

Health (Care)

= top priority for most people

= expensive (\approx 8-18% GDP)

= research = driving factor for further improvement of care and/or for optimal use of health care €/€

Health research funding by tax payers money \sim 2 % of health care costs

EU research budget for all life sciences \sim 2-3 € pp p yr

Health Research strategy in EU

- Some health (patient based) research requires a international network approach, all using the same protocol
- There is right now a lack of an optimal funding mechanism *for HEALTH research that requires a multi-national approach,*
- such as “finding better remedies for rare diseases”
- or to address medical/health problems that requires a large or long-term international approach.

Health Research strategy in EU

Therefore, we need a **new and effective funding mechanism for HEALTH RESEARCH** that requires an international (European) approach with multiple win-win outcome for

- patients (= all of us soon or later),
- health care providers (and better cost: efficacy of health care €€),
- scientific knowledge that can be shared with the rest of the world (including countries that cannot afford such efforts)

We suggest the Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the EU Commission to set up a

Funding mechanism for health research

This funding mechanism should use mechanisms that have already proven to very productive, highly respected and cost efficient

- ERC
- existing health research funding mechanisms in the UK (1 bn £/yr), The Netherlands, Belgium (small scale funding)....
- **driven by peer review and excellence (mostly bottom up approach)**

Health Research strategy

- My personal impression is that such action program could be easily understood and supported by all European citizens (and voters!)

AND

- Would demonstrate that an European approach can realize some important progress related to their health and that of their families.

Biomedical Research funding in EU

As example: How to organize a comparative analysis of the best drugs for type 2 diabetes?

This cost now >> 10 bn € for health care providers in Europe

It is highly unlikely that pharmaceutical companies will consider an expensive long term comparative research effort as there will be more losers than winners.

However, an answer to such question would be of major interest for all patients, health care providers and health insurance systems.