



## Brussels News Update

### September 2009

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### Innovative Medicines Initiative

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), the public-private partnership between the European Commission and the European pharmaceutical industry, represented by EFPIA, made its first major announcement of the success of the collaboration. IMI announced the topics of research of its second call for proposals. With these topics, IMI aims to accelerate the discovery and development of new medicines in the field of cancer, inflammatory and infectious disease. The funding available for the 2nd call will be €156.3 million, with €76.8 million provided by the European Commission and €79.5 million expected to be provided in kind from EFPIA member companies.

The 9 topics of IMI's 2nd call for proposals are:

- ⇒ Imaging biomarkers for anticancer drug development.
- ⇒ New tools for target validation to improve drug efficacy (oncology).
- ⇒ Molecular biomarkers: accelerating cancer therapy development & refining patient care.
- ⇒ Identification and development of rapid point of care diagnostic tests for bacterial diagnosis to facilitate conduct of clinical trials and clinical practice.
- ⇒ Understanding aberrant adaptive immunity mechanisms.
- ⇒ Translational research in chronic immune-mediated disease: bridging between animal models and humans.
- ⇒ Drug/disease modelling: library & framework.
- ⇒ Open pharmacological space.
- ⇒ Electronic Health Records (EHR).

**Source:** <http://europa.eu/rapid/1>      **Link:** <http://www.euractiv.com/>

### Budget re-instatement for EU chemicals agency

A EurActiv article on the reinstatement of the budget of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/1>

### Joining forces in the development of alternative solutions to animal testing

The European Commission and the European cosmetic industry have presented their joint financial effort to fund research into alternative safety testing methods at the VII World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in Rome. The European cosmetic industry, represented by the European Cosmetics Association (Colipa), has committed to match the Commission's €25 million call for proposals on "repeated dose systemic toxicity". The call focuses on:

- ⇒ development of organ-simulating devices;
- ⇒ use of human-based target cells; definition of new toxicological endpoints and intermediate markers; computational modeling techniques; exploitation of approaches developed in systems biology; and integrated data analysis and scientific services.
- ⇒ Only proposals not involving tests on living animals are eligible for funding.
- ⇒ Through the co-operation between the European Commission and Colipa, the projects selected can be funded up to 100% of their total eligible costs.

**Source:** <http://eumonitor.net/1>

### EU chemicals law 'spells surge in animal testing', costs

A EurActiv report on a new analysis by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health that points to increased volume of testing due to an unexpected increase in the number of chemicals pre-registered for REACH.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/2>

### Europe leads global drug discovery: Study

A EurActiv article on new data showing Europe to be ahead of the United States in pharmaceutical research productivity, which contradicts the views that a fragmented patent market and duplication of research are holding back EU competitiveness in the area of research and development (R&D).

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/3>

### EU medical trials law 'putting brakes on science'

A EurActiv article on why the European rules on medical research have affected academic studies.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/4>

### Innovation policy review highlights achievements and challenges

The EU and its Member States have made good progress on innovation in recent years. Nevertheless, further action is urgently needed if the EU is to become the world's leading knowledge-based economy. This is the main message from a newly released Commission Communication, which reviews progress on innovation in the EU and highlights the challenges ahead. According to the Commission, progress has been made in a number of areas. The majority of the Member States have improved their innovation performance and the innovation gap between the EU and its main competitors, namely the US and Japan, has narrowed. At European level, access to the single market has been made easier. Legislation such as the Small Business Act and the Services Directive should make life easier for businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). In addition, the newly updated state-aid rules make it easier for Member States to grant aid for innovation and research activities. Many countries have also set up tax-incentive schemes to encourage investments in R&D.

EU funds for research are now available from a range of sources, including the €54-billion Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), the Cohesion policy (which spends around a quarter of its budget on innovation activities) and the EU's rural development funds, some €337 million of which is earmarked for the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors. Furthermore, initiatives such as the European Research Area (ERA), the Joint Technology Initiatives (JTIs) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) are helping to improve links between researchers in different countries and between universities, business and industry. Nevertheless, there is much room for improvement. In many countries, a change in mindset is needed. 'Innovation and entrepreneurship are not yet sufficiently recognised as values everywhere in Europe, while the failure they sometimes imply continues to be stigmatised,' the report notes. The lack of a Community patent means that it is more expensive to protect intellectual property in Europe than it is in the US or Japan. 'It is high time to change this situation,' the Communication states. Public authorities also need to play a greater role in stimulating innovation through public procurement, for example. The Communication also calls for improved coordination of policies designed to boost innovation at

regional, national and EU levels. Furthermore, despite the wealth of EU funds available to support research and innovation activities, many stakeholders are put off applying for them by the amount of bureaucracy involved.

