

The European Patients' Forum newsletter – January 2019

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**Dear readers,**

**We are pleased to send you the first issue of our newsletter for 2019!**

**This new year – as you will see – got off to a running start for EPF. The coming year, with European elections leading to the formation of a new Parliament and Commission, will be of crucial importance for the successful continuation of our work on health advocacy, and our focus on what matters to patients will remain**

on the forefront of all emerging health initiatives and activities.

As you may expect, [our campaign for the European Parliament elections](#) is among our key priorities for this year. With 72 members, representing the interests of an estimated 150 million citizens with chronic diseases, we will convey our determination, our passion and our ambition to make sure that health and patients' rights are a priority in the European Union post-2020.

2019 will also be the year of the EPF Congress, the first ever European Congress on patient involvement driven by leading representatives of the patient community, in the capital of the European Union. So please make sure you save the date on 12-14 November 2019, and stay tuned for key updates [by subscribing to our dedicated Congress newsletter](#).

Last but not least, this year we will also continue to move forward in our broader areas of work related to policy and advocacy, projects, capacity-building and working with our membership, as well as with the Youth Group. As you will read in this newsletter, many exciting developments are already taking place!

We wish you an excellent reading. And seeing as it is still January, we wish you a very happy new year, from all of us at EPF!

Marco Greco, EPF President  
Nicola Bedlington, EPF Secretary General



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## Policy Updates

[#EuropeForPatients – our campaign to the European elections](#) →

EPF is campaigning to put what matters to patients at the heart of EU health policy, and make health an issue that gets citizens to cast their

votes and make a difference in the European elections to be held this year in May.

### [\*\*EPF signs Dying to work EU Employment Charter →\*\*](#)

Over the past years, EPF has been advocating for better inclusion and protection of people with chronic conditions in the work place, combatting discrimination.

### [\*\*Using your e-prescription in a different country →\*\*](#)

Since the beginning of this year, Finnish patients will be able to use their prescriptions to buy their medicine in Estonia. This is the first time in Europe that electronic prescriptions are being recognised between countries.

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## **Projects**

### [\*\*More than 50 EUPATI Fellows graduated! →\*\*](#)

The EUPATI Patient Expert Training Course has been designed to meet the needs of patients and patient advocates who have the motivation and skill-set to acquire and apply expert-level knowledge across the whole spectrum of the medicines research and development (R&D) process. The third cohort of the Programme consisted of more than 50 patients and patient advocates, who have invested hours of works in the last 15 months.

### [\*\*Digital Health Europe Project Kick Off Meeting →\*\*](#)

On 24 and 25 January, EPF joined 16 other project partners in the kick off meeting of the DigitalHealthEurope (DHE) project – a Horizon 2020 initiative within the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, which will last 24 months.

### [\*\*EPF launches three new calls for tender →\*\*](#)

In January, EPF published three new calls for tender, one for the

creation of a Patient Education and Engagement Portal for EUPATI, the second for the creation of a trusted environment for dialogue about the use of health data for the new initiative 'Data Saves Lives', and the last one to collaborate together with us and the EPF Youth Group to the 3rd edition of the EPF Summer Training for Young Patient Advocates.

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## EPF Members

### [Young people in need: A unique European map of helplines and services](#) →

Ensuring good mental health for the next generation is an incredibly important issue that we need to get master. Research has found that most mental health difficulties in adults emerged during adolescence. One in five adolescents in Europe today is affected by at least one psychological problem in any given year.

### [Why do victims of adverse drug reactions not get compensation in Europe?](#) →

All of us take medicines, either occasionally or on a regular basis. As such, we might all suffer from an adverse event or from the side effects provoked by pharmaceutical products, even when they have been on the market for years. Some rare adverse events can be extremely severe and seriously harm patients in the long run.

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## EPF Secretariat

### [Welcome to Emily, our new Communications Officer!](#) →

This month a new colleague joined our Secretariat in Brussels to support the Communications team.

### [Vacancy: Data Saves Lives Coordinator](#) →

Are you passionate about health data and communication with excellent project management skills? Become our new "Data Saves

Lives” Coordinator! Deadline for applications is 15 February.

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## Events



### **Medicines for Europe 18th Regulatory and Scientific Affairs Conference 2019**

*1 February 2019 / London, UK*

EPF speaker: Kaisa Immonen

### **DIA Europe 2019**

*5-7 February 2019 / Vienna, Austria*

EPF Speakers: Marco Greco, Nicola Bedlington, Mathieu Boudes, Matthew May, Lyudmil Ninov, Valentina Stramiello

### **Lisbon Citizen Engagement in Health**

Portuguese Health Ministry

*7 February 2019 / Lisbon, Portugal*

EPF speaker: Elena Balestra

### **“Improving patient safety with the FMD in the hospital pharmacy, status of implementation”**

*19 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF Attendance: Kostas Aligiannis

### **CHES Annual Lecture**

European Policy Centre

*20 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF Speaker: Nicola Bedlington

### **EU collaboration in health for better access: Taking stock and looking to the future**

Patient Access Partnership MEP meeting at the European Parliament

*20 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF Speakers: Nicola Bedlington and Stanimir Hasardzhiev

### **The Economist's Patient Value Summit**

*21 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF Speaker: Nicola Bedlington

### **Data Saves Lives Initiative Meeting**

*25 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF Speaker: Nicola Bedlington

### **EFPIA February Patients' Think Tank**

*27 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF attendance: Nicola Bedlington

### **SDG Watch Annual General Assembly**

*28 February 2019 / Brussels, Belgium*

EPF attendance: Julien Richard

## Stay in touch

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