

## **Position of the VPH Institute on the open letter “Why we need a new strategy for health research in Europe”**

The Virtual Physiological Human (VPH) Institute for integrative biomedical research supports the motion recently published by the Standing Committee of the European Medical Research Councils (EMRC) of the European Science Foundation (ESF), entitled “Why we need a new strategy for health research in Europe”: <http://bulletin.sciencebusiness.net/news/75940/Why-we-need-a-new-strategy-for-health-research-in-Europe>

We agree that the spending in biomedical research at the European level should be increased, and we fully support the recommendation of establishing, along the ERC model, a new funding instrument specifically designed for pan-European clinical trials.

In particular, we recommend that such a funding instrument explicitly privileges the trial of innovative technologies for health, which are the best hope to maintain the same level of expenditure in health care while increasing the quality and the quantity of services provided to the Citizens of Europe.

Today it is virtually impossible to fund significant clinical trials across Europe to assess technologies still in the pre-competitive phase, or that target approaches that are not considered commercially attractive by the biomedical industry. The Virtual Physiological Human technologies are a perfect example. While the European Commission invested nearly €200m in FP7 on technological research in the VPH that enabled many pan-European consortia to develop very innovative prototypes, virtually no funding is currently available to conduct large scale pan-European clinical trials to assess which of these prototype technologies has the efficacy and the safety required to be transformed into commercial products by European industry.

Thus, the VPH Institute welcomes and supports the petition promoted by the Standing Committee of the European Medical Research Councils. The VPH Institute further recommends that specific attention is given to the clinical assessment of technologies developed with European funding, whose intellectual property is entirely owned by European organisations, that when proved clinically effective can be transformed into socio-economic benefits by the European biomedical industry.

Signed on behalf of and approved by all members of  
the Board of Directors of the VPH Institute for biomedical integrative research.