

EAMBES 2015: State of the Alliance

Dear Members of EAMBES, and all European Biomedical Engineers and Scientists,

The promotion of Biomedical Engineering (BME) and medical and biological engineering and sciences within Europe and EU is just as necessary and important as it was more than 20 years ago when EAMBES was established. In Europe we are still somewhat lacking behind on reorganization of the BME as an independent and important science/profession and a key contributor in the improvement of public health through new healthcare technology innovations. This lack of visibility is also reflected in the published Horizon 2020 program as very few research grant calls are directly related to the BME research community. This issue of recognition is wider than the shortage of proper H2020 calls and we should jointly increase our efforts to raise BME across Europe.

Our main work in EAMBES is to promote the BME education, research and profession by acting as a common voice at a European level. The majority of EAMBES work during last year has concentrated on participating on preparing two Parliamentary Questions on BME position to EU parliament, preparing of EAMBES view on the medical device directive (MDD), organization of coming policy workshop in Brussels early 2016, and forming BME viewpoints to communications and statements for various consultations calls from EU. All this is done by the voluntary work of our Council Members and members of our open Policy Affairs Working Group in cooperation with Rohde Public Policy Consultation Company that helps us in connecting with EU policymakers. The full list of activities can be found at our website. Highlights of the 2015 activities:

- EAMBES participated on preparing two Parliamentary Question (PQ) to the EU parliament, "Absence of biomedical engineering from Horizon 2020" and "Recognising biomedical engineering within the Professional Qualifications Directive", which have been filed by the two MEPs Lara Comi and Nicola Caputo. Links to the question at the parliament web site www.europarl.europa.eu can be found at EAMBES web site (www.eambes.org). The European Commission should respond during September 2015:
- EAMBES has been closely monitoring developments on the new Medical Device Regulations (MDR). We formulated an EAMBES view on the potential issues and the impact the proposed MDR could have especially on BME research. The document was sent to members of EAMBES for hearing in September 2015. Also we asked our members to distribute the EAMBES view to national contacts so that the view is heard nationally and in EU level.
- EAMBES participated in preparing the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) opinion paper on "Promoting the European single market combining biomedical engineering with the medical and care services industry" (<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.ccmi-opinions.32831>). We are delighted to note that the opinion paper reflected well the EAMBES view on the

WHAT IS EAMBES ?

European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering & Science

A nonprofit scientific society to promote Biomedical Engineering (BME) and Biological and Medical Engineering and Sciences (BMES) especially in Europe.

Members are scientific societies or research institutions in Europe. Today EAMBES represents 30 national & transnational societies and 33 institutions, and through them around 8,000 biomedical engineers and scientists working primarily in research and higher education. It is affiliated to the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE).

EAMBES acts to:

- Support and promote BME and MBES research and development, education, training and accreditation of scientific programmes,
- Recognize individual and group achievements and contributions to the field of BME and MBES.
- **Acts as a one voice for academic/research MBES at EU level:**
- Position Biomedical Engineering (BME) on the EU research and policy agenda
- Develop a dialogue between EAMBES & key policy makers in the area of biomedical engineering

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BME area in Europe. Also, for the first time, a document from an official organ of EU states: “**Biomedical Engineering is not simply a subset of modern medicine. Modern medicine predominantly secures important advances through the use of the products of biomedical engineering**”. We feel this is one of the most relevant documents for the recognition of the BME in Europe.

- EAMBES Fellows Division was revitalized and we had the 2nd Fellows Symposium in Brussels on March 16, 2015 with the new 2015 elected class of distinguished Fellows. Our classes of fellows are bringing additional experience, insight and academic leadership into EAMBES, and will strengthen our work in representing BME across Europe. We are very pleased to welcome the new esteemed Fellows of 2015. (<http://www.eambes.org/fellows>)
- EAMBES responded to Commission consultations on mHealth (<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/public-consultation-green-paper-mobile-health>)
- EAMBES organized two scientific sessions at BMT 2014 in Hannover entitled (i) “Biohybrid Implants and Regulatory Affairs” and (ii) “Safety and Performance of Medical Devices – New Medical Device Regulations”
- EAMBES endorsed European scientific conferences on BME in Europe such as MBEC 2014 in Dubrovnik and the NordicBaltic 2014 in Göteborg.

Upcoming EAMBES activities:

- A workshop in the European Parliament in Brussels late 2015 or early 2016, aiming to discuss the answers to the two parliamentary questions and to follow-up the EESC document.
- A view paper on the new Medical Device Regulations (MDR), reflecting the EAMBES view on the potential issues and impact, will be sent to policy makers in Europe
- EAMBES annual meetings and EAMBES Fellows Seminar 14-15 March 2016
- EAMBES is endorsing the IFMBE MEDICON 2016
- EAMBES is endorsing and supporting the organization of the forthcoming IFMBE EMBEC and Nordic – Baltic meeting on BME 2017 in Tampere, Finland

As you can see, EAMBES has had a very active year and we are continuously preparing new activities to promote BME. The growing need for EAMBES to make the voice of Biomedical Engineering heard by European policy makers requires the voluntary contribution of its member institutions and its representatives. My time as president started on March, 2015 and I am pleased to thank Prof. Birgit Glasmacher, now past president, on her successful activities in 2013-2014 as the president of EAMBES and the previous council on their efforts for the benefit of BME in Europe.

Our aim is to continue to strengthen EAMBES policy work and collaboration with the European Parliament, the EESC and other stakeholders on European BME schemes including EUCOMED. Another long term goal is to strengthen the scientific scene by reinforcing the European conference series on BME. We are convinced that the newly elected council with members from nine European countries and thirteen organizations has the expertise and energy to successfully tackle these goals.

We would like to stress that our work depends on the continuing support and the resources provided by you - our members! We hope that our work is serving your needs as an EAMBES member. We will warmly welcome all feedback and suggestions to improve our work. We are looking forward to your continued support to strengthen the Biomedical Engineering Community in Europe!



Jari Hyttinen, president



Birgit Glasmacher, past president