



Forum Annual Lecture 2021

'EU Drug Development: The long journey from discovery to patient access'

25th November 2021 – 10.30-12.30 CET

Online Event – via Zoom

Background information

The [Federation of European Academies of Medicine \(FEAM\)](#) and [Novartis](#) are hosting a joint activity discussing and examining drug development within the European Union and beyond. Prior to the arrival of any medicine on the market, each product goes through a lengthy research and development process which is tested for safety and efficacy. Stakeholders at all stages in this process have drawn attention to length, complexity, costs, hard to retrieve data for reproduction, a lack of focus on patient needs as well as a disparity between the pace of innovation and regulatory mechanisms.

Within the EU, once the [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#) approves an intervention, distribution and accessibility decisions are then the remit of the Member State that set country specific criteria. In oncology there is a notable gap between pre-approval development of anti-cancer medicines and their post registration use in clinical practice. With academics and researches on one side and industry and clinicians on the other, any gap in the transfer of evidence based knowledge can and will affect optimal implementation.

Therefore, the [FEAM's European Biomedical Policy Forum](#) is organising a public event sponsored by Novartis with the purpose of discussing how this multi-stakeholder network could function more efficiently, identifying challenges and lessons learned to date especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The outcome will be a summary report to inform and empower as co-operation between stakeholders and Member States is vital.

Agenda

Welcoming and introduction

- Prof Stefan Constantinescu - FEAM President

Keynote lecture

- Prof Jaap Verweij - Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences and Director of the Cancer Drug Development Forum

Panel discussion

Moderator: Prof George Griffin – Immediate Past President FEAM

- Prof Jaap Verweij - Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences; Managing Director, Cancer Drug Development Forum
- Michael Zaiac – Head Medical Affairs, Novartis Oncology
- Cristian Silviu Buşoi – Member of European Parliament and Physician
- Denis Lacombe - Director General, European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)
- Martin de Kort - Senior Programme Manager, European Infrastructure for Translational Medicine (EATRIS)
- Antonella Cardone - Director, European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC)
- Prof Carin Uyl-de Groot - Professor of Health Technology Assessment, Director of the Institute for Medical Technology Assessment (iMTA) - Erasmus University Rotterdam

The panel discussion will include Q&A from the audience

Closing remarks

- Prof Stefan Constantinescu - FEAM President