

# FUTURE-PROOFING MEDICINES

## IS THE WAY WE REGULATE MEDICINES “FUTURE-PROOF”?

A New Science|Business Initiative exploring the impact of cutting-edge scientific and health technology innovations on medicines regulation

### SYNOPSIS

Science|Business, Europe's leading media and networking organisation specialised in research and innovation (R&I) policy, is convening a new multi-year, pan-European programme of high-level public events and reports to spur debate on how cutting-edge scientific and health technology innovations influence the way we regulate medicines and how they ultimately reach patients and citizens.

Our initiative builds on the success of our [Healthy Measures](#) project, which convened in-depth, multistakeholder dialogues in ten different countries between 2017 and 2020 to understand how measuring health outcomes, plus smarter use of patient data and digital technologies, could drive systemic innovation in both policy and practice.

### RATIONALE

New medical technologies, from cutting-edge oncology and immunotherapies to headline making mRNA and CRISPR gene editing, offer unprecedented opportunities to save lives and improve health outcomes. In parallel, artificial intelligence and the more systematic use of health data can improve the delivery of healthcare and medicines worldwide, the way we discover, develop and approve treatments. However, while we are making great scientific and technological advances, we also observe that too often the benefits of these innovations are not able to reach patients as the treatments are not affordable or accessible.

Over the past months we have watched medicines regulators worldwide meet the unprecedented challenges raised by COVID-19 vaccines. With more forward thinking, perhaps we could make the next crisis, less of a crisis. **A “future-proof” approach is desirable.** This is also recognised in the European Commission's new pharmaceutical strategy and a revision of the basic pharmaceutical legislation planned for the next year.

At Science|Business, we believe that this is a timely moment for independent, expert reflection on how to achieve this. As such, we are creating a programme of public events and reports over the next couple of years to inform and contribute to this debate – starting with a first meeting in Brussels and subsequently staging events in other national capitals.



## OBJECTIVES

The central aims of the new initiative are twofold:

- To promote an open, science-based, interdisciplinary dialogue between experts at the crossroads between regulatory science, medical science and data science.
- To produce high quality reports and media content – editorials, blogs, podcasts, videos, etc. – which showcase expert opinions and analysis to audiences across Europe and beyond.

To achieve these, we are inviting a **select group of leading universities, companies, and public-sector organisations** to join a Steering Committee to help plan, execute and communicate the work.

Confirmed participants include **Barcelona Supercomputing Center, EIT-Health, Imperial College London, Karolinska Institutet, University of Luxembourg, University of Tartu**. Support for the initiative is provided by **Bristol Myers Squibb**, in association with the **Science|Business Network**.

In terms of expected contributions, we are asking each organisation to appoint a lead representative to take part in three Steering Committee meetings per year to identify and mobilise relevant colleagues on given topics (where appropriate), and to provide feedback on draft reports.

## WHY JOIN?

There are three key reasons for an organisation to participate:

- **1. Inspire new thinking and strategies to improve European Health.** The new programme aims to make a tangible contribution to the debate around how cutting-edge scientific and health technology innovations impact on the way we regulate medicines and how they get to the citizens.
- **2. Raise your public profile as a leader in this critical domain.** Your representative will help lead the planning, strategy and positioning of the group's activities. Your experts will be invited to speak at events and contribute their work and insights to the various outputs which Science|Business will publish through its acclaimed news and social media channels. In early 2022, our conferences will be virtual due to COVID-19; but when in-person meetings resume, your institution may also host one of the main events by mutual agreement of the Steering Committee, bringing other experts directly to your organisation for networking.
- **3. Build new relationships with key policy makers, executives and scientists.** In keeping with the tried and trusted Science|Business approach, this initiative will gather leaders and decision-makers from across sectors and stakeholder groups. Its events will provide new opportunities for your experts to extend their networks across Europe, beyond single fields or disciplines. And your designated representative will be in a unique position to capture insight and intelligence on latest practice from fellow members of the Committee.



## INDICATIVE TIMELINE

- **January 2022** – first virtual meeting of the Steering Committee
- **February 9, 2022** – kick-off meeting at the Science|Business Annual Conference (virtual from Brussels)
- **June & October 2022** – national events in European capitals
- **Q1 2023** – major public conference during the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

## ABOUT SCIENCE|BUSINESS

As Europe's leading media company specialised in R&I policy, Science|Business is uniquely placed to convene this kind of forward-looking debate. We manage a network of 70+ influential organisations – from Imperial College London to Polytechnique Montréal, Microsoft to Sanofi, and CERN to the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft – which convenes regularly for high-level discussions of strategic issues. More importantly, our professional news service and social media allow R&D leaders to amplify their messages to an international audience of around 60,000 readers and followers.

For more information, visit [www.sciencebusiness.net](http://www.sciencebusiness.net).

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