May 2014

EMIF Newsletter

European medical researchers generate new insights from existing patient data

Welcome to the first edition of the EMIF newsletter.

We are pleased to share the first year's results of the European Medical Information Framework (EMIF) — a joint initiative between academia, small and medium sized biotech companies and members of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

In its first year of activity, 2013, the EMIF-Platform team laid the groundwork for bringing together existing patient-level data and making it anonymously available to researchers investigating disease predisposition, earliest symptoms and potential treatments. The EMIF-Platform works in cooperation with the two other EMIF teams, which are focusing on obesity and related diseases such as diabetes (EMIF-Metabolic), and on dementias such as Alzheimer's disease (EMIF-AD). The first significant results are already emerging in both disease areas, providing important insights and opportunities for advances in diagnosis and treatment of these conditions. Active cooperation between the diverse groups involved in EMIF greatly facilitated progress.

We are well on our way to realizing the EMIF vision: to be the trusted European hub for health care data intelligence, enabling new insights into diseases and treatments. A big thank you to everyone who is making this happen!

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Improving access to existing patient-level data
EMIF is a public–private initiative of the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry in Europe. Its fundamental objective is to find ways of using the existing knowledge and information by combining research and medical data from many different sources—establishing today a trusted model for data reutilisation in Europe tomorrow.

Watch the video ...

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EMIF-Platform

Bringing it together: the EMIF-Platform
The Platform is tackling the essential task of combining patient-level data from many different sources. This needs to be done in a manner that allows researchers to search for new information while ensuring patient anonymity and protecting confidential information.

In the first year the EMIF-Platform made significant progress in developing a method for cataloguing the available data sets.

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EMIF-AD

Addressing Alzheimer's
The core objective of EMIF-AD is to identify the mechanisms that make some people more susceptible than others to dementias (such as Alzheimer's disease).

The group developed a novel study protocol for the collection of information on the full range of AD biomarkers.

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EMIF-Metabolic

Tackling obesity
Obesity and diabetes are being investigated by EMIF-Metabolic. It is using the data, for example, to find ways to determine which individuals with obesity are most likely to develop complications such as diabetes.

EMIF-Metabolic has extracted data from 54,000 subjects that includes the relevant phenotyping, genetic and biomarker information.

Read more ...

Objectives for 2014
The activities of EMIF-Platform, EMIF-Metabolic and EMIF-AD are divided into 16 Work Packages (WPs). Each has specific objectives and a timetable. In 2014 all 16 will make progress, often depending on input from other WPs. Some could only start work in 2014 as they required results from others in order to begin.

Watch the video ...

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Follow the progress on EMIF.eu

EMIF has its own website (www.EMIF.eu) where you can read about the latest developments. You can also register to receive future editions of this EMIF newsletter; two or three editions a year. On the website you will see that EMIF is a project in the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) of the European Union (EU), which is funded equally by the EU and EFPIA. IMI objectives are to support more efficient discovery and development of better and safer medicines for patients.