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## Letter from the Chair

Dear EURADIA Partners and Allies,

We are pleased to say that the DIAMAP project website [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu) has been launched and you will be able to follow progress of the project. The website is constantly being updated with news and information – especially of our teams of diabetes experts, representing all fields of research, who will be contributing their precious time to the project over the next year. We would like to thank them for their time, energy and enthusiasm – there was almost 100% positive response to our invitation.

DIAMAP urgently needs input from as many individuals as possible who are actively involved in any aspect of diabetes research in Europe, from the most basic and molecular to patient care and education, health economics and health policy. The way to participate is to access the Research Questionnaire through the website [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu). The information that you provide will be essential to the project and will ensure that all research fields are represented in the final Road Map.

This major endeavour to evaluate the current status of diabetes research in Europe and to chart its future has no meaning if it is not carried out together with input by the people who live with the condition. DIAMAP is indeed patient focussed and we are inviting (urging) people with diabetes to contact the DIAMAP project through our website. People with diabetes are also represented on DIAMAP's Project Steering Committee.

Although DIAMAP is taking up a lot of our time right now, you may rest assured that this will not detract from other EURADIA activities: the Alliance continues to flourish and I shall update you on current actions in our next Newsletter.



Philippe A. Halban  
Chair EURADIA

## DIAMAP Road Map for Diabetes Research in Europe: update

**The mission of DIAMAP is to undertake a wide survey of the current European diabetes research landscape, from which expert opinion can identify gaps and highlight strengths, to guide a Road Map strategy for diabetes research in Europe.**

The DIAMAP project has started well and we are happy to say that a successful Kick Off Meeting was held in Brussels on 20 May. The first half of the meeting dealt with explaining our objectives and the background of the project along with the importance of DIAMAP to the future of European research. The second session allowed for



**DIAMAP Kick Off meeting in Brussels, read more about the meeting on the DIAMAP website [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)**

greater discussion on the 'mapping' process by which the expert groups will create the final report. The DIAMAP website ([www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)) is being updated with new information and an explanation of how the project will develop according to each of the workpackages is provided. We have been fortunate in garnering the help of a group of around 35 European scientists and clinicians working in different fields of diabetes research to combine their knowledge of diabetes and develop the Road Maps over the next year so as to have the final Road Map report ready by early 2010.

What is important now is that as many people as possible working in any area of diabetes research complete the DIAMAP research questionnaire. The questionnaire will be available in the near future on line ([www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu)). Professor Philippe Halban, Coordinator of DIAMAP recently urged as many individuals as possible who are involved in any aspect of diabetes research in Europe (from molecules, to cells, organs and living animals, from patients and clinical research, to patient care and education, health economics and health policy) to contribute.

DIAMAP is a patient centred project, and for that reason we also want to hear from people who are living with diabetes and from their families. There is a special page on the DIAMAP website for people with diabetes and the general public. Please contact the DIAMAP Staff to find out more about the project and how it will benefit people with diabetes.

**DIAMAP is a support action funded by the European Commission (FP7 200701).**

To find out more about DIAMAP contact  
**Ms Sarah A. Hills** ([Sarah.Hills@euradia.org](mailto:Sarah.Hills@euradia.org)) or  
**Ms Regina Sautter** ([Regina.Sautter@diamap.eu](mailto:Regina.Sautter@diamap.eu))  
or go to the website [www.DIAMAP.eu](http://www.DIAMAP.eu).

## News from the EU Council and European Commission

### French Presidency priorities in health and research

France has taken over the EU Council Presidency from 1 July until 31 December 2008. **Research priorities** include the construction of the European Research Area (ERA), boosting Europe's role in space and intellectual property by progressing towards a Community patent. Focus will be given to four main areas: energy and the climate; migration issues; agriculture; and security and defence. Health research in the field of Alzheimer's disease was mentioned.

### Health Minister Roselyne Bachelot presented health priorities to the European Parliament ENVI committee on 15 July.

The importance of a shared agenda with the 'Presidency trio' of French, Czech and Swedish Presidencies was underlined. There were five health priorities: improved health safety with better coordination between member states; healthy ageing (in particular tackling Alzheimer's disease with the idea of an EU plan to establish guidelines, focus on research, care, best practice and ethics); lifestyle determinants such as action on smoking; progress on pharmaceutical issues of pharmacovigilance, information for patients and counterfeit drugs; cross border health care, as well as noting the European Commission intention to put out a communication on rare diseases, organ donation and resistance to antibiotics. (Source CORDIS and EurActive.com)

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=29611](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=29611)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/health/french-presidency-hopes-improve-food-safety/article-174282>

### French Presidency R&D information service

With the handing over of the Presidency of the European Union from Slovenia to France on 1 July, CORDIS, the Community Research and Development Information Service, has launched a new internet portal giving access to information on research and development (R&D) activities under the French Presidency.

