

EIT Health appoints Alexander von Gabain Supervisory Board Chairman

EIT Health, a member of the EIT-supported Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), is delighted to announce the appointment of Alexander von Gabain as new Chairman of the Supervisory Board. He follows Koenraad Debackere, who has been chairing the Supervisory Board of EIT Health since its implementation in Spring 2015. Koenraad Debackere played a pivotal role in enabling operations orchestrating the innovation network of leading European private and public partners from the healthcare arena. The partners are joined to address the societal challenge of supporting European citizens and patients with innovative and entrepreneurial products, services and concepts to allow an improved healthy life and active ageing.

Alexander von Gabain has a successful track record with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), serving as Chairman of the founding Governing Board during its build-up phase. Now he will serve EIT Health as independent Chairman, taking a board seat designed not to be connected to any of the partners, while Koenraad Debackere will continue providing his strong expertise as a member and Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board.



Alexander von Gabain
EIT Health Supervisory Board Chairman

Alexander von Gabain said: "I feel extremely honored by the EIT Health's Partners' Assembly and the Supervisory Board for their trust to appoint me as Chairman of the Supervisory Board. In only two years, the EIT Health consortium has successfully created a strong platform shaping a convincing innovation ecosystem that interconnects the knowledge triangle (education, R&D and entrepreneurship), driven by customers' needs. It is a challenge and a chance for all of us to combine with synergy our broad variety of best in-class competences and faculties throughout Europe, so we can target healthcare innovation with the aim of improving the quality of life on our continent. I'm proud to be allowed to participate in the journeys taking students to entrepreneurship, lab work to customers and ideas to novel products and services."

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EIT Health is supported by the EIT,
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Background

About [Alexander von Gabain](#)

Alexander von Gabain holds a PhD in Molecular Biology. In the 1980s/90s, he served as professor at the University of Umea and then at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. In 1993, he was appointed as Chair of Microbiology at the University of Vienna. In 1998, he co-founded Intercell AG (today Valneva SE), which he ran as CEO and CSO until 2009. He continues as member of the Supervisory Board of the trans-European biotech enterprise Valneva. From 2008 until 2014, he served on the founding Governing Board of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), which he was chairing from 2011 until the end of his term, 2014. Since 2008, he is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of INiTS – the business incubator of the Viennese Universities. From 2014 to 2017, he returned to Karolinska Institutet as Deputy Vice-Chancellor in charge of Innovation and Commercial Outreach. His publications, patents and book contributions document his passion for biomedical innovation. His achievements have been acknowledged with industrial awards, academic prizes and honorable memberships.

About [Koenraad Debackere](#)

Koenraad Debackere has been a professor at KU Leuven since 1995. His research is dedicated mainly to technology and innovation management and policy, the linkage between science and technology as well as the role of entrepreneurial universities in economic development. As managing director of KU Leuven Research & Development and Chairman of the Gemma Frisius Fonds, the venture fund of KU Leuven, it has always been his ambition to create new ways of connecting innovations in research with entrepreneurship and business expertise.

About EIT Health

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. The network of partners has the goal of supporting innovation in healthcare, in order to improve the sustainability of healthcare systems, promote healthy living and active ageing and enhance the overall wellbeing of people across Europe. EIT Health leverages the expertise of nearly 140 leading organisations from key areas of healthcare, such as pharma, medtech, payers, ICT, diagnostics and consumer products, as well as some of the world's leading academic and research organisations, healthcare providers and public administrations.

EIT Health – Making healthy lives a reality for all

For more information visit: <http://www.eithealth.eu>

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