

Brussels, 17 March 2015

## Invitation to EPF Annual General Meeting and Patient Empowerment Conference, 19-21 May 2015

Dear Colleague,  
Dear Member,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the **EPF Annual General Meeting (AGM)** which will take place in Brussels on 19 May 2015 and to the **Patient Empowerment Conference** that will follow on 20-21 May 2015.

The Annual General Meeting, taking place on 19 May 2015, will be an opportunity to learn about what has been achieved in 2014 and to discuss and adopt the strategic priorities for the year to come.

### Networking space – “Tea Time”

To make sure you make the most of this opportunity to meet your colleagues from all around Europe we have included space for networking in the programme.

After the business session it is tea time! This is an additional space to meet with your peers around tea to discuss, exchange ideas of common interest and celebrate your being part of the European Patients’ Movement. The attendance and topics are free.

### Governance

The elections for the board will take place at the AGM. Five seats are vacant. The current two-year term of office for the following four Board members comes to an end: Vida Augustiniene, Marco Greco, Stanimir Hasurdjiev and Robert Johnstone. Following Tomasz Szelagowski’s resignation from the Polish Patients’ Federation, one more seat is available.

You will recall that other board members including myself, Susanna Palkonen, Dominik Tomek and Brian West were elected last year and are half way through their term of office.

If your organisation is a full member of EPF and wishes to nominate a member to the board, please complete and return the attached [nomination form](#) by 19 April. More information on the responsibilities of being an EPF Board Member is available [here](#).

Please note that applicant organisations to be endorsed at the Annual General Meeting that meet the criteria for full membership are also eligible to put forward a nomination.

## EPF Patient Empowerment Campaign

The AGM will be followed by a two-day conference “Empowered Patients are an asset to society” on 20-21 May 2015. This will mark the launch of our major campaign on Patient Empowerment that will run until June 2016. A lot is happening at EU level around the empowerment of patients. We, the patients, therefore want to be more active in the management of our own health so this campaign will take the European discussions a crucial next step forward – towards concrete actions at practical and political levels, led by the patient community in partnership with all relevant stakeholders.

The draft programme is available [here](#). The conference will include plenary and parallel workshop sessions. You will be able to participate in two workshops out of 3. Your choice can be made in the registration form available below and is subject to confirmation (in balanced representation).

### **Workshop 1: Information to patients and health literacy:**

How can European collaboration promote patients’ access to information and improved health literacy? What are the information needs of different groups and the roles of different stakeholders? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in the workshop.

### **Workshop 2: Shared decision-making and the patient-professional relationship:**

This workshop will explore what is needed to drive a culture change, and what professionals and patients can concretely do to drive change.

### **Workshop 3: Chronic disease self-management:**

This workshop will look at the potential of self-management education, including the use of innovative tools such as e-/mHealth in supporting patients in managing with a chronic condition in everyday life.

Should you wish to participate at the conference please make your choice in the registration form.

## Registrations and Practical Information

The draft agenda of the AGM can be found by [clicking here](#).

All EPF members are invited to nominate one representative.

I would be grateful if each delegate could complete the [online registration form](#) for these meetings as soon as possible and by 20 April at the latest. Your registration will be confirmed after that date. Please wait for the confirmation before booking your travel as you will receive a link to EPF online travel agency. This way EPF will be invoiced directly.

Background documentation and preparatory materials for the AGM will be sent in due course.

EPF will reimburse travel and subsistence costs in line with our [reimbursement policy](#).

I am looking forward to working with you again at our meetings on 19-21 May. Should you have any queries linked to the AGM or the Patient Empowerment conference, please contact Véronique Tarasovici; [veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu](mailto:veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu).

Yours sincerely,



Anders Olauson  
EPF President