

VPH Institute: 2015 activities

...a number of reasons for renewing your membership!

As usual at this time of year, we contact all our members to invite them to renew their membership subscription. As this year has been particularly intense for the Institute, we would like to bring to your attention the outcome of all the time and effort that has been invested in working towards our common goal of promoting *in silico* medicine research. These activities would not have been possible without your collaboration and financial support, for which we thank you and, at the same time, ask for your continued support to enable us to continue the very important developments scheduled for the coming year.

HIRED A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2015 began with an important change: after three years of hard voluntary work overseeing the transition of the VPH from a network of excellence into a not for profit organisation, Prof Viceconti handed over the direction of Institute to Dr Adriano Henney, who was hired to oversee the next stage in the evolution of the Institute, broadening its scope and opening the doors to build stronger links with industry. This change marked an important turn toward a more professional management of the Institute, given Dr Henney's previous management experience in industry and leadership of a major national flagship research programme, but has not come for free.



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IN SILICO MEDICINE STRONGLY REPRESENTED IN H2020 WP2016/17

Since its establishment the VPH Policy Affairs Working Group (PAWG), chaired by Prof Liesbet Geris, has been very active promoting the interests of the VPHi membership and the needs of the *in silico* community at the European level in discussions with the European Parliament and the Commission. The culmination of these activities was the inclusion of great funding opportunities for our members in the recently published H2020 work programme. There are two full calls specifically on *in silico* medicine:

- SC1-PM-16-2017 : *In-silico* trials for developing and assessing biomedical products;
- SC1-PM-17-2017: Personalised computer models and *in-silico* systems for well-being.

In silico and modelling and simulation are also included in a number of other calls, the most promising of which are:

- SC1-PM-15-2017: Personalised coaching for well-being and care of people as they age;
- SC1 -PM-02-2017: New concepts in patient stratification;
- SC1-PM-06-2016: Vaccine Development for Malaria and/or neglected infectious disease

The text of these calls and the vision for *in silico* that they embody heavily reflect the recommendations that the VPH Institute Policy Affairs Working Group presented to policy makers. For context, it should be noted that the Horizon 2020 Work Programme prior to the direct activities of the PAWG contained only one reference to *in silico* and that was only in relation to vaccines.

We encourage all our Members to go through the entire Draft Work Programme, the full text of which can be found [here](#) to look for potential funding opportunities.

The VPH Institute PAWG would like to thank our supportive colleagues in the European Commission for responding positively to the call of the European Parliament's Resolution on the eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020, which specifically "Urges the Commission and the Member States to continue working through pilot projects, such as...the Virtual Physiological Human initiative...and to continue to support innovative solutions for person-centred care, including advanced modelling and simulations, needed to achieve the aims of predictive and personalised medicine"



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AVICENNA ROADMAP DELIVERED

For the last two years, VPHi has been one of four partners in "Avicenna", an EC funded support action project tasked with the goal of producing a research and technological development Roadmap, outlining a strategy for *in silico* Clinical Trials. In September the Roadmap was successfully delivered, offering a clear vision of the route by which computer simulation will be introduced into studies that are routinely conducted to establish the safety and efficacy of new medical interventions. The document brings together the views of over 500 experts worldwide and includes a number of recommendations that will guide future funding by the EC.

We invite you all to read the document which is available on line.



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<p>AVICENNA ALLIANCE: THE “INDUSTRY ARM” OF THE INSTITUTE</p>	
<p>A second, but no less critical goal of the Avicenna project was to lay the foundations for creating a pre-competitive Alliance that will focus on creating a favourable political and research environment for the <i>in silico</i> clinical trial market to flourish. The Institute was invited to steer the development of the new Alliance and we are happy to announce that on 3 Sept 2015, the first <i>pro-tempore</i> Board meeting of the Alliance took place. We are working towards an official launch date of January 1, 2016, at which time we will be inviting subscriptions by industry partners to join what will become the new “industry arm” of the Institute: “<i>Avicenna Alliance- the Association for Predictive Medicine</i>”.</p> <p>Bringing together both representatives of the academic and industry worlds under the VPH Institute umbrella is a unique added value that will strongly support the implementation of collaborative ventures from within the community, enhancing the power, visibility and voice of our organization and ultimately benefitting the membership at large.</p>	<div data-bbox="1182 353 1414 528" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1291 562 1430 591">Read more...</p>
<p>MORE BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS</p>	
<p>In 2015 VPHi has been strongly involved in developing an attractive membership package for its students.</p> <p>On 9 Sept 2015, the VPHi Student Committee kicked off the VPHi Keynote Webinar Series, a quarterly event that provides a forum for access to senior community members and their expertise, chiefly for the benefit of young scientists, but also to the VPH community as a whole. The 1st webinar presented by Prof Peter Hunter was a great success and a video of the OpenCOR tutorial is now available on our YouTube channel.</p> <p>But the Webinar Series is only the beginning: we are now planning to organize a dedicated VPH Summer School that will provide a prestigious educational opportunity to all our student members. More details to follow..... Watch this space!!</p>	<div data-bbox="1137 786 1433 963" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1291 1032 1430 1061">Read more...</p>
<p>VPHI CONFERENCES</p>	
<p>VPHi is putting together a very interesting programme for the upcoming VPH2016 (26-28 Sept 2015) conference in Amsterdam, under the leadership of Alfons Hoekstra and his team, with themes that will range from Computational Biomedicine to Systems Medicine, and from <i>In-Silico</i> Clinical Trials to the Digital Patient. The organisation is proceeding smoothly, with a list of internationally renowned speakers invited to present the most recent advances in VPH research aiming at a better understanding of health, disease, healthy living and ageing.</p> <p>At the same time, we have opened the call for bids to host the next Conference: VPH2018. We have already received expressions of interest from some of our members and encourage any others who might be interested to get in touch and not miss the opportunity to submit a proposal.</p>	<div data-bbox="1134 1227 1433 1368" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1291 1435 1430 1464">Read more...</p>
<p>STRONGER LINKS with SISTER ORGANISATIONS</p>	
<p>VPHi has recently become an Affiliated Member of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). Considering the strong connections that VPHi has with the physiological world, both the organizations considered it an important step to formalize the relationship between the two communities.</p>	<div data-bbox="1214 1597 1369 1753" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="1291 1783 1430 1812">Read more...</p>