



## **UEGF EU NEWS March 2010 Issue 2**

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## **FP7 calls for experts for evaluation, supervising and monitoring**

UEGF encourages its members to become an expert in order to create visibility and increase the participation of the gastroenterologist community in the EU.

The EU Commission invites the scientific community to provide assistance for the FP7 program. The selection, which is made by the Commission services, not only depends on the skills of an individual expert but also on the Commission's requirement to match these skills to the proposals received or projects to review.

- You can **register as an individual expert** by following the link <https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7/> and clicking on "Register as an Expert".
- A first page will ask you to fill in the registration fields and choose your password.
- Once you have your password, you can log in to your personal account and fill in the information required. You can update them whenever you want. You don't have to complete all the fields immediately. Your record remains available at all times for completion or updating.
- On the online form, you will be able to decide on how you would like to assist the Commission. There are two different stages: **evaluation and reviewing** of the proposals and projects or **monitoring** and follow-up of programs.
  - **Evaluation work** requires the experts to examine (i.e. peer review) proposals for funding against published criteria and provide comments and recommendations to the Commission.
  - The work of **monitoring** experts is much less concerned with the technical issues of individual proposals and projects but with assessing the implementation and results of a whole program of activities at a more strategic level.

**You may choose just one option or both.**

As expert you will be **remunerated** in the form of a payment per day worked, plus travel and subsistence expenses.

- You will receive a **daily payment** of € 450 per day. The **travel expenses** are fully covered for economy class. In addition there is an **accommodation payment** of € 100 and a **daily allowance** of about € 92 which is a flat rate to cover all expenditure on local transport and meals at the place where the meeting is held. Additional allowance payments can be made. For detailed information on the reimbursement of expenses please follow the link: [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/egf/docs/reglementation\\_experts\\_2008\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/egf/docs/reglementation_experts_2008_en.pdf)
- At the beginning-stage evaluations are carried out **remotely** (i.e. at the evaluator's home or place of work). Then they usually take place in the context of **short sessions lasting a maximum of around 10 days a year** in Brussels or Luxembourg. The Commission may select you at any time during the duration of the seventh framework program (up to the end of 2013) or longer if you are a reviewing and monitoring expert.

The fact of **being registered as an expert doesn't exclude your right to submit research proposals.**

- When an expert is appointed, he/she is asked to sign a declaration stating exactly which proposals he/she has a link with. The Commission should be informed if the expert could have any conflict of interest with any proposal. The European Commission takes all the necessary steps in order to remove such conflicts of interest.

The EU Commission has published the names of all those experts that have been involved as experts in 2007 and 2008. Please follow the link to find the list of names: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/experts\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/experts_en.html)

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### **Approaches to colorectal cancer screening in the EU and in the U.S.**

Colorectal cancer represents still the second leading cause of cancer death in the USA and Europe. Data on the efficacy and effectiveness of all screening modalities is limited except for the faecal occult blood test. Norwegian researchers now reviewed practices in the US and Europe. In general governmental bodies have endorsed screening but recommended approaches are variable. It appears that there are more variation in CRC screening recommendation and practice within each continent than between Europe and the US. Researchers claim that stronger emphasis on programmatic screening exists in Europe thus facilitating quality assurance. Concerning the need for randomised trials as new screening modalities, researchers recommend that running screening programmes should be regarded as natural platforms for testing out and evaluating presumed improvements - including new emerging screening modalities.

For further information: <http://www.gastrohep.com/news/news.asp?id=107158>

### **Better information on medicinal products for patients?**

The European debate on how to regulate information on medicinal products is heating up. In 2008, the European Commission had tabled proposals for amending rules on information to the general public on medicinal products both, in the existing Regulation on the authorization and supervision of medicinal products and in the Directive on the Community code relating to medicinal products.

Now, the Commission's proposals get their first reading in the European Parliament, facing widespread concerns on the patient's dimension. Even the new Health Commissioner who has become in charge of these proposals, Mr Dalli, announced during his appointment hearing in the European Parliament that he would reassess issues related to the information to patients.

