



Mission

- To promote cooperation between national Academies of Medicine, Medical Sections of Academies of Sciences and other health-related Academies in Europe;
- To provide them with a platform to formulate their collective voice on matters concerning human and animal medicine, biomedical research, education, and health with a European dimension;
- To extend to the European authorities the advisory role that they exercise in their own countries on those matters.

Vision

- To underpin European biomedical policy with the best scientific advice drawn from across Europe, through the FEAM network of Academies representing thousands of high level scientists from the whole biomedical spectrum;
- To improve the health, safety and wealth of European citizens through research by promoting a nurturing, creative and sustainable environment for medical research and training in Europe.

Our work

FEAM is committed to support European health & biomedical policy by:

- Providing the best scientific evidence and making policy recommendations to contribute to better policymaking;
- Fostering an ongoing dialogue between scientists, policymakers, stakeholders and civil society;
- Improving the communication of complex science policy issues;
- Implementing external cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary cooperation through the European Biomedical Policy Forum and SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies).

The EU Elections

On 23-26 May 2019, EU citizens will select who will represent them in the next European Parliament. The elections will define the future priorities of the EU. The new EU Commission, which will be appointed after the election, will also play a pivotal role in shaping future EU health policy.



FEAM will continue to address current and future health challenges:

1. Multifactorial science issues such as antimicrobial resistance and the effect of pharmaceuticals in the environment require cross-disciplinary expertise. FEAM will continue to provide independent advice following an integrated “One Health” approach.
2. Ageing population and rising health inequalities require evidence-based and effective approaches. FEAM will contribute with the expertise of its Members to address these challenges.
3. New technologies such as regenerative medicine and Artificial Intelligence are offering countless opportunities as well as opening new questions for the medical sector. FEAM will lead discussions to ensure that these technologies are deployed in a way that respects legal and ethical standards, and works for the benefit of patients, professionals, health systems and society as a whole.
4. Biomedical research is key to ensure new therapies as well as prevention and rehabilitation tools for all. FEAM will provide advice and policy expertise into setting the priorities and addressing the challenges faced by biomedical research in Europe.

FEAM IS
COMMITTED TO
SUPPORT THE
IMPROVEMENT
OF HEALTH IN
EUROPE

How is FEAM contributing to address EU health policy challenges?

(an illustrative example from our current work)



Vaccine hesitancy

Despite the contribution to people's health and well-being, vaccination programmes across the EU are facing major challenges.

The EU's response

- In April 2018, the EU Commission adopted a proposal for a Council Recommendation and a Communication on Strengthened Cooperation against Vaccine Preventable Diseases.
- In December 2018, the Council adopted a Recommendation to strengthen the EU cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases. The recommendation aims to: (1) tackle vaccine hesitancy, (2) improve coordination on vaccine procurement, (3) support research and innovation, and (4) strengthen EU cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases.

FEAM'S WORK ON VACCINATION

- In April 2018, FEAM and EASAC made [recommendations](#) related to the coverage, quality, availability, innovation and uptake of vaccines. They organised a [meeting](#) hosted by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences - KNAW in September 2018.
- In November 2018, FEAM convened a [dialogue](#) within its European Biomedical Policy Forum to discuss how could vaccination levels be improved through better public dialogue, what concrete actions could EU and national stakeholders take to engage with the public and address their concerns about vaccination, and which policy interventions could the EU and Member States take to improve vaccination programmes.

OTHER FEAM'S POLICY PRIORITIES

One Health

Since 2011, FEAM has promoted a wide dialogue to tackle global challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, the effects of climate change on health and the effects of pharmaceuticals in the environment through an integrated One Health approach. A 2nd European One Health Conference organised in partnership with the Romanian Academy of Medical Sciences and its One Health Institute will take place on 21-22 June 2019 in Bucharest. A FEAM One Health Scientific Committee will provide advice on future policy actions.

Health inequalities

In spite of the concerns raised by health inequalities, the causal pathways linking socioeconomic conditions with different health outcomes remain under debate among scientists. In 2018 the ALLEA-FEAM Scientific Committee on health inequalities organised a [symposium](#) to trigger interdisciplinary discussion. FEAM is collaborating with ALLEA (All European Academies) to assess the current state of scientific knowledge about the causes and potential interventions to address health inequalities from a cross-disciplinary perspective. In parallel, a European conference on migration and health will be hosted by the Royal Belgian Academies of Medicine on 22 November 2019 in Brussels.

Regenerative medicine

Regenerative medicine (e.g. cell therapy, gene editing and tissue engineering) are promising new solutions to address unmet medical needs while reducing healthcare costs. However, there has been a mismatch between expectations and real applications. Clinics offering unregulated treatments are putting patients at risk; such practices also threaten to undermine trust in future medical research. An EASAC/FEAM Working Group will develop guidance on regenerative medicine, using stem cells as a first case study and developing a set of concrete recommendations for patients, healthcare systems and policymakers. Our Member Academies have been actively fostering dialogue in this area and will continue to facilitate this dialogue in the quest for solutions that involve academies in Europe and worldwide and address the concerns of scientists, stakeholders, policymakers and the public .

FEAM EUROPEAN BIOMEDICAL POLICY FORUM



FEAM's European Biomedical Policy Forum provides a platform for discussion on key policy issues for the biomedical community by:

1. Organising public and internal meetings, annual lectures, cross-sectoral workshops, symposia and round table discussions;
2. Developing a cross-sectoral network to exchange information and facilitate early discussion on concerning issues (e.g. EU legislation on clinical trials, data protection and initiatives on artificial intelligence), and promoting joint activities and consensus when feasible;
3. Providing regular updates on relevant EU policy news and discussion meetings.

By bringing together on an equal footing, representatives from academia, research charities, industry, trade associations and professional bodies, regulators, public health bodies, and patient and consumer groups, the Forum is supporting a cohesive, coherent and creative biomedical sector.

Examples of activities organised by FEAM's European Biomedical Policy Forum

- ⇒ [Artificial Intelligence in healthcare: is Europe ready?](#) - March 2019, hosted by the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine (ARMB)
- ⇒ [Companion diagnostics and precision medicine](#) - September 2018, hosted by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS)

SCIENCE ADVICE FOR POLICY BY EUROPEAN ACADEMIES-SAPEA



[SAPEA](#) is part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism. Together with the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, SAPEA provides independent scientific advice to European Commissioners to support their decision-making. SAPEA also works to strengthen connections between Europe's academies and Academy Networks, and to stimulate debate in Europe about the role of evidence in policy-making.

Since November 2016, SAPEA has brought together knowledge and expertise of Fellows from over 100 Academies across Europe, spanning the whole scientific spectrum, as part of the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). 5 European academic networks make up the SAPEA partnership: Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE and FEAM.

Examples of activities by SAPEA and led by FEAM

- ⇒ A scientific perspective on microplastics in nature and society (hyperlink to be included: <https://www.sapea.info/topics/microplastics/>)
- ⇒ Transforming the Future of Ageing - [21 May 2019, Lisbon](#), [20 June 2019, Bucharest](#) and [27 June 2019, Paris](#) (forthcoming)



What should the next EU parliament do?

1. Support, lead and work alongside Member States to improve the health of EU citizens and protect them from emerging health threats;
2. Foster dialogue and ongoing collaboration to better integrate scientific advice into good policymaking;
3. Continue to support biomedical research for the health and wealth of European citizens and for maintaining the EU as global leader in the field.

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