

EFPIA Patient Think Tank – Issue Summary December 2014

EFPIA’s Patient Think Tank serves as a forum for both EFPIA members and European patients’ organisations to come together in an active forum to discuss how industry can best meet patient needs. Following each meeting, an issue summary is posted on the EFPIA website. Below is the issue summary of December 2014.

Commission Staff Working Paper

In August, the Commission issued a Staff Working Paper entitled “Pharmaceutical Industry: A strategic sector for the European Economy”. In this way the Commission has tried to launch a multi-stakeholder dialogue at the very earliest stages of the new term. This was followed by a stakeholder meeting in October at which there was an initial exchange of views on the new Commission’s priorities (EFPIA and EPF participated). Consideration is now being given to the follow-up, which will likely be at higher political level. Think Tank members were encouraged to provide input on the working paper.

Benefit-Risk

The Think Tank was updated on developments relating to the proposed IMI project related to benefit-risk since the last meeting. The Working Group has confirmed the need to focus on a specific therapeutic area in order to be able to address the issue at an appropriate level of granularity and use the learning from this to address other areas. The Think Tank was asked for additional feedback.

The need for focus has also dictated that other issues are not in scope for the project. These include questions about how patient perceptions of benefit-risk might evolve over the lifetime of a patient and the role of registries, both issues that were raised by Think Tank members.

Patient Experts’ Access to Congresses

Two questions should be addressed to further understand this topic. These relate to the involvement of patient groups in the whole process of planning and execution of Congresses and second, to clarifying the existing legal/regulatory framework within which any solution should work

EUPATI

EUPATI (the European Patients’ Academy on Therapeutic Innovation - <http://www.patientsacademy.eu/index.php/en/>) has undergone a successful mid-term evaluation. Network registration numbers are up to 1200 and a number of national platforms are progressing, albeit at different speeds. An Internet tool is under development to provide for public access to information about clinical trials. Some things have proved to be bigger challenges than at first expected, notably company receptivity to volunteers, as well as content production and quality control.

Attention is now being given to how to build on EUPATI and particularly on how to enhance company engagement.

Other Topics Covered

- Layperson summary of Clinical Trial Reports.

- EFPIA-PhRMA October Event “Healthcare Collaboration Summit”.
- Prevention coalition.
- Meetings for 2015.

Full copies of EFPIA Patient Think Tank meeting reports are available from EFPIA, upon request: communications@efpia.eu