Europe's top healthcare innovators meet at EIT Heath Summit

The European Union's biggest healthcare initiative held its annual conference in London, presenting its achievements and awarding Europe's best entrepreneurs on 4-5 December.

EIT Health is *"an excellent idea, and it works" said* Xavier Prats Monné, Director-General, DG SANTE, European Commission at the opening plenary session of the 2017 EIT Health Summit in London. Addressing around 400 delegates, he highlighted the importance of European healthcare solutions, which cannot be tackled by individual Member States alone, and noted the need to facilitate the building of capacity and resilience in EU healthcare systems. Mr Prats Monné advocated increased promotion of innovation and the development of a more needs-based policy.

In a review of 2017 achievements, EIT Health demonstrated how it is delivering healthcare solutions, by leveraging the collaborative expertise of more than 140 member organisations within the EU, including pharma, diagnostics, medtech, payers, insurers, research institutions and top universities.

EIT Health is a key actor in improving health and care. Its 2017 achievements include 29 innovation projects involving collaboration of 79 member partners plus 41 external partners; 21 new products and services delivered by the end of 2017; and an expanding educational programme engaging leading universities and industry partners in developing targeted education and establishing EIT labelled masters and fellowship programmes. In terms of innovation in healthcare, EIT Health has nurtured nearly 200 European start-ups to date. The 2018 goal is set at nearly 500 start-ups.

EIT Health invests in Europe's best entrepreneurial talents and ideas, fostering the development and commercialisation of smart product and service solutions in the health sector to address the challenges posed by demographic change and ageing societies and to improve healthcare.

In his opening address to the conference audience, the leading academic and healthcare entrepreneur Alexander von Gabain, Chairman of the EIT Health Supervisory Board, said that EIT Health is a "potent family, committed to the challenges of emancipated patients, healthy ageing, personalised medicine, cost explosion and the increased complexity of drug development."

He confirmed that EIT Health will continue to deliver by breaking down silos, mapping the combined assets of the membership, engaging and capitalising on the knowledge triangle of Government, Business and Academia, building trust in investors and stimulating partnerships between members.

Implementation of innovation and the leadership EIT Health practices, addresses the two key challenges that Mr von Gabain said can inhibit innovation: [1] An idea is only 5% of the final product, thus effective implementation is an integral part of innovation. [2] Innovation needs to overcome silos and national constraints, hence the outstanding combined contribution of more than 140 members across Europe.

Please contact Sabine Schumann

T: +48 151 1636 9607
E: sabine.schumann@eithealth.eu

The European Health Catapult winners.

During the EIT Health Summit, the European Health Catapult awards were presented to the winning start-ups in three categories: *Biotech:* SUN bioscience; *Medtech:* Enmodes; and *Digital Health:* FibriCheck. The top three finalists in each category gave a pitch and the jury members highlighted that he winners were outstanding in addressing the needs, contributing value and potentially game changing innovation. Mowoot, which was chosen number two in the Medtech category by the jury, won the most votes from the EIT Health Summit audience.

Sylvie Bove, CEO of EIT Health, presented the key takeaways of the more than 20 sessions, covering a diverse range of subjects, that took place during the two-day Summit. Output from these sessions identified calls for action, such as the need to make our extra years health as longevity increases, the need to engage patients in co-creation of healthcare innovation, and the need to provide further feedback to patients and citizens by sharing their healthcare data.

Ms Bove said opportunities are emerging in: the field of antibiotic microbial resistance; the unique differentiated nature of European markets; empowerment of women; recognising the impact beyond the healthcare system of work-related health disorders; and the commitment to share knowledge and best practice with partners and start-ups, which is core to the spirit EIT Health.

Background

About EIT Health

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. Its goal is to sustainably advance the fundamentals of healthcare and thus promote suitable future conditions for healthy living, active ageing and improved wellbeing of people across Europe. EIT Health leverages the expertise of more than 140 member organisations from the pharma, diagnostics and med tech fields, payers, insurers, research institutions and universities. As one of the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), the initiative benefits from some of the world's best-in-class academic and research organisations and offers both higher education and business expertise. By investing in Europe's best entrepreneurial talents and ideas, EIT Health fosters the development and commercialization of smart product and service solutions in the health sector, addressing the challenges posed by demographic change and ageing societies.

Headquartered in Munich (Germany), EIT Health has six co-location centres in London (UK/Ireland), Stockholm (Scandinavia), Barcelona (Spain), Paris (France), Mannheim and Heidelberg (Germany/Switzerland) and Rotterdam (Belgium/Netherlands), as well as regional "EIT Health InnoStars" clusters consisting of industry partners, academia, and health providers linked to seven regions in six countries – Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Italy and Wales.

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T: +48 151 1636 9607
E: sabine.schumann@eithealth.eu

EIT Health is supported by the EIT,
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European Health Catapult winners 2017

Medtech category

1st prize: Enmodes: provides design and engineering services to medical device companies with a major focus on validated computational analyses and optimization.

2nd prize: Mowoot by Usmima: Reproduces the abdominal massage performed by physiotherapists to facilitate intestinal transit, the solution to chronic constipation that improves its effectiveness over time.

3rd prize: Oxford Endovascular Limited: Developing metallic mesh tube devices invented by engineers and clinicians at Oxford University to treat patients suffering from brain aneurysms.

Biotech category

1st prize: SUN bioscience: Their Gri3D platform allows creation of a 3D culture to produce organoids, a development that allows scientists to derive stem cells that are unique to each patient, thereby opening the door to personalised drug testing and regenerative medicine.

2nd prize: LifeTag: Focused on Research & Development of non-invasive technologies for evaluating metabolism and improving the diagnosis of chronic metabolic diseases, such as Type-2 diabetes and non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

3rd prize: Elthera: Brings together experienced pharma and biotech executives with cutting-edge academic researchers to develop proprietary, first-in-class oncology drugs using a personalized health care approach.

Digital Health category

1st prize: FibriCheck by Quompium: A medically certified application for the detection of irregular heart rhythms, including atrial fibrillation, only requires the user to place their finger on the camera of the smartphone to measure cardiac rhythm and share the measurments automatically with a medical professional.

2nd prize: Complex Disease Detector by Hippogriff: An accurate, non-invasive and affordable technology for screening and early diagnosis of heart disease uses a person's usual medical data including ECG and demographic data, analysed with artificial intelligence, to offer a great decision support tool to doctors and help them detect heart disease before it gets late.

3rd prize: Advantis: Their innovation, Brainance™, is a web-based post-processing and 3D Vizulasiation MRI software that provides a wide range of modules for the processing of brain MRI exams.

Audience Awards

Mowoot, which was chosen number two in the Medtech category by the jury, won the most votes from the EIT Health Summit audience.

In Biotech the Audience Award winner was Affichem, a company whose mission is to design, develop and market innovative therapeutic molecules and theranostic markers for the treatment of cancer and neurodegenerative diseases.

In Digital Health, the Audience Award went to BloodLink, which streamlines the sourcing and exchange of blood, and reduces blood shortages, by connecting all stakeholders on one online platform, which provides a safe, secure and cost efficient way for blood banks and hospitals to find and exchange blood across the nation.

The European Health Catapult is organized by EIT Health together with the Health Axis Europe, to support start-ups or young SMEs in medtech, biotech and digital health. Participating companies had the possibility to mature their business plan, negotiation and pitching skills – and to learn from experts during different training days with other start-ups from all over Europe.

EIT Health – Making healthy lives a reality for all

For more information visit:
www.eithealth.eu

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