

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 prioritizing 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 2016:

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 started a collaboration with EuCheMS to be involved in European Policy. This collaboration took the form of a STOA Working Breakfast which took place on April 28, 2016 in Brussels and covered the

topic: Solving Antimicrobial Resistance. Researchers and several Members of the European Parliament analysed the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance and weighted the pros and cons of possible solutions. Based on the success of this first STOA working breakfast, EFMC and EuCheMS will continue their partnership to further influence the European Science Policy.

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

The working group continued its constant effort to foster the visibility and recognition of Medicinal Chemistry and a Press Conference was hosted at the XXIV EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry. During the Press Conference, four keynote speakers gave their view on the importance of the discipline and the key theme for this year: "MedChem impact/importance, collaborative nature of medicinal chemistry/drug discovery". At the occasion of the XXIV EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ISMC), a Public Engagement Event has also been organised in order to raise the awareness of the General Public on the research in the pharmaceutical industry. The event took place at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and took the format of an expert panel (Allan Jordan, Eric Kerran, Derek Lowe, Vicky Steadman) "pitching" for funding for key healthcare problems e.g cancer, infectious diseases, dementia.

The best submissions of the "Why Medicinal Chemistry" Competition, held in 2015, were broadcasted in the EFMC Booth at the XXIV EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ISMC). All attendees could appreciate the successful attempt of the talented medicinal chemists to highlight what medicinal chemists do and why it is important.

In 2017, the working group will continue emphasizing on targeting the broader public.

2 Operational activities

Social media working group

Current membership:

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

EFMC continued being active on LinkedIn and Twitter (@EuroMedChem) and a specific LinkedIn group for the EFMC-ISMC Symposium series has been created (EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry on LinkedIn). You are all invited to join the group to stay updated with the latest news concerning the EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry.

Communication team

Current membership:

- Gabriele Costantino, University of Parma, Italy
- Brieuc Matagne, 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 electronic newsletter MedChemWatch, and the annual Yearbook. In 2016, the communication team continued managing those tools and further develop the EFMC newsletter.

Short Courses team

Current membership:

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

Symposia

EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal, EFMC Young Medicinal Chemist Symposium, EFMC International Symposium on Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry.

The meeting series "Frontiers in Medicinal Chemistry" have now been rebranded "ACSMEDI-EFMC Medicinal Chemistry Frontiers".

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

Grants

EFMC supports the participation of young medicinal chemist to its symposiums by offering grants.

The EFMC Council voted during the Council Meeting in Manchester in 2016 to increase and reshape the EFMC support to young medicinal chemist by now offering grants covering the complete registration for the EFMC International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ISMC), the EFMC International Symposium on Advances in Synthetic and Medicinal Chemistry (EFMC-ASMC) and the ACSMEDI-EFMC Medicinal Chemistry Frontiers Meeting.

EFMC Sessions at symposia of related societies

Current Membership:

- Christian Ottmann (chair), Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Koen Augustyns (EC sponsor), University of Antwerp, Belgium
- Jordi Gràcia, Almirall, Spain
- Sarah Skerratt, Pfizer, UK
- Toni Torrens, Esteve, Spain
- Rui Moreira, University of Lisbon, Portugal
- Christa Müller, University of Bonn, Germany

This operational team will assist the Executive Committee in identifying topics and chairs for EFMC organised sessions at symposia of related societies: ACS-MEDI, AFMC, CPA and EuCheMS.

Links to other disciplines

Current Membership:

- Christian Ottmann (chair), Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
- Yves Auberson, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Switzerland
- Henk Timmerman, VU Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Following the recommendations of the Advisory Board, the Executive Committee of the EFMC decided to reactivate this working group, transforming it into a task force that will have the goal to further explore collaboration with other learned societies of neighboring disciplines.