Welcome to the latest issue of our Newsletter!

Our campaign on Access to Healthcare is developing strong momentum within the European Parliament! Read about how the five high-profile MEPs are driving this work as official champions. Each of them will promote our policy work on a particular action area of the campaign and stand up for the achievement of the UN SDG on universal health coverage by 2030.

Very much in line with our campaign, EPF, Medicines for Europe, the European Public Health Alliance, and the European Social Insurance Platform organised a high-level debate on Universal Access to Health, to move forward on collaborative approaches to this topic.

Representing EPF at the eHealth Week in Malta, our Secretary General Nicola Bedlington shared the perspective of patients to new policy initiatives on eHealth and ageing. EPF is preparing a survey on electronic health records and data sharing to be published later this year in parallel with the European Commission’s Communication on Digital Health.

Following the publication of the results from the consultation on Health Technologies Assessment (HTA), EU Health Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis confirmed the forthcoming Commission’s proposal on a EU HTA collaboration.

Meaningful patient engagement in the life cycle of medicines is one of EPF’s priorities. We are pleased to welcome a new roadmap from EUPATI contributors detailing patient involvement in medicines’ development and regulatory processes.

New member of EPF’s Board, Hilikkä Kärkkäinen, President of GAMIAN-Europe puts pen to paper and shares with us her vision for EPF and priorities for the near future.

Elected as full EPF membership in April, our German member, BAG SELBSTHILFE features in our ‘Under the Spotlight’ interview.

This month, our Blog has two passionate stories from young patients: Sophie, representing LUPUS UK tells us all about her challenges and hopes; while Andreas from the Paphycian Federation of Patients Associations, shares his experiences and learnings as a patient.

Enjoy the reading!

Marco Greco, EPF President and Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General
With the EPF campaign on Access to Healthcare, we want to have a real and meaningful impact on the EU health policy. To make our voice louder, we have identified five high-level champions who will be helping us to raise awareness about the barriers that patients face in accessing healthcare and to place universal health coverage at the centre of the policy debate.

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On 27 April, health stakeholders gathered together in Brussels to explore avenues for collaborative contribution and commitment to better access for better health. A joint effort by EPF and other important players, the debate called for contributions from all parties involved, in a more holistic approach.

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On 10-12 May, the annual eHealth Week took place in Malta. Bringing together all major players in the field, including patient organisations, the convention was the opportunity to reflect on new developments and get updates on the coming Commission’s paper on the matter.

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The results of the recent Health Technology Assessment (HTA) consultation confirmed the need for a sustainable EU collaboration on HTA beyond 2020, echoing EPF’s recommendations on stronger and deeper cooperation between Member States. Will this be taken over by the coming Commission’s proposal?

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Patient involvement in the whole life-cycle of a medicines is a key matter in patient empowerment, but can also bear some challenges and threats. A recent article from various EUPATI contributors proposes some new ideas on how to make it clear and rigorous.

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There will be an opportunity to exchange views on relevant elements of the Regulations, including transparency measures and information to patients, clinical evaluation and clinical performance and stakeholder involvement.

EPF speaker: Nicola Bedlington

02/06/2017 | Patient-MedTech Dialogue: Workshop on Access to Healthcare and the EPF’s campaign

Brussels

During the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to hear the patients’ and the industry’s perspectives on various themes of Access to Healthcare. Furthermore, there will be an opportunity to exchange views on two of the Campaigns’ themes: committing to sustainable investment in health and implementing access to a holistic range of health and social services.

EPF speaker
Nicola Bedlington

07/06/2017 | How to Create an Ecosystem Which Unlocks the Full Potential of Health Data?

Brussels

The objective of this session is to create some awareness on the benefits of health data for different stakeholders and to discuss the conditions for building a collaborative health data ecosystem in order to realize the full potential of this data.

EPF attendance
Kostas Aligiannis

08/06/2017 | Health systems for the future - Making EU health systems resilient and innovative

Brussels

EPF attendance: Kaisa Immonen

09/06/2017 | Scientific Panel for Health forum: Health Research in a Connected and Participative Society

Brussels

EPF attendance: Kostas Aligiannis

09/06/2017 | Portugal National Alliance Meeting

Lisbon

EPF attendance: Camille Bullot

14/06/2017 | EPF Policy Advisory Group

Brussels

EPF attendance: Kaisa Immonen

17-21/06/2017 | HTAi 2017 Annual Meeting

Rome

EPF attendance: Valentina Strammiello

21/06/2017 | Improving Access, Care and Diagnosis for Rare Diseases
The World Lupus Day is celebrated every year on the 10th of May. We take the opportunity to share the call from our member Lupus Europe for more awareness and treatment opportunities. On our blog, you will read the incredible story of Sophie, a UK patient helping school personnel to get to know the disease.

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(BLOG) OVERCOMING A CHRONIC DISEASE: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Andreas Christodoulou recently joined the EPF Youth Group, representing the Pancyprarian Federation of Patients Associations. Read on our blog his very interesting story about overcoming an invisible yet serious disease.

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A STRONG PATIENTS’ VOICE TO DRIVE BETTER HEALTH IN EUROPE

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This e-newsletter arises from the 2017 Health programme, which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme.

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