In 2013, the Scientific Review Group for the Biomedical Sciences (SRG-MED) was active with the following activities:

a. Forward Look 'Personalised Medicine for the European Citizen' (iPM)

The activities of this Forward Look (www.esf.org/ipm) have been actively supported by its Scientific Committee members, namely Professors Stephen Holgate (University of Southampton, UK), Aarno Paalotie (Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM) and University of Helsinki, FI), Barbara Prainsack (Brunel University, UK), Angela Brand (University of Maastricht, NL) and Hans Lehrach (then at Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, DE).

The iPM Forward Look final report was published in December 2012 and launched on 28 January 2013 in Brussels (BE) where first implementation ideas were discussed. The Forward Look final report was disseminated at numerous events in 2013 (see "Success Stories"). The European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EAPM: www.euapm.eu) has volunteered to support the implementation of the Forward Look report. ESF is now a permanent guest in this association. An EAPM roundtable entitled 'Horizon 2020 and the future of European research: How to develop the right prevention and treatment to the right patient at the right time' was organised on 10 September 2013 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg (FR) with ESF's financial support, hosted by Petru Luhan, MEP.

b. Report on 'Human Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine - Focus on European policy and scientific contributions' and Research Networking Programme 'Regenerative Medicine' (REMEDIC, 06-RNP-128)

As a follow-up to the ESF-EMRC 2010 Science Policy Briefing no. 38 'Human Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine - A European Perspective on Scientific, Ethical and Legal Issues', a report was finalised which includes success stories illustrating the added value of this field as well as an updated table on human stem cell research regulation and legislation in Europe (http://www.esf.org/publications/medical-sciences.html). The final report has been disseminated through various media and meetings (e.g. Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) meeting at the Council of Europe in November 2013 in Strasbourg).

The Steering Committee of the Research Networking Programme 'Regenerative Medicine' (REMEDIC, completed in May 2013) organised the first European Interdisciplinary Summit on Cell-Based Advanced Medicinal Therapy Products (ATMPs) on 2-3 May 2013 in Vienna (AT). A white paper on how to improve the competitiveness of Europe in the field of cell-based ATMPs has been produced and will be published in a peer-reviewed journal (White paper on how to go forward with cell-based Advanced Therapies in Europe. Erben RG, Silva-Lima B, Reischl I, Steinhoff G, Tiedemann G, Dalemans W, Vos A, Janssen RT, Le Blanc K, van Osch G Phd, Luyten FP. *Tissue Eng Part A.* 2014 Apr 22.).

c. Follow-up of activities in the field of Investigator-Driven Clinical Trials (IDCT)

The SRG-MED and the Science Europe Medical Sciences Committee (MED) produced a joint statement about medical research funding in Europe in March 2013 that was sent to all MEPs, supported by the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe, the European Orthopaedic Research Society (EORS) and the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC).

d. Medical Research Education in Europe

The Science Policy Briefing on **Medical Research Education** published in autumn 2012 (http://www.esf.org/publications/medical-sciences.html) was presented orally at the 8th conference of the ORganisation of PhD Education in Biomedicine and Health Sciences in the

EUropean System (ORPHEUS) 'Towards International PhD standards' on 25-27 April 2013 in Prague (CZ).

Significant Success Stories

a. Forward Look 'Personalised Medicine for the European Citizen' (iPM)

The publication of this Forward Look final report has been a great success leading to numerous invitations to events such as the Irish Presidency conference on personalised medicine, 'Innovation and Patient Access to Personalised Medicine' on 20-21 March 2013 in Dublin (IE), organised by the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine in association with eu2013.ie, or the 16th European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) on 2-5 October 2013 in Bad Gastein (AT). In addition, ESF is now part of a Coordinated Strategic Action ('PerMed': http://www.permed2020.eu/) funded by the European Commission that was kicked off in Berlin (DE) on 8 October 2013.

b. OECD Global Science Forum and WHO follow-up project proposal

The OECD Global Science Forum (GSF) working group 'Facilitate Cooperation in International Non-Commercial Clinical Trials' - established as an outcome of the Forward Look report, 'Investigator-Driven Clinical Trials' in Paris (FR) - published its final report in January 2012. EMRC and now SRG-MED have been involved in implementing the different recommendations mainly in the areas of education and training and risk-based approach. A project proposal (title: 'Facilitating international co-operation and quality assurance in clinical trials') has been drafted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) with the support of various organisations (e.g. Norwegian Directorate of Health) and will benefit from intellectual contribution and financial support from the ESF SRG-MED. Support from national ministries is also being sought.

c. Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Directive 2004/40/EC

In its Position Paper published in June 2010, EMRC had advocated the exemption from any limit values for the use of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) in clinical and research settings in the revised Electromagnetic Fields (EMF) Directive 2004/40/EC. On 20 June 2013, the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council adopted the revised EMF Directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from EMF. Continued patient access to MRI is now granted with both Parliament's and Council's endorsements of the MRI derogation as advocated by EMRC who had sent a letter to all MEPs in February 2012 to invite them to support the exemption. Member States will have to transpose the Directive into national law by 1 July 2016. This outcome is the result of the aligned efforts of the Alliance for MRI and other major stakeholders such as the former EMRC.