



The Innovative Medicines Initiative is a unique pan-European public and private sector collaboration between: patient organisations, universities, hospitals, regulatory authorities as well as small and large biopharmaceutical and healthcare companies. The objective of IMI is to support the faster discovery and development of better medicines.

The Innovative Medicines Initiative will accelerate the discovery and development of more effective innovative medicines with fewer side effects that reach patients faster. The initiative represents a co-ordinated joint public and private partnership to boost Europe's biomedical R&D base, helping to correct the relative under-funding of biomedical R&D in Europe compared to other regions of the world.

Enhanced European Competitiveness

- The Innovative Medicines Initiative is important for Europe because it contributes to the European Union's Lisbon objective of building the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010.
- The Innovative Medicines Initiative is important for Europe because the application of scientific challenges to drug discovery and development are too complex for organisations to address in isolation. Therefore pan-European public and private sector collaboration and co-ordination is essential to ensure that patients benefit from advances in biotechnology, such as the decoding of the human genome.
- The Innovative Medicines Initiative is important for Europe because it helps to secure long-term prosperity for Europe through biotechnology, which the European Union considers to be essential for developing a dynamic and innovative knowledge based economy, anchoring R&D capabilities in Europe.

Distinct Benefits for Patients, Scientists and Europe

- Faster discovery and development of better medicines will benefit patients.
- A more attractive professional environment will benefit scientists and help to address the brain-drain.
- The creation of European expertise and know-how in new technologies will help attract new biomedical R&D investment in Europe.
- The creation and support of sustainable competitive advantage for small-medium enterprises (SME), spin-offs and start-ups will help enhance Europe's economy.

Implementation

- The European Union and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations will take joint responsibility for creating and operating a new international not-for-profit organisation based on article 171 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.
- Over 350 senior representatives of: patient organisations, universities, hospitals, regulatory authorities as well as small and large biopharmaceutical companies worked together to produce the Strategic Research Agenda. This document describes recommendations on predicting safety and efficacy of new medicines as well as plans to bridge gaps in knowledge management and in education and training. These are the principal causes of delays in the complex process of developing new medicines. The Strategic Research Agenda is also a roadmap to guide the rapid implementation of IMI, it can be found on the IMI web site (www.imi-europe.org).
- The European Union's 7th Research Framework Programme will fund academic participants of Public-Private Collaborations and support SMEs, while the biopharmaceutical companies will fund their own contributions to 100%. Other types of organisations can participate in Public-Private Collaborations and will be supported on case-by-case basis e.g. medical charities. With this transparent structure, public money will be used to exclusively boost the R&D capabilities of the public sector and small biotech companies, not biopharmaceutical companies. The biopharmaceutical industry partners will match the funds from the European Union's 7th Research Framework Programme with R&D resources such as staff, laboratories, materials and clinical research capabilities.
- The proposed contribution from the European Commission to implement the Innovative Medicines Initiative is €1 billion during the period of FP7 (2007-2013). The annual contribution from the EC will start in the range of €100 million and gradually increase to €300 million at the end of the period. This investment will be matched by members of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. And create an overall injection of €2 billion of new funding to boost Europe's science base and stimulate the faster discovery and development of better medicines.

Next Steps

- As part of the European Union's 7th Research Framework Programme, IMI will be proposed for Joint Technology Initiative status — subject to approval by the European Competitiveness Council in 2007.