The Commission will now consult Member States and other stakeholders with a view to proposing a comprehensive European Innovation Act in spring 2010.

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**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/1> **Link:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/1>

### **SMEs want patent protection at heart of 'EU Innovation Act'**

A EurActiv article on the reaction of small and medium-sized businesses to the Commission's plan on a European Innovation Act.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/5>

### **Mandatory international reporting system needed for nanotech**

A ScienceBusiness article on the recent report entitled *Securing the Promise of Nanotechnologies: Towards Transatlantic Regulatory Cooperation* that provides a systematic comparison of US and EU approaches to oversight of environmental, health and safety risks of nanomaterials. The report was produced by the London School of Economics and Political Science, the Environmental Law Institute, Chatham House and the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

**Source:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/2>

### **Commission's climate aid blueprint**

The European Commission has put forward a blueprint for scaling up international finance to help developing countries combat climate change. This initiative aims to maximise the chances of concluding an ambitious global climate change agreement at the December U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen. By 2020 developing countries are likely to face annual costs of around €100 billion to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Much of the finance needed will have to come from domestic sources and an expanded international carbon market, but international public financing of some €22-50 billion a year is also likely to be necessary. The Commission proposes that industrialised nations and economically more advanced developing countries should provide this public financing in line with their responsibility for emissions and ability to pay. This could mean an EU contribution of some €2-15 billion a year by 2020, assuming an ambitious agreement is reached in Copenhagen. The European Parliament and Council have been invited to consider the key elements of the Communication.

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**Source:** <http://europa.eu/rapid/2> **Link:** <http://www.euractiv.com/7>

### **Information hearing on the Google Book Settlement Agreement**

The European Commission is organising a hearing on the effect of the Google Book US Settlement Agreement in the European Union. The settlement is not restricted to US authors, but relevant to authors of the whole world. The settlement has created a wave of opposition that Google has tried to counteract by proposing to open its digital library to its rivals and bookstores.

In 2004 Google Inc. tried to establish an online reading room by scanning stacks of hard-to-find books into its widely used Internet search engine. The book publishing industry sued Google, Inc. in 2005 for what it alleged was illegal use of publishers' and authors' content in its Google Book

Search service. The parties settled in October 2008 with Google agreeing to pay a total of \$125 million to rightsholders of books they had scanned, to cover the plaintiff's court costs, and to create a Book Rights registry.

**Source:** <http://europa.eu/rapid/3>

**Link:** <http://www.reuters.com/>

### EU states mull greater transparency in Brussels

A EurActiv article on the views of Jonas Högström, counselor at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU, on the lobby transparency.

**Source:** <http://www.euractiv.com/8>

### Fourth status report on European technology platforms

The European Commission has published its fourth status report on European technology platforms entitled "Harvesting the potential". The fourth ETPs Status Report provides an overview of platform activities in the past two years.

**Source:** <http://bookshop.europa.eu/>

### Report on SME participation in FP7 now available

The European Commission has published a report on SME participation in FP7.

This report provides some key figures, which illustrate the overall achievements of SMEs two and a half years into FP7. It shows that SMEs are rightfully claiming a share of the benefits offered by FP7 but that there is still potential for further engagement.

**Source:** <http://ec.europa.eu/4.pdf>

### Technology transfer

Two related articles on technology transfer by Tom Hockaday in ScienceBusiness

*What is the best structure for a university's technology transfer office?*

**Source:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/3>

*Building a technology transfer office – starting out from Science*

**Source:** <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/4>

### Avatars to be used in new science education software

Virtual characters, or avatars, are deployed in an attempt to attract and retain young students in science. The DYNALearn ('Engaging and informed tools for learning conceptual system knowledge') project is developing a programme that emphasises teaching scientific concepts in an interactive environment. The three-year project, funded with €2.45 million is the product of the efforts of researchers from universities in Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Germany, Israel, Spain and the UK under the coordination of the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/2>

### Russian National INFO-Day on Biotechnology, Health & Nanotechnology

General information, main rules, reports, consulting and training materials on the FP7 will be presented at the Russian National INFO-Day aiming to enhance Russian participation in R&TD projects on the thematic priorities of Biotechnology; Agriculture; Fisheries; Forestry and Food; Health and Nanotechnology; and SMEs.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/3>

