

EFPIA Patient Think Tank – Issue Summary March 2017

The EFPIA Patient Think Tank provides a forum for an open exchange of ideas, information and perspectives between patient organisations and industry on topical issues impacting on patients. Our aim is not to create common positions, but to ensure that the patient voice is heard in the development of EFPIA policy and practice and give industry members the opportunity to discuss aspects of medicines research and development with the patient organisation community.

White Paper on Patient Organisations and Industry Working Together

The PTT discussed a document that will underline the rationale for engagement between the pharmaceutical industry and patient organisations or communities, suggest the principles on which engagement should be based, outline the points of engagement through the lifecycle of a medicine, discuss some of the challenges and potential solutions to positive engagement as well as providing a list of resources to support positive engagement.

Taking the document beyond Brussels

The PTT decided to take the white paper beyond Brussels audiences by organising 2-3 country/regional workshops in partnership with national associations. The group discussed possible locations for outreach focusing on where there are issues that require attention, noting that the PTT model and experience could support collaborative models locally. There was agreement that Germany and Romania (CEE) would be good options to explore.

Incentives Review

The PTT heard about the industry's perspective on the European Commission's review of pharmaceutical incentives and rewards for innovation. Also discussed were novel funding models to address sustainability challenges as well as waste and inefficiency in the system. It was agreed that patient organisations could benefit from a more technical and detailed briefing

Pipeline Review of Innovative Therapies

The PTT heard that the pipeline review looks in depth at six areas of pharmaceutical innovation under development and seeks to assess their potential impact on patients, healthcare systems and societies. It also explores the considerations for healthcare systems when introducing the new technologies in terms of funding, delivery and data structure.

Member state cooperation on pricing & reimbursement

The PTT received information about a number of joint initiatives across Europe, such as the BENELUXA initiative. The PPT underlined the importance of remaining up to date with the increasing number of initiatives.