In the light of this, this week, the debate in the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety struggled with procedural issues. While the Socialists and Greens both called for the procedure to be postponed until they had the re-assessment promised by Commissioner Dalli, the centre-right EPP and the Liberals argued that they should continue with their work and influence the Commission's thinking through amendments. The discussion led to no result so far.

The Parliament's Environmental and Health Committee will also have to consider the opinion from their colleagues in the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy which voted in favour of a report that aims to improve information on prescription drugs, which proposes for example a reader-friendly information leaflet to be available online in all EU languages.

Earlier this week, 29 European health sector organisations and NGOs, including the European Public Health Alliance, released a joint press statement underlining that the current Commission proposals do not meet the needs of citizens for relevant, independent and comparative health information tailored to users.

They welcomed the commitment of Commissioner's Dalli to reassess the proposals on patient "information", but stated that the Commission's analysis underlying the initial proposals had been incomplete and contradicting. The health organisations tabled key points where they see a need for improvement in the Commission proposals. These include stronger enforcement of obligations for pharmaceutical companies relative to drug packaging and patient leaflets, including consultations with target patient groups, as well as measures to enhance communication between patients and health professionals and to make national agencies more transparent providers of information.

For further information:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009\\_2014/organes/envi/envi\\_20100315\\_1500.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/organes/envi/envi_20100315_1500.htm)



<http://www.eph.org/a/3925>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-439.412+01+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

### **Parma declaration on environment and health**

Last week governments adopted a declaration pledging to reduce the adverse health impact of environmental threats in the next decade. The text was endorsed by 53 Member States attending the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in Parma, Italy on 10-12 March 2010. It was agreed to implement national programmes to provide equal opportunities to each child by 2020 by ensuring access to safe water and sanitation, opportunities for physical activity and a healthy diet, improved air quality and an environment free of toxic chemicals.

For further information:

[http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/who/mediacentre/PR/2010/20100312\\_1?language](http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/who/mediacentre/PR/2010/20100312_1?language)

[http://www.euro.who.int/document/CEH/parma\\_eh\\_conf\\_edoc05-1rev2.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/document/CEH/parma_eh_conf_edoc05-1rev2.pdf)

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### **Declaration on the strategic value of eHealth signed by European Union health ministers**

European Union health ministers signed a declaration on the strategic value of eHealth at the high-level ministerial conference on eHealth in Barcelona this week. The Spanish EU presidency pushes hard for eHealth to be an integrated part of European policies. European ministers underlined the need to have an identical vision when it comes to establishing priorities so that online health is more accessible, interactive and adapted to patients' needs. The Declaration calls for policy coordination amongst the various areas where eHealth can have an impact on citizens' health in order to enhance benefits for patients, healthcare systems and society. It recognizes the need for stronger synergies with policy areas like competitiveness, research and regional development both at European and national levels. Ministers committed themselves to organize activities at European level related to innovation and legal issues on eHealth. The European Commission has been supporting eHealth through Framework Programmes for over 20 years and contributed to the emergence of new generations of technologies in several fields of healthcare.

For further information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item\\_id=5712&utm\\_campaign=isp&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_source=newsroom&utm\\_content=type-news](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemdetail.cfm?item_id=5712&utm_campaign=isp&utm_medium=rss&utm_source=newsroom&utm_content=type-news)

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item\\_id=5706](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/newsroom/cf/itemlongdetail.cfm?item_id=5706)

<http://www.ehealthnews.eu/research/1968-ehealth-ministerial-declaration-european-co-operation-on-ehealth>

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### **Patient groups polled about pharma**

PatientView, a UK research organisation conducted a study on the relationship between patients and the pharma industry. It revealed that the pharma industry in general appears to have difficulties forming good relationships with patient groups. Categories measured included the ability to understand patients' needs, where Novartis, Pfizer and Roche landed on top. Concerning the ability to handle relationships with patient groups, Sanofi-Aventis (France) was ranked number one. Findings in the rankings for levels of trustworthiness revealed Novartis to be top. Concerning the ability to supply patient information AstraZeneca (UK) was rated as best performing. On the whole 665 patient groups from 47 countries participated in the December 2009 survey. For more information contact: Dr Alexandra Wyke, CEO, PatientView, e-mail: [info@patient-view.com](mailto:info@patient-view.com)



