Dear readers,

We are drawing the curtains on 2019 and what a year it has been! We hope you enjoy this Christmas edition: a recap of our main highlights of 2020, not to mention our most successful newsletter articles!

This year called a great deal of our work focused on preparing for the first European Congress on patient involvement. The enriching contributions from speakers and participants, and overall fruitful outcome of all sessions gave us living proof that meaningful patient involvement is an esteemed and endorsed practice in many different fields. Working together is key: now is the time to act, and build from our own evidence and stories.

This is not the only 2019 highlight we will look back on in the months to come. The 5 key messages on our EU Elections manifesto truly resonated with many returning and new MEPs who signed it, pledging to commit to bring issues that matter to patients at the heart of EU policy.

The EPF team would like to wish our readers the happiest of holidays and a prosperous new year. We look forward to seeing you again in 2020!

Usman Khan (Executive Director)
Top 3 articles of 2019

We took a closer look on 2019. Here are the top three topics which caught your eye the most!

#1: EPF Congress

... no surprises there! From February until December articles featuring our Congress were the most popular.

Fun fact: the interview with our president, Marco Greco, was the most read article related to our Congress!

More on #EPFCongress19:

- The #EPFCongress19 hashtag was the **Number 1 hashtag trending in Belgium** during the afternoon of Day 1!
- The top 3 most active accounts were
  - @ifsbh
A big thank you to them and anyone else who contributed to our Twitter feed!

Refresh your Congress memories by watching our after-movie, scrolling through the official pictures and taking a look at our web-streaming links on our Youtube channel. Take a look at our recapitulative article, which includes some highlights and a list of external sources mentioning our Congress!

#2: Transparency guidelines

EPF was proud to see that the Transparency Guidelines it published back in September was the article with the second highest number of downloads!

Take another look at our document, to see how health and patient organisations can be ethical and transparent with industry and their members

Read our transparency guidelines
The AGM and our former Secretary General Nicola Bedlington was our third most popular article of the year.

On 13-14 April 2019, EPF members gathered in Brussels for EPF’s 16th Annual General Meeting. During the event, members of EPF’s Board and Secretariat reported on 2018 activities and gave an overview of our current and upcoming work for 2019-2020. The meeting also saw the election of new Board members and the approval of four new member organisations.
Other highlights

#europeforpatients - Putting issues that matter to patients at the heart of EU policy

This year we campaigned to make health and what matters to patients key policy priorities for the new mandate following European elections in May this year.

A total of 60 MEP candidates signed our manifesto, pledging to commit to the following five points:

1. Accessing the healthcare we need with no discrimination
2. Being empowered
3. Driving the development of digital health
4. Being a partner in driving better research
5. Helping make better health policy

Read our manifesto
Summer Training Course for Young Patient Advocates (STYPA) 2019:
#Advocates4Health

This year’s edition of STYPA took place in Vienna, Austria with the theme “Shaping the future of patient advocacy”, in July 2019.

37 Participants from 20 European countries representing 26 different chronic conditions. All activities were aimed at developing the young patients’ personal leadership skills and teaching how to achieve advocacy goals. This year’s training was centered on the theme of ethics and conflict of interest.

Take a look at our story in visuals (#STYPA19), and short trailer of this year’s STYPA edition!

Registrations for next year’s edition will open in January: stay tuned!