

Brussels, 15 December 2015

Invitation to the EPF Annual General Meeting, Brussels, 22-23 March 2016

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the **EPF Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will take place in Brussels on 22-23 March 2016.**

This year again, the AGM will provide you with the opportunity to share your experiences and views and reflect on EPF's development and your role therein.

On the programme: Patient Empowerment, Mental health and Partnerships

The first morning will be an occasion to look at our collective accomplishments of the past year and to measure the progress made during the first 10 months of our "Patients Prescribe" Campaign. We will present the Patient Empowerment Charter, one of the key milestones of the Campaign and discuss our next steps.

With the sudden passing away of Pedro Montellano, EPF and the patient movement lost a great patient advocate this year, and a true friend. We will pay tribute to his great commitment to mental health by discussing together how we can best mainstream mental health issues into the work of EPF.

Partnerships are at the heart of EPF's mission and activities. On the second day of our meeting, we will welcome some high-level speakers from our partner organisations to review together our common objectives and the added-value of our cooperation.

Governance

The current two-year term of office for four of the board members including myself, Susanna Palkonen, Brian West and Dominik Tomek comes to an end and elections for the board will take place at the AGM. Moreover, following Pedro Montellano's death, one more seat is available.

You will recall that other board members, Radu Ganescu, Marco Greco, Robert Johnstone and Stanimir Hasurdjiev were elected last year and are half way through their term of office.

We will therefore elect five board members. 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 22 February**. 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.

Networking and Matchmaking!

Our yearly meeting is also the one occasion in the year for all EPF members to meet, exchange, and to celebrate their being part in an umbrella organisation that drives patients' rights in Europe.

European Patients' Forum • Rue du Commerce 31 • 1000 Brussels • Belgium
Office Phone number: +32 (2) 280 23 34 • Email: info@eu-patient.eu • www.eu-patient.eu

Do you wish to start a discussion with your peers on a particular topic? We give you the opportunity to do so with a “matchmaking-networking” session. Simply suggest a theme that is a priority issue of your organisation for 2016 on the registration form. The themes that have been proposed most often will be selected for discussion.

Building further our capacity as patient leaders!

In the afternoon of the second day, workshops aimed at reinforcing your capacity as a patient leader will run in parallel. Please note that these workshops are optional but as you sign up for them you commit to attend the workshop. You can indicate your preference on the registration form.

Workshop 1 – Developing campaigns: the example of the EPF access campaign 2017

Workshop 2 – Funding for patient organisations

Workshop 3 – Influence within the European Institutions – a strategic approach

Registration and Practical Information

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

I would be grateful if each delegate could complete the [on-line registration](#) for these meetings as soon as possible and by 22 **February** 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 directly invoiced.

Background documentation and preparatory materials for the AGM will be sent in due course. All EPF members are invited to nominate one representative. EPF will reimburse travel and subsistence costs in line with its [reimbursement policy](#). Please do check this.

Should you have any queries linked to the AGM, please contact Véronique Tarasovici; veronique.tarasovici@eu-patient.eu.

I look forward very much to seeing you and to working with you again at our meetings on 22-23 March.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Olauson', is placed within a light grey rectangular box.

Anders Olauson
EPF President