For further information:

<http://www.patient-view.com/>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/cc0714ac-2d62-11df-a262-00144feabdc0.html>

### **EU Commission considers nutritional requirements for the poor**

Although the EU has on average a very high living standard, some people are unable to adequately feed themselves. Member States can therefore participate in the MDP Scheme (dedicated to the “Most Deprived Persons”) to help themselves. The European Commission now wants to better meet nutritional requirements for higher health standards within the scheme.

For more information:

<http://www.eph.org/a/3819>

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/freefood/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/freefood/index_en.htm)

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### **Three Calls for Marie-Curie Fellowships published to support researchers' careers**

The European Commission has published this week three call for proposals for Marie-Curie research fellowships, each with a submission deadline by 17 August 2010. Researchers in medicine, as part of life sciences, are one of the groups of scientists which may benefit from these grants. The largest of these calls aiming at ‘Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development’ (IEF – Call Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2010-IEF) will provide some EUR 95,000,000 to support the career development, or restart, of ‘experienced researchers’ at different stages of their careers, and seeks to enhance their individual competence diversification in terms of skill acquisition at multi- or interdisciplinary level and/or by undertaking intersectoral experiences. The aim is to support researchers in attaining and/or strengthening a leading independent position, e.g. principal investigator, professor or other senior position in education or enterprise. The action may also assist researchers to resume a career in research after a break, aiming in this context also to help gender equality objectives. Support is foreseen for individual, trans-national, intra-European fellowships. Projects must be for a period of between 12 and 24 months. Applications need to be made by the researchers in conjunction with the host organisations.

For further information on the IEF call and details of application procedure:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=244](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=244)

A second call puts an indicative budget of EUR 28 million behind “Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships for career development’ (IOF - Call identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2010-IOF). These grants aim to reinforce the international dimension of the career of European researchers by giving them the opportunity to be trained and acquire new knowledge in a high-level organisation active in research, established in a ‘third country’ outside the EU. The researchers are expected to return with the acquired knowledge and experience to an organisation in a Member State or Associated country.

The application is made jointly by a researcher and a return host organisation. Projects must run between 24 and 36 months in total, of which the final 12 months must be a mandatory re-integration phase to the return host organisation.

For further information on the IOF call and details of application procedure:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=243](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=243)

The third call for ‘Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships’ (IIF - Call Reference FP7-PEOPLE-2010-IIF), also with an indicative total budget of EUR 28 million, aims to reinforce the scientific excellence of the Member States and the Associated countries through knowledge sharing with incoming top-class researchers active in a



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third country to work on research projects in Europe. The grants aim at developing mutually beneficial research co-operation between Europe and a third country.

The action provides financial support to individual research projects presented by the incoming 'experienced researchers' together with a 'host organisation' in a Member State or an Associated country. For further information on the IIF call and details of application procedure:

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=242](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=usersite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=242)

### Scientists unite against EU paperwork

Approximately 7,000 researchers from 41 countries have signed a petition demanding less red tape for EU-funded scientific cooperation programmes. Scientists appear to be increasingly frustrated with the mounting paperwork required when applying for EU funds such as the framework programme (FP7). The declaration shall be presented to the European Parliament and the European Council. In principal the declaration asks the EU Institutions to change the rules on how research is funded and chose other mechanisms as those adopted for the agricultural sector or procurement processes.

For further information:

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/science/scientists-petition-cut-eu-red-tape-news-333278>

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#### Contact:

UEGF Secretariat, medadvice Association Management

Wienerbergstrasse 11/12 A

A-1100 Vienna/Austria

Tel: +43-1-997 16 39, Fax: +43-1-997 16 39 - 10, E-mail: [office@uegf.org](mailto:office@uegf.org)