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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

4 APRIL – 8 APRIL 2022

EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY LAUNCHED CANCER MEDICINES FORUM

European Medicines Agency, in cooperation with the European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC), has established the new body, consisting of representatives from academic organizations and the European Medicines Regulatory Network.

The Cancer Medicines Forum's (CMF) aim is to accelerate the research on optimising cancer treatment and help in promoting high standards in cancer care in the European Union.

During its first assembly last week, participants discussed challenges around the research into the optimisation of treatments. Meetings are going to be organised quarterly, and the results of these discussions will influence the prioritisation of the EU's actions to fight cancer, including in the Regulatory Science Strategy to 2025 and the Academia Collaboration Matrix Action Plan. Both documents set out a strategy to increase EMA's involvement in regulatory science over the next 5-10 years.

After a 1-year-long pilot phase, the working methods and the composition of the Forum will be re-evaluated.

Source: <https://www.eortc.org/blog/2022/04/01/joining-forces-to-optimise-cancer-treatments-in-clinical-practice-ema-eortc-launch-cancer-medicines-forum-with-academia/>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION BUILDS UP STRATEGIC STOCKPILES TO TREAT PEOPLE EXPOSED TO EMERGENCIES

On Wednesday (April 6), the European Commission announced that it is building €540,5 million worth of stockpiles to improve the EU's preparedness for nuclear, biological and chemical emergencies (*Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives - CBRN*).

The stockpile, established together with the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), is going to include medicines, medical equipment and vaccines. It also foresees a special decontamination reserve, including both equipment and staff essential for potential purification in case of exposure to CBRN agents.

The European Union has also mobilised its medical reserve in order to procure potassium iodide tablets. Almost 3 million tablets have already been delivered to Ukraine in the framework of EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_2218

EUROPEAN UNION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE PUBLISHES ITS ANNUAL REPORT

Although the largest growth of patent applications was in digital communications and technologies, the second-highest number of patents was registered in pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. Such a tendency reflects the high level of innovation in vaccine development and other areas of healthcare.

The number of patent applications - an early indicator of companies' investments in R&D sector - has increased in nine out of the top ten most patent-active fields of technology. High level of innovation in the area of healthcare resulted in a substantial increase of patent activity in pharmaceuticals (+6.9%) and biotechnology (+6.6%), although the number of patents in the field of medical technology remained at almost the same level (+0,8%).

Patent applications filed in 2021 in Europe were mainly from five countries: the United States (25% of total filings), Germany (14%), Japan (11%), China (9%) and France (8%). However, China's statistics are noteworthy, as it ranks higher and has recorded the highest growth in the number of applications. It is worth to mention that the patent filings from this country have quadrupled in the past decade.

Source: <https://www.epo.org/news-events/news/2022/20220405.html>

Thank you for your attention!

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