

# EFMC Framework

In February 2013, EFMC organised a workshop bringing together EFMC's key stakeholders including the Council, the various committee members and the next generation of leaders, to engage in a dialogue about strategic initiatives EFMC needs to push to best serve the medicinal chemistry community in Europe and across the world.

The stimulating discussions were very fruitful. Ideas came up, proposals were collected and working groups have been established, translating creativity and lateral-thinking into concreteness.

As a result we established 8 working groups who were asked to come up with concrete proposals for implementation. The topics / working groups selected were:

- EU Policy
- Visibility of EFMC/Medicinal Chemistry
- Social media
- Interaction within the community
- Young Scientist Meeting
- Emerging markets
- Links to other disciplines
- Stakeholder map

Working group progress has been reviewed in the meantime and overall the project teams made great progress. Already some of their proposals have been turned into concrete activities, some working groups are at the stage of prioritising proposals for follow-up, and others have completed the activities and were closed.

Below we provide you with an update on the progress made in 2013-2014:

## **1 Strategic themes**

### Influence on European science policy

#### *Current membership:*

- Anders Karlén (chair), Uppsala University, Sweden

- Uli Stilz (EC sponsor), Novo Nordisk, Denmark
- Rob Leurs (previous chair), VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Christophe Genicot, UCB Biopharma, Belgium
- Danijel Kikelj, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Phil Jones, European Screening Centre Newhouse, University of Dundee, UK

EFMC would like to get more involved in political activities on the EU level, and is exploring collaboration with EuCheMS on this. In 2015, joint lobbying activities will be discussed, and a roadmap with realistic timelines will be formulated. Opportunities to participate in and to suggest IMI projects were discussed at EFMC-ISMC.

### Visibility and recognition of medicinal chemistry

#### *Current membership:*

- Fabrizio Giordanetto (chair), Taros, Germany
- Gabriele Costantino (EC sponsor), University of Parma, Italy
- Laure Bouchez, Novartis, Switzerland
- Bernd Clement, Kiel University, Germany
- Vesna Gabelica Markovic, Galapagos, Croatia
- David Rees, Astex Pharmaceuticals, UK
- Henk Timmerman, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Anna Tsantili, University of Athens, Greece
- Andrew Thomas, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Switzerland

At EFMC-ISMC Lisbon a press conference has been organised. Local newspapers, scientific press and TV had been invited, and 5 keynote speakers of the EFMC-ISMC Symposium participated in the press conference.

The speakers explained to the press that apart from providing drug discovery professionals with scientific dissemination and networking opportunities, the symposium aspires to expose and celebrate the important, but often unnoticed, work performed by medicinal chemists, as their inventions greatly contribute to advancing health and the public well-being.

In 2015, the working group will continue emphasizing on targeting the broader public.

## 2 Exploratory themes

### Emerging markets

#### *Current membership:*

- Edmond Differding (chair), Differding Consulting, Belgium
- Henk Timmerman (EC sponsor), VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Pascal George, Independent Scientific & Adviser, France
- Katarzyna Kiec-Kononowicz, Jagiellonian University, Poland
- Christa Müller, University of Bonn, Germany
- Rui Moreira, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Antoni Torrens, Esteve, Spain

The working group has finalised its selection of target associations and key contact people. Positive feedback has been received from medchem associations in India, Brazil, China and South Africa. Next working group discussions will focus on future plans to increase awareness for medicinal chemistry and drug discovery on all continents.

### Biotech, SME, pharma landscape and how to interact with that landscape

#### *Current membership:*

- Thomas Fessard (chair), Spirochem, Switzerland
- Pascal George (EC sponsor), Independent Scientific & Adviser, France
- Felix Calderon, GSK, Spain
- Constance Chollet, University of Cologne, Germany
- Olivier Defert, Amakem, Belgium
- Roberto Di Santo, University of Rome, Italy
- Thierry Langer, Prestwick, France
- Jarkko Rautio, University of Eastern Finland, Finland
- Andy Thomas, AstraZeneca, UK

A breakfast meeting with SME and Biotech representatives has been organised on the

occasion of the EFMC-ISMC Symposium. EFMC used the opportunity to talk to the SME's, and to find out if there are any critical contributions EFMC can make. In particular online trainings were identified as a key need for SME to support competence building of their workforce. The working group is now working on a concrete proposal, and will come back to the EFMC Executive Committee by the end of 2014. A decision will then be made on 2015 activities.

### Links to other disciplines

#### *Current membership:*

- Christian Ottmann (chair), Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands
- Jordi Gracia (EC sponsor), Almirall, Spain
- Sarah Skerratt, Pfizer, UK
- Maurizio Recanatini, University of Bologna, Italy
- Janet Robertson, TES Pharma, Italy

A short list of federations and associations representing other disciplines has been identified and agreed on to focus EFMC efforts on in 2015. We will now consolidate, and not continue as a working group, but make sure we maintain the established contacts. This will be linked to the operational team of the symposia.

### Quality and visibility of training in medicinal chemistry

#### *Current membership:*

- Marko Anderlüh (chair), University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Hein Coolen (EC Sponsor), the Netherlands
- Norbert Haider, University of Vienna, Austria

The council decides to hand over the implementation of the visibility of the short courses in EmTrain (OnCourse) to the operational team of the short courses. We can therefore stop this exploratory team.

### 3 Operational activities

#### Social media working group

##### *Current membership:*

- Stuart Conway, University of Oxford, UK
- Koen Augustyns (EC member), University of Antwerp, Belgium

EFMC is now active on LinkedIn and Twitter (@EuroMedChem), and for the EFMC-ISMC Symposium the hash tag #EFMC-ISMC has been created and actively used in Lisbon.

#### Communication team

##### *Current membership:*

- Gabriele Costantino, University of Parma, Italy
- Rasmus Clausen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Nele Coulier, EFMC, Belgium

EFMC has several communication tools which are running properly: the EFMC website, mass mailings to the database to promote EFMC organised and sponsored events, the e\_newsletter MedChemWatch, and the annual Yearbook. Challenge for 2015 will be changing the format of MedChemWatch, which appears 4 times a year, into a monthly newsflash, which will be sent by email to the EFMC database.

#### Short Courses team

##### *Current membership:*

- Peter Mohr, F. Hoffmann-La Roche, Switzerland
- Henk Timmerman, VU University, The Netherlands
- Serge Van Calenbergh, Ghent University, Belgium

The team has selected topics for future editions of the EFMC Short Courses, and contacted potential course organisers. Info on the upcoming Short Courses can be found on the website [www.efmcshortcourses.org](http://www.efmcshortcourses.org)

#### Awards & Prizes team

##### *Current membership:*

- Gerhard Ecker, University of Vienna, Austria
- Fabrizio Giordanetto, Taros, Germany
- Henk Timmerman, VU University Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The team promoted the EFMC Awards and Prizes and made sure that the calls for nominations were widely known. For each Award, a significant number of candidates have been received, out of which an independent jury selected the winners of the 2014 EFMC Awards and Prizes.

#### Symposia

EFMC-ISMC, EFMC-YMCS, EFMC-ASMC, Frontiers Symposium.

Each meeting will continue to be managed by dedicated organising committees. The President, Secretary and Secretariat oversee and coordinate the overall meeting planning.