicate a persistently low public funding for biomedical research especially at the EU level.

The final target for the statement was the European Parliament that has to decide about the budget for research in Horizon 2020 and each Member of the European Parliament received a copy of the statement (attached) in November 2012. This statement received the unanimous approval and support of the 32 members of EMRC along with 14 major medical and scientific societies and organisations throughout Europe (the full list can be found in the attached document).

At the end of 2012, EMRC was replaced by the **ESF Scientific Review Group for the Biomedical Sciences (SRG-MED)** who wishes today to renew its statement supporting the increase of the health research funding budget in Horizon 2020. In parallel, **Science Europe's** newly appointed **Medical Sciences Scientific Committee (MED)** has added its valued support to this statement with the same desire expressed by the SRG-MED to amend the Horizon 2020 budget so as to implement a major step forward in collaborative, international healthcare research in Europe. Together, ESF and Science Europe have strong arguments in favour of an action that would fill a major gap in the European landscape for biomedical/medical/health research and strengthen innovation in an essential field of our societies.

More precisely **we ask the Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of Europe**

- to substantially increase the budget for biomedical research, estimated at 5bn € for the next 7 years;
- to create a funding mechanism for health research aiming at supporting excellent non-commercial academic research projects that require a broad international collaboration as to really affect the health prospects of the EU citizens;

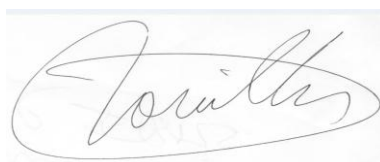
and to note that:

- this funding mechanism should work as the successful European Research Council and be driven by peer review and excellence;
- together with the introduction of a single European patent and a new Clinical Trials Regulation, such a new funding mechanism could reinvigorate the historically strong tradition of leadership of Europe in innovative health research.

For these reasons, we hope that a large number of Members of the European Parliament will support this strategy to amend the Horizon 2020 plan so as to allow the new project for funding multinational health research. Such a support would create a multiple win-win situation not only for present and future patients but also for healthcare providers, funders and the European healthcare industry. This project is fully in line with the EU policy for an innovative Europe working towards the wellbeing and welfare of all European citizens.



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### Sources:

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Dr. Michael Stolpe's personal communication (Kiel Institute for the World Economy, University of Kiel (DE)).

### List of supporting organisations:



Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe

**The Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe** and its supporting member societies:

- European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD)
- European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)
- European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)
- European CanCer Organisation (ECCO)
- European Federation of Neurological Societies (EFNS)
- European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association (ERA-EDTA)
- European Respiratory Society (ERS)
- European Society of Cardiology (ESC)
- European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID)
- European Society of Hypertension (ESH)
- European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE)
- European Society of Radiology (ESR)
- United European Gastroenterology (UEG)

**Other supporting organisations:**

- European Orthopaedic Research Society (EORS)
- European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)