Major challenges, economic, social and environmental (climate change; energy and food security; ageing), scientific and technological (fundamental research) will be addressed.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS\\_PRES&ACTION=D&RCN=29616&DOC=1&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_PRES&ACTION=D&RCN=29616&DOC=1&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1)

### Relevance to diabetes research

EURADIA does not see any specific relevance to diabetes research in these statements from the French Presidency but we will continue, as always, to take advantage of any opportunity to promote the issue.

### Commission sets out legal framework for European research infrastructures

Strengthening of cross-border collaboration and increased spending on science was proposed by the European Commission on 16 July. A legal framework would provide a 'legal personality' recognised in all Member States to provide the advantages of international organisations such as tax exemption. Establishment of infrastructures e.g. laboratories and databases would be made easier for cross border collaboration on large projects that are too expensive to manage in one country and to avoid duplication of work.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=29664](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&SESSION=&RCN=29664)

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## EU news and research policy

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### Find FP7 funded projects

A service is now available to search for new project partners and to read what has been achieved by previous FP7 projects. This service is searchable by e.g. research area and country.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html)

### ERC receives over 2,000 applications for Advanced Grants

The European Research Council (ERC) has received 2,167 applications for its Advanced Grants. Including 766 proposals in the area of life sciences and medicine, 997 in physical sciences and engineering, and 404 proposals for social sciences and humanities research. The ERC Advanced Grant is targeted specifically at established researchers. Applicants are expected to have a strong track record in carrying out groundbreaking research stretching back at least 10 years. The only criterion on which applications are judged is scientific excellence.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N\\_RCN=29601](http://cordis.europa.eu/search/index.cfm?fuseaction=news.document&N_RCN=29601)

### EURAXESS

#### new portal for EU researchers

The new website includes job advertising and searches, and where opportunities such as Marie Curie Initial Training Network (ITN) fellowships will be advertised. The new service was officially launched on 24 June 2008 in Brussels. The new site also brings together, along with the job search capabilities, information on researchers' rights. [http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm)

### New research infrastructures portal launched

The European Research Infrastructure Web Portal intends to raise the profile of research infrastructures; it will also provide a complete picture of the research infrastructure landscape in Europe. Policy makers, researchers and scientists will be able to access information through the web portal on a number of major European facilities, by discipline, by country and or infrastructure.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=29621](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=29621)

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## EU funding opportunities

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The EURADIA website [www.EURADIA.org](http://www.EURADIA.org) lists open calls for funding from several sources.

#### Seventh Research Framework Programme: Health

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage#Health>

#### Information and Communication Technologies

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/home_en.html)

#### DG Health and Consumer Protection (DG-SANCO) Public Health Programme

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_programme/ami/ami\\_036831\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/ami/ami_036831_en.htm)

#### DG Enterprise and Industry

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/files/themes\\_2008/calls\\_prop.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/funding/files/themes_2008/calls_prop.htm)

#### DG Education and Training

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/callg\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/calls/callg_en.html)

#### DG Environment

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/intro_en.htm)

## Diabetes research news from around Europe and beyond

### European Foundation for Diabetes Research

<http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org/Programmes.html>

### European Science Foundation

COST: open call for proposals to support scientific and technical collaboration in Europe.

<http://www.cost.esf.org/index.php?id=opencall>

### International Diabetes Federation: Bridges

Bringing Research in Diabetes to Global Environments and Systems, second round of funding.

<http://www.idfbridges.org/2nd-round-of-funding>

### Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

[http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=103214](http://www.jdrf.org/index.cfm?page_id=103214)

### ResearchGATE: a new scientific network

It is hoped that 'a continuous release of articles in online format will change and advance the way new results are spread'. The website states "ResearchGATE is a part of the Science 2.0 community and will evolve with the community".

<https://www.researchgate.net/application.Login.html>

### Population Surveys and Biobanking

The European Science Foundation (ESF), and the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) have published a new policy briefing.

<http://www.esf.org/publications/policy-briefings.html>

### European Forum for Good Clinical Practice (EFGCP)

EFGCP is a non-profit organisation established by and for individuals with a professional involvement in the conduct of biomedical research. Its purpose is to promote good clinical practice and encourage the practice of common, high-quality standards in all stages of biomedical research throughout Europe.

<http://www.efgcp.be/>

### EFGCP Report on The Procedure for the Ethical Review of Protocols for Clinical Research Projects in the European Union

(Nov. 2006) Update of the Report, as of 1 March 2008.

<http://www.efgcp.be/html.asp?what=efgcpreport.htm&L1=5&L2=1#report>

### Public consultations

**Impact of EU Clinical Trials Directive: an opportunity to give your input online**

<http://www.eortc.be/icrel/>

### DG-Enterprise and Industry

**Medical Devices Directives: public comment**

The Commission is considering a revision of the legal framework in Europe for Medical Devices in order to improve and strengthen this framework and to meet the growing expectations of European citizens.

