

## **EUROPEAN PATIENTS' FORUM SPRING CONFERENCE** **Empowerment, Information, Sustainability**

**Renaissance Hotel, Brussels: 20/21 March, 2007.**

***Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.***

**12.30 to 14.00** Registration and Buffet Lunch

**14.00 to 14.10** Welcome and outline of the Meeting Programme by  
Mr Anders Olauson, President, European Patients' Forum

**14.10 to 14.30** Keynote Address by Mr Bernard Merkel, Health and  
Consumer Protection Directorate

### **The Empowered Patient: A benefit or a liability?**

**14.30 to 14.50** The Regulatory Perspective – Mr. Noel Wathion,  
The European Medicines Agency  
What role should the EMEA perform with regard to the provision  
of information on medicines?

**14.50 to 15.10** The Physician's Perspective – Dr. Daniel Mart, President of CPME  
Should the healthcare profession be the gatekeeper of all information?

**15.10 to 15.30** The Economic Perspective –  
Mr. David Mc Daid, London School of Economics  
Is there a financial case to be made for an informed patient?

**15.30 to 15.50** Tea Break

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**15.50 to 16.10** The Politician's Perspective - Ms Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, MEP  
Can information be controlled by legislation nationally or internationally?

**16.10 to 16.30** The Commission's Perspective – Mr Martin Terberger, Head of Unit, Pharmaceuticals, Consumer Goods, Enterprise and Industry Directorate- General.  
By whom and to whom should information be provided?

**16.30 to 16.50** How can we ensure the sustainability of patient organizations and who will be funding them in 2017? What part will corporate social responsibility play? Mr Richard Bergstrom, Director of Swedish Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry. Followed by Patient Perspective, Mr Anders Olauson.

**16.50 to 17.30** General Discussion with Speakers comprising the panel

**19.30 to 22.00** Conference Dinner, Renaissance Hotel

**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2007.**

**Break out into 3 Breakout Groups 09.15 to 12.45**

It is suggested that each breakout group should last for 90 minutes with a coffee break at 10.45 until 11.15. Delegates may then attend another breakout group from 11.15 until 12.45.

**GROUP A**

**Who really represents patients?**

Patient organisations may be experts in their condition but rarely represent more than 2% of those affected by the condition. How can they speak for all patients? What is the role of consumer bodies? Are they legitimate representatives? How can increased solidarity be achieved across the European Patients' Movement? Should healthcare professionals be involved? Who validates the information provided by patient organisations?

<b>Facilitator:</b> Ms Mel Read	<b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr Mike O'Donovan
Member of European Parliament 1989-2004 President, European Cervical Cancer Assoc. Honorary Chair, Health First Europe Member of GlaxoSmithKline Health Advisory Board	Treasurer, European Patients' Forum

**GROUP B**

**Is ignorance bliss or is an informed patient a sound economic investment?**

What is the evidence that an informed and educated patient uses healthcare services more effectively and more efficiently? Or does the more informed and empowered patient cost more by demanding the latest and most costly drugs and treatments? Should health be viewed as an investment or a cost?

<b>Facilitator:</b> Mr Jorgo Chatzimarkakis	<b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr Jean Georges
Member of the European Parliament	The Board, European Patients' Forum

**GROUP C**

**Are patient organisations viable and sustainable? If so, by whom?**

Many national and supranational patient organisations have become highly effective in their respective disease areas. But many are extremely fragile financially. How sustainable are they in the medium to long term? Competition is fierce for the finite funding available. How realistic is it for patient groups to devote such many resources

to fundraising to ensure their continued existence? Is this a good and legitimate use of such resources? Is there too much duplication within a disease area resulting in wastage? What may be classified as legitimate funding sources? What role should the pharmaceutical industry continue to play? Who else would provide funding? What should be the Commission's position?

<b>Facilitator:</b> Ms Celine van Doosselaere European Health Management Assoc	<b>Rapporteur:</b> Mr Rodney Elgie GAMIAN Europe
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**12.45 to 14.00** Lunch

[Plenary Session : How do we manage the future?](#)

**14.00 to 14.30** Feedback from each Rapporteur

**14.30 to 14.55** The prevailing environment in 2017. How well informed will patients be ten years from now and from what sources will information be available?

Dr. Ilona Kickbusch, Senior Health Policy Advisor and WHO Consultant.

**14.55 to 15.20** The Patients' Perspective

Ms Susanna Palkonen, European Federation of Allergy and Airways Disease Patients' Associations

**15.20 to 16.00** General facilitated discussion

**16.00 to 16.15** Conclusions and close of the meeting

Mr Anders Olauson, President European Patients'Forum

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