In March 2017, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) adopted a framework of collaboration with academia, aiming to:

1. **To raise awareness** of the work of the European medicines regulatory network.
2. **Promote** and further develop the regulatory support to academic research.
3. Support timely and effective evidence generation, regulatory advice and guidance.
4. Work in collaboration with the regulatory network in developing regulatory science.

The Agency has also developed an action plan which included, among other activities, initiatives for mutual education and training, staff exchange programmes to promote mutual learning, contributing to a strategic research agenda for regulatory science and the creation of an EMA entry point for academia to receive information on available support within the EU regulatory network.

The Agency has targeted engagement with academia, learned societies and research groups in a range of areas, where they enable the Agency to move forward with its mission. These areas include:

- providing a forum for discussion and debate in the EMA scientific committees and working parties;
- organising and participating in scientific workshops and conferences;
- providing experts to steering committees of research projects and boards of learned societies;
- establishing and supporting networks of excellence;
- engaging in research initiatives of European or international health bodies;
- performing in-house data analysis, literature reviews and database studies in relation to the evaluation of medicines;
- providing regulatory and scientific support to foster development of new and innovative medicines.

More details on these interactions are depicted below.

**External funding projects**

The Agency is involved in and supports a number of research projects with academia, learned societies and research groups.

**Types of involvement:**

- **11** Consortium member
- **3** Advisory role
- **1** Hosting students

**Funding scheme:**

- **9** IMI
- **5** H2020
- **1** Other (nationally funded)

**Projects the Agency is involved in:**

- prefer.
- paradigm
- ECRAD
- vac4EU
- FLUCOP-BASE
- FLUCOP-BASE
- STARS
- VITAL
- REAP
- REAP
- PEARL
- CONCEPTION
- EU-PEARL

Academia@ema.europa.eu
The Agency runs a yearly traineeship programme covering the areas of medicine regulation, life sciences, healthcare, chemistry, information technology, pharmaceutical law, human resources, finance, communications, public relations and library and information science.

**Number of traineeships/ National experts on secondment (SNEs) over a period of 3 years (2017 -2019):**

- **154** traineeships
- **89** SNEs

The Agency also offers the opportunity for staff from other European public-sector bodies to work at EMA for short periods through its seconded national expert programme (SNE).

Currently 36 staff members who were previously SNEs are still with the Agency.

**Testimonial:** ‘EMA is a fantastic organisation to undertake the traineeship. My team was very supportive and helped motivate me towards my goals’.

---

**Key events**

- **EMA Veterinary Info Day** provided first-hand information on the latest developments in the scientific review, regulation and marketing authorisation procedure in the field of veterinary medicine regulation, including the services provided by the Innovation Task Force (ITF).

- **Regulatory awareness session** aimed at academics, Non Government Organisation (NGO) staff and regulators and provided insight into the functioning of the EU regulatory network, the role and work of EMA.

- **European Reference Networks (ERN)** explored reinforcement of EMA and ERN efforts to encourage and facilitate research into new treatments for rare and low-prevalence complex diseases and to foster engagement of ERN in EMA activities.

- **EU-Innovation network of regulators** engaged in the interaction with Academia to boost the success of development programmes (e.g. STARS). The workshop aimed at finding ways to work together to support new medicines and innovative healthcare solutions as well to increase visibility of the network.

- **'Regulatory Science to 2025’**: A multi-stakeholder workshop was held after a public consultation on the 'Regulatory Science to 2025' strategy. The strategy is a plan for advancing EMA’s engagement with regulatory science over the next years and aims to build a more adaptive regulatory system that will encourage innovation in human and veterinary medicine.

---

**Queries received by EMA from academia 2017–2019**

- **1,993** Queries (8% of total queries)
- **200** Access to documents
- **>30,000** EMA document pages requested

**Topic of queries:**

- **Adverse effects**: 20%
- **Clinical trials**: 14%
- **Regulatory**: 10%
- **Information Technology**: 6%
- **Pharmacovigilance**: 5%

**Top 3 requesting countries:**

- **UK**: 20%
- **Germany**: 11%
- **The Netherlands**: 9%

---

*Academia@ema.europa.eu*