

Science Europe Press Release: *for immediate release*

Science Europe announces the launch of its Scientific Committee for Medical Sciences

(Brussels, 24 April 2013) Science Europe is pleased to announce the launch of its Scientific Committee for Medical Sciences, composed of 13 highly-qualified European academics representing a broad range of disciplines in biomedical research.

The Committee is chaired by Professor Richard Frackowiak, Director of the Department of Clinical Neuroscience at the CHUV University Hospital in Lausanne, Switzerland. The full list of the Medical Sciences Committee's members is available on Science Europe's website: <http://www.scienceeurope.org/medical-sciences>.

Together with five other Science Europe Scientific Committees that are concurrently starting their activities, the Medical Sciences Committee plays a key role in informing and supporting Science Europe in its activities, which are aimed at fostering public-funded European research. The Medical Sciences Committee's members represent the voice of biomedical academic researchers to Science Europe and are essential for the provision of scientific evidence to support science policy and research developments at pan-European and global level.

The Committee held its inaugural meeting in February 2013. As a first initiative it will soon release an Opinion Paper on the benefits of personal data processing in medical science and on the protection of patients' safety, a timely initiative in the context of the current discussions at EU level on the proposal for a European Regulation on Data Protection.

The Committee will serve as a science policy incubator, with the following objectives: fostering scientific excellence and the structuring of the European Research Area; providing independent scientific advice and expert input into the development of relevant EU legislation and of Science Europe statements directed to key European institutional, policy and research stakeholders; and further identifying emerging research fields of relevance to European citizens.

In October 2012 the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) of the European Science Foundation (ESF) held its last meeting and soon afterwards publicly announced "that future strategy and policy work on medical research in Europe is now in the hands of the Medical Committee of Science Europe".

Science Europe comprises 51 Research Funding and Research Performing Organisations from 26 countries, representing around €30 billion per annum. It was founded in October 2011 with the aim of promoting the collective interests of members and providing them with a platform to collaborate at both policy and activity level.

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