

Brussels - June 13th, 2013

Virtual Physiological Human (VPH) position paper on the Data Protection Regulation Amendments

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We, the researchers of the Virtual Physiological Human (VPH) Initiative, working towards personalised and in silico medicine in the EU, fully support those amendments to the LIBE Committee Report on the Data Protection Regulation, which adequately take into account the needs of public health researchers.

Access to health data is key to predicting, diagnosing and treating disease as well as for the development of new therapies to tackle old health problems. In an age of increasing health challenges, the Data Protection Regulation must ensure that responsible access to health data is maintained.

As such, VPH very much welcomes the balanced approach being taken by many members of the European Parliament who have championed the interests of researchers dedicated to improving health across the EU. In particular VPH would call on all Members of the European Parliament concerned with the protection of public health in the EU, to vote in favour of the following LIBE amendments:

- Amendment 2987 to Article 81 co-tabled by Baroness Sarah Ludford (ALDE, UK) and Mr. Charles Tannock (ECR, UK);
- Amendment 3076 to Article 83 tabled by Mr. Axel Voss (EPP, Germany);
- Amendment 3079 to Article 83 co-tabled by Baroness Sarah Ludford (ALDE, UK) and Mr. Charles Tannock (ECR, UK).

These amendments would allow for the possibility of a one time or “broad consent”, whereby data subjects can have the right to donate their data for public health research purposes while still maintaining the highest level of data protection.

We hope that you will support these amendments to ensure the continuation of public health research in the EU and that the right of citizens to good health is protected.

Kind regards,
Marco Viceconti
(signature)

Director of the VPH Institute