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/medical\\_devices/consult\\_recast\\_2008\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/medical_devices/consult_recast_2008_en.htm)

## Research conferences and events 2008

### August

13-16: **International society for paediatric and adolescent diabetes (ISPAD)**. Durban, South Africa.

<http://www.ispad2008.com>

14-21: **Health care & social system**, Summer School. Alpbach, Austria

<http://www.alpbach.org/index.php?id=524>

24-29: **Summer school on ethics of nanotechnology**. Enschede University, The Netherlands.

[http://www.ethicsschool.eu/home.php?page=summer\\_n](http://www.ethicsschool.eu/home.php?page=summer_n)

28-30: **Metabolic disorders - from bench to bedside**. Sopron, Hungary. <http://www.metdis2008.mke.org.hu/>

### September

1-4: EU-funded Networks of Excellence DiMI (Diagnostic Molecular Imaging) and EMIL (European Molecular Imaging Laboratories) summer school on **cardiovascular applications of molecular imaging**. Münster, Germany.

<http://www.dimi.eu/index.php?id=1655>

5-6: **FEND annual conference**. Rome, Italy.

<http://www.fend.org/conf2008/conf08.html>

7-11: **Annual meeting of the EASD**. Rome Italy.

<http://www.easd.org/>

8-11: **European lipoprotein club meeting**, Tutzing, Germany. <http://www.elc-tutzing.org/>

11-13: **Diabetic foot study group (DFSG)**.

<http://www.dfsg.org>

15-16: 1st world congress on **interventional therapies for type 2 diabetes**. New York, USA.

<http://www.interventionaldiabetology.org/>

17-19: **EuroBioForum 2008**. Région Alsace, 1 place du Wacken, Strasbourg, France.

[www.esf.org/eurobiofund/strasbourg](http://www.esf.org/eurobiofund/strasbourg)

21-26: **EthicSchool summer school on the ethics of converging technologies**. Romrod/Alsfeld, Germany.

[http://www.ethicsschool.eu/home.php?page=summer\\_c](http://www.ethicsschool.eu/home.php?page=summer_c)

20-23: **European society for paediatric endocrinology**. Istanbul, Turkey. <http://www.espe2008.org/>

21-24: **Functional genomics towards personalized health care**. Santorini, Greece

<http://biol.prospective-conf.u-nancy.fr>

25-27: **Annual world congress on the insulin resistance syndrome**. Hilton Universal City, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

[insulinresistance@pacbell.net](mailto:insulinresistance@pacbell.net)

### October

1-4: **Endocrino 2008**. Lille, France.

<http://www.endocrino.net/>

1-4: **ESF conference on functional genomics and disease**. Innsbruck, Austria. <http://www.esffg2008.org/>

2-4: **Childhood & adolescent obesity**. Vancouver, Canada. [ipad@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ipad@interchange.ubc.ca)

3-7: **Obesity society annual scientific meeting 2008**, Phoenix, AZ USA. <http://www.obesity.org>

6-8: 2nd Congress of the **international society of nutrigenomics and nutrigenetics**. Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.isnn.info/congress.html>

7-9: **EuroBiO 2008**. The leading Life Sciences Event of the European Union Presidency Palais Des Congrès De Paris, France. <http://www.eurobio2008.com/>

15-18: **Cardiometabolic health congress**. Sheraton Boston Hotel, Boston, MA USA.

<http://www.cardiometabolicehealth.org/>

15-18: **Canadian Diabetes Association/CSEM professional conference and annual meetings**. Montreal, Canada.

[http://www.diabetes.ca/section\\_professionals/confindex.asp](http://www.diabetes.ca/section_professionals/confindex.asp)

18: **International conference for clinical endocrinology, diabetes & infertility**. Cairo, Egypt.

<http://www.edfeg.com/>

22-25: **International symposium on multiple risk factors in CVD: prevention and intervention - health policy**. Venice, Italy

<http://www.lorenzinfoundation.org/mrf2008.asp>

30 October - 2 November: **Controversies in diabetes, obesity and hypertension**. Barcelona, Spain.

<http://www.codhy.com/2008/>

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30 October - 2 November: **Controversies in diabetes, obesity and hypertension**. Barcelona, Spain.

<http://www.codhy.com/2008/>

### November

5-8: **Therapeutic patient education 2008**. Budapest, Hungary. <http://www.kenes.com/tpe/>

8-12: **American Heart Association-scientific sessions**.

New Orleans, LA USA

<http://scientificsessions.americanheart.org>

23-27: **Engineering for Health**. European Biomedical Engineering Congress, 4th European Congress of IFMBE. Antwerp, Belgium. [an.bradt@semico.be](mailto:an.bradt@semico.be)