### **EUMINAFab**

The EUMINAFab ('European infrastructure for micro- and nanofabrication and characterisation') infrastructure facility is now in operation, offering users open access to scientific and technological expertise in micro- and nano-technologies from 36 high-tech installations at 10 institutions in 8 EU Member States. Access to this information is free as long as users agree to allow EUMINAFab to publish their research results. Financial support of up to €6 million over the next three years is expected from the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/4>

### **Ideal-ist open for Call 5 plus the three Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)**

Ideal-ist, the international partner search network for Information and Communication Technology provides its online partner search tool for the 5th Call of the 7th Framework programme (FP7) plus the three Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Applicants to these four calls will be helped to find appropriate partners and coordinators for their projects by the Ideal-ist network.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/5>

### **Gender in EU-funded research - Training opportunities**

Free one-day training sessions, intended for anybody interested in rendering research gender-sensitive, will be running across Europe from September 2009 until October 2010. The sessions provide practical guidance on how the gender dimension can be integrated in research, using clear examples of how gender is relevant to existing FP7 projects in nine research fields: health; food, agriculture and biotechnology; nanosciences, materials and new production technologies; energy; environment; transport; socio-economic sciences and humanities; science in society; and specific activities of international cooperation.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/6>

### **Call for proposals for Marie Curie Initial Training Networks launched**

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research is calling for proposals for Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITNs). In support of training and career development for researchers, the action addresses joint research training networks in the form of either multi- or mono-partner ITNs. Multi-partner ITNs require at least three participants from three different Member States or Associated Countries. Mono-partner ITNs, on the other hand, are composed of just one single participant in a Member State or Associated Country and a network of associated partners. The indicative budget of this call for proposals amounts to EUR 243.79 million.

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**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/7>

### **Brokerage event for science in society**

A brokerage event for science in society is organised jointly by the EU-funded EUROSIS network and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research. The event is scheduled on 2 October in Brussels, Belgium. EUROSIS is the network of National Contact Points (NCPs) for the Science in Society Work Programme.

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/8>

## TENDERS

### Assessment of impacts of NMP technologies and changing industrial patterns on skills and human resources

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research has published a call for tenders for the assessment of impacts of NMP (Nanotechnology, materials, processes) technologies and changing industrial patterns on skills and human resources. The study aims to identify relevant trends over the next 20 years in order to anticipate skill and competence gaps at research, engineering or manufacturing levels and to prepare proactive education, training and re-skill schemes. © Official Journal of the European Union

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/9>

### Investments in joint and open R&D programmes and analysis of their economic impact

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research has published a call for tenders for a study on investments in joint and open research and development (R&D) programmes and an analysis of their economic impact. The study will have to provide information on the dynamics of national public funding directed towards transnationally coordinated research and of national public funding open to non-residents across Europe. In the course of the study, activities will include: - collecting data on national funding dedicated to open, public R&D programmes and to transnational public R&D programmes at the level of programme managing authorities (ministries, national funding agencies, research councils) or national statistical institutes (NSIs), in a number of countries, overall and by broad scientific domains; - analysing the drivers/motivations for open R&D programmes and joint R&D initiatives; - analysing the impact of opening up public R&D programmes, and coordinating public R&D initiatives, on the quality and impact of research and on national research systems; - analysing the policy consequences of the findings. ©

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**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/10>

### Prospective energy efficiency and CO2 emissions scenarios for the iron and steel industry

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) has launched a call for tenders for a study on prospective energy efficiency and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions scenarios for the iron and steel industry. The aim of the open call is to award a contract for an in-depth analysis of technological innovation that could take place in the iron and steel sector in the EU's 27 Member States and to quantify its impact on the sector's energy efficiencies, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions profile and cost-competitiveness up to 2030. © Official Journal of the European Union

**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/12>

### Molecular typing in surveillance and control of MRSA in hospitals and the community

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has published a call for tenders for molecular typing in surveillance and control of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) in hospitals and the community. The tasks related to this tender include: - collating available evidence of the current use of different molecular typing methods for MRSA in the context of disease surveillance in the EU, and to assess how this evidence could be used as part of a model for integration of molecular typing data with epidemiological and clinical data on MRSA obtained in the EU; - assessing and evaluating the usefulness of different molecular typing methods for hospital- and community-acquired MRSA strains for disease surveillance at local/hospital level, at national and European level; - assessing how integration of data from molecular typing of hospital- and community-acquired MRSA with epidemiological and clinical data obtained in the EU can be done at local and European levels to enhance MRSA surveillance in the EU; - conducting a pilot study in a small number of Member States to demonstrate the added value in relation to MRSA surveillance and control in the EU of integration of data from molecular typing of MRSA with epidemiological and clinical data.

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**Source:** <http://cordis.europa.eu/13>



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