



High-level Conference

“Making Access to Personalised Medicine a Reality for Patients”

8 July 2015

Luxembourg, Cercle Cité

Background

There are many ways to refer to the subject of the High Level Conference, such as personalised medicine, precision medicine, individualized medicine, stratified medicine. The discussions ahead will be centered around the concept of Personalised Medicine as referring to innovative medical interventions tailored to the specific needs of individual patients, thus providing better treatment and preventing undesirable adverse reactions while fostering a more efficient and cost-effective healthcare system.

Personalised Medicine starts with the patient. It features big potential for improving the health of many patients and ensuring better outcomes of health systems efficiency and transparency. Yet, its integration into clinical practice and daily care is proving difficult given the many barriers and challenges to timely access to targeted healthcare that still exist as of today.

Health technology, health information and genomics are constantly evolving and have changed many aspects of patient care.

If Personalised medicine is to be in line with the EU principle of universal and equal access to high quality healthcare, then clearly it must be made available to many more citizens than it is now. What is requested is a long-term approach to innovation to ensure the translation of new therapies from laboratories to patients.

Personalised Medicine is at the heart of societal debate. Recent initiatives in the UK and US, among other countries, have put this innovative method of diagnosing and treating patients in the spotlight while demonstrating that it is necessary to build frameworks that allow the delivery of the right treatment to the right patient at the right time, in accordance with the principle of equal and universal access to high quality health care. Incorporating patient perspectives into the regulatory process will help address their unmet medical needs.



Moreover, in times of budgetary constraints, facilitating better-targeted and more cost-efficient treatment - to a potential 500 million patients in 28 EU Member States - is in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and the aims of the Juncker Commission.

The Luxembourgish Presidency has made Personalised Medicine one of its health policy presidency priorities. By taking stock of where we are in Europe in terms of access to personalised medicine, acknowledging challenges need to be overcome. By highlighting opportunities to accelerate progress, the scene for further action can be set. In this regard incentives on national and EU-level as well as cooperation between Member States are vital to make early access to Personalized Medicine a reality for patients throughout Europe.

Expected outcomes

It is necessary to formulate a patient centered strategy involving EU decision makers and regulators in the arena of public health, to enable EU and Member States to contribute to integrating Personalised Medicine into clinical practice while enabling much-greater access for patients.

In order to provide a clear focus and to devote sufficient space to analysis, discussions during the conference will concentrate on how:

- to assess and address obstacles to the integration of Personalised Medicine into Europe's healthcare systems
- to identify best practices and their added value
- to outline the potential benefits of Personalised Medicine on public health and its impact on policymaking in the EU

The conference's main findings will feed into Council Conclusions to be adopted by the 28 health ministers during the Council of Health ministers on 8 December 2015.

Participants

Attendees will be drawn from key stakeholders whose interaction will create a cross-sectoral, highly relevant and dynamic discussion forum. These participants will include public health decision makers, representatives from the Commission, Members of the European Parliament, patient organisations, and European umbrella organizations representing interest groups and associations actively engaged in the field of Personalised Medicine. Each session will comprise panel discussions as well as Q&A sessions to allow best possible involvement of all participants.



Programme

8:15-9:00: registration, coffee, networking

09:00-9:45: Welcoming address by Lydia Mutsch, Minister of Health, Luxembourg

Opening address by commissioner Dr. Vytenis Andriukaitis

Opening address by Maggie de Block, Minister of Health, Belgium

Opening address by Dr. Mary Baker, European Brain Council

Presentation of the sessions by the moderator

9:45: official launching of the Luxembourg Brain Council followed by a press conference

Conference moderator: Prof. Helmut Brand, head of the Department of International Health at Maastricht University

10:00-11:15: **Session 1: The voice of the patients - A patient oriented healthcare**

For Personalised Medicine to succeed and for healthcare innovations to fulfill their true potential, an informed, engaged and empowered patient is crucial. Personalised Medicine often calls for an enhanced need of information and advice. This session looks at patients concerns, expectations and priorities with regard to Personalised Medicine.

- Patient empowerment
- Shared decision making
- Informed consent – communication
- Patient focused care
- Data sharing – data protection

Chair: Dr. Anna Chiotti, Luxembourg Institute of Health, Director

Panelists: Kaisa Immonen-Charalambous (European Patients' Forum); Joseph Even (ALAN), Pascal Niemeyer (EUPATI Luxembourg), Dr. h.c. Peter Kapitein (Inspire2Live, a cancer patient advocacy group).

Followed by Q&A.



11:15 – 12:30: Session 2: Addressing known obstacles to integrating PM into health systems

Following a short overview of obstacles identified as of today to the integration of PM into clinical practice, this session will focus on the way forward and possible solutions at EU and national level.

- Adjusting Health Technology Assessment / HTA methods to the value of Personalised Medicine
- Safe and timely access to medicine / adaptive pathways
- Training of healthcare professionals : continuous professional development
- No Personalised Medicine without biobanks
- Paying for Personalised Medicine

Chair: Dr. Alain Huriez, Chairman and founder of EPEMED, Luxembourg

Panelists: Tapani Piha (DG SANTE), Guido Rasi (EMA), Prof. Christine Chomienne (European Haematology Association), Dr. Catherine Larue (IBBL), Valérie Paris (OECD)

Followed by Q&A.

12:30 – 14:00: lunch break and poster session

14:00-15:15: Session 3: Best practices: Learning and Sharing

The objective of this session is to highlight examples of projects that aim to or have succeeded in bringing Personalized Medicine closer to Europe's patients and which furthered the principle of equal and universal access to high quality healthcare.

- Innovative model of diagnostics, France
- New initiative « personalized medicine », United Kingdom
- Interdisciplinary PM research in cancer, diabetes and Parkinson: the Personalized Medicine Consortium (PMC), Luxembourg
- Access to clinical trials: The SPECTA programme, Belgium



Chair: Dr. Mary Baker, European Brain Council

Panelists: Prof. François Sigaux (INCA), Prof. Katherine Payne (Uni Manchester), Prof. Rudi Balling, (LCSB), Dr. Denis Lacombe (EORTC).

Followed by Q&A.

15:15 -15:45: coffee break

15:45-17:00: Session 4: The value of PM for Public Health, its impact on EU Health Policy and its global dimension

This session aims to put Personalised Medical into the wider context of public health policies and outcome centered approaches as well as to give an insight into the Commission's further plans in this field.

- PM and Public Health Research
- PM and Public Health Policy
- PM and EU Health Policy
- Putting PM into perspective: the USA precision medicine initiative

Chair: John Bowis, former UK Health minister and MEP

Panelists: Dr. Ulrike Busshoff (PerMed), Prof. Angela Brand (Maastricht Uni, Institute for Public Health Genomics), Dr. Andrzej Rys (DG SANTE), Dr. Stephen Friend (Sage Bionetworks, USA).

Followed by Q&A.

17:00-17:30 – Conclusions and close of conference: Lydia Mutsch, Minister of Health, Luxembourg and chairs of sessions.