EMA framework of collaboration with academia

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Why did we need a framework of collaboration with academia?

- **European Council conclusions on innovation for the benefit of patients (1-12-2014):** “....in order to stimulate development, there is a need to facilitate the translation of scientific advance into innovative medicinal products that meet regulatory standards”.

- **EU Medicines Agencies Network strategy to 2020** “...support for patient focused innovation and contribute to a vibrant life science sector in Europe.”

- **European Medicine Agency work plan 2016-2017** “...the Agency will support a strengthening of the collaboration and integration across the network and with academia...”

- **Horizon 2020 framework programme:** Health, demographic change and well-being, work programme 2016-2017 “...Engagement with regulators and consideration of the regulatory framework issues are highly recommended.”
In a nutshell

“EMA wants to move to a new level of collaboration with academia. Science is progressing fast and we see an unprecedented level of complexity in the development and evaluation of new medicine. Academia play an important role in helping the EU medicines regulatory network to keep abreast of the opportunities and challenges brought by science and to have access to the right expertise to evaluate these innovative medicines. Interaction with EU regulators and a better understanding of the regulatory environment can help academia translate their discoveries into patient-focused medicines. I believe that working more closely together will bring great benefits to public health”. Guido Rasi, EMA Executive Director
Process leading to the framework of collaboration with academia

- Decision to define and implement a framework of collaboration with academia: Q1 2015
- Informal meetings with EU research infrastructures and academic stakeholders: Q3-Q4 2015
- Academia consultation: the survey: Q1-Q2 2016
- HCPWP Workshop on framework of collaboration with academia: 15 June 2016
- Drafting of framework of collaboration with academia and consultations: Q3-Q4 2016
- Adoption of the framework of collaboration with academia by EMA Management Board: 16 March 2017
Framework of collaboration with academia

**Purpose**
Aims to formalise and structure the collaboration between the Agency and Academia in the wider context of the European Regulatory System for Medicines.

**Scope**
Framework will cover collaboration between Agency and academia, covering areas of common interest in relation to medicines for human and veterinary use. Queries relating to a specific product and/or regulatory procedure fall outside the scope of this framework.

**Implementation**
Action plan, monitoring and reporting.

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**Key elements**
- Mapping of academic entities with an interest in the regulatory activities
- Evolution of available expertise to keep pace with advances in scientific knowledge
- Identifying opportunities to promote research and knowledge generation
- Promoting and reinforcing dialogue through effective communication
- Monitoring progress and output of the cooperation with academia
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Scope (stakeholder mapping)

- Public or private higher education establishments awarding academic degrees, public or private non-profit organisations/legal entities whose primary mission is to pursue research, and international European interest organisations
- European research infrastructures
- European research consortia funded under public research programmes
- European learned/scientific societies, federations and networks
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Objectives

1. To raise awareness of the mandate and work of the European medicines regulatory network as a means to increase academia’s engagement and trust in the regulatory system that addresses society’s needs.

2. To promote and further develop the regulatory support to foster the translation of academic research into novel methodologies and medicinal products which meet the regulatory standards required to address patients’ and public and animal health’s needs.

3. To ensure that the best scientific expertise and academic research are available to support timely and effectively evidence generation, regulatory advice and guidance, and decision making in regulatory processes.

4. To collaborate on relevant areas of research relating to regulatory science (e.g. novel approaches, novel endpoints, methodologies), adapting to scientific progress whilst affording appropriate patient safety.
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Methodology

**INFORM**
- e.g. dedicated web pages, relevant news items, Q&As, information days, information materials

**CONSULT**
- e.g. e.g. public consultation on policies or guidance, surveys

**CONSULT & INVOLVE**
- e.g. multi-stakeholder meetings, workshops, conferences, development of regulatory guidelines

**COOPERATE**
- e.g. participation to research projects, cooperation in activities of education and training, participation in scientific advisory groups, cooperation with established EMA stakeholders and networks

Co-ordination cross-agency through matrix model

7 18 May 2017
Framework of collaboration with academia

**Action plan highlights**

- Identification of academia contacts points of the EU National Competent Authorities
- Implement the criteria for EMA involvement in externally funded regulatory science projects
- Include academic stakeholders in the EMA Stakeholder Database for targeted communication and monitoring of interactions
- Gap analysis of expertise in the European expert database
- Identify priority areas where regulatory requirements pose a challenge for academia and their networks
- Create a dedicated space for academia on the Agency website and develop a communication plan
- Initiate, within the EMA Scientific Coordination Board, a process to develop a regulatory science strategic research
- Define a scientific event strategy for EMA fora, meetings, workshops, focus groups with the participation of academia as well as for the participation of EMA staff in external events organised by academia to discuss issues of common interest
- Create an EMA entry point for academia to receive information on available support within the EU Regulatory Network
- Map possibilities for staff exchange programmes to promote learning between academia and the Agency and define the criteria for implementation
- Investigate opportunities for mutual education and training
Thank you for your attention